North American Aviation T-28B "Trojan" NAAS KINGSVILLE 1954-1958

The North American Aviation T-28 Trojan was a piston-engined military trainer aircraft used by the US Air Force and US Navy beginning in the 1950s. Besides its use as a trainer, the T-28 was successfully employed as a Counter-insurgency (COIN) aircraft, primarily during the Vietnam War.

First flown in 1949, the Trojan entered production in 1950. Designed to replace the AT-6 Texan for all branches of the military, the Trojan was the heaviest and most powerful piston-engine trainer ever projected for primary training. It was also the first U.S. military trainer to have a tricycle gear. In addition to the "B" model, the T-28C was built for the Navy starting in 1955.

The "C" model was equipped with a smaller diameter propeller and a tail hook to allow aircraft carrier landings. The Navy flew a total of 489 "B" models and 299 "C" models for primary flight training and initial carrier qualifications. The service continued to use the aircraft until 1984.

The first production, as T-28A, numbered 1,194 planes, then the Navy got their T-28B in 1952, differing in having a more powerful engine to replace the 800hp Wright R-1300, and a two-part canopy, plus structural modifications for duty aboard carriers.

For counter-insurgency combat, Trojan was again revised, this time as the single-seat T-28D, with armament and rocket-launchers. When production ended in 1957, North American had built a total of 1,948 of these three versions.

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