



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet BEECH AT-11 KANSAN

The AT-11 was the standard U.S. Army Air Forces World War II bombing trainer; about 90 percent of the more than 45,000 USAAF bombardiers trained in AT-11s. Like the C-45 transport and the AT-7 navigation trainer, the Kansan was a military version of the Beechcraft Model 18 commercial transport. Modifications included a transparent nose, a bomb bay, internal bomb racks and provisions for flexible guns for gunnery training.

Student bombardiers normally dropped 100-pound sand-filled practice bombs. In 1943 the USAAF established a minimum proficiency standard of 22 percent hits on target for trainees. Typical combat training missions took continuous evasive action within a 10-mile radius of the target with straight and level final target approaches that lasted no longer than 60 seconds. After Sept. 30, 1943, the AT-11 usually carried a Norden Bombsight and a C-1 automatic pilot, which allowed the bombardier student to guide the aircraft during the bombing run.



DAYTON, Ohio -- Beech AT-11 Kansan in the World War II Gallery at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. (U.S. Air Force photo)

The AT-11 on display is one of 1,582 ordered by the USAAF between 1941 and 1945, 36 of which were modified as AT-11A navigation trainers. It was donated to the museum by the Abrams Aerial Survey Corp., Lansing, Mich., in 1969, and is painted to represent a trainer in service during the autumn of 1943.

### TECHNICAL NOTES:

**Armament:** Two .30-cal. machine guns when used as a gunnery trainer

**Engine:** Two [Pratt & Whitney R-985](#) of 450 hp each

**Maximum speed:** 215 mph

**Cruising speed:** 150 mph

**Range:** 745 miles

**Service ceiling:** 20,000 ft.

**Span:** 47 ft. 7 3/4 in.

**Length:** 34 ft. 1 7/8 in.

**Height:** 9 ft. 7 3/4 in.

**Weight:** 9,300 lbs. maximum

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