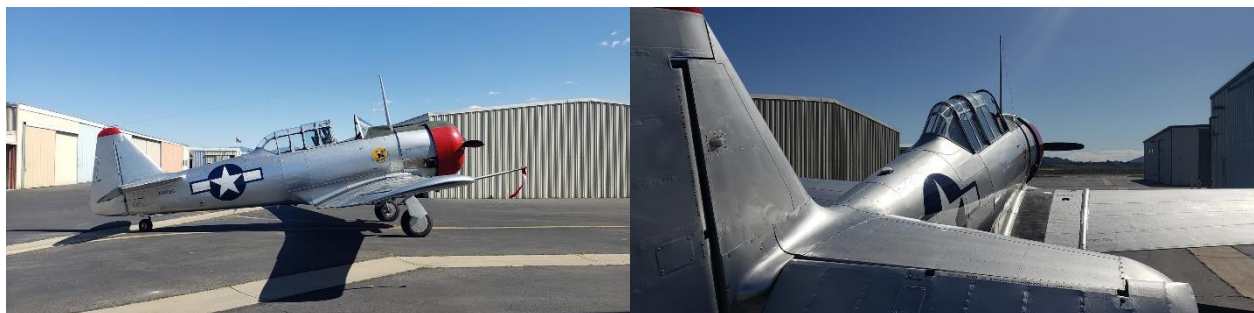


PRESS RELEASE:
North American AT-6 Join's the National WASP WWII Museum's Fleet!
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



North American AT-6D



The Perfect Aircraft to Join the WASP Fleet!

May 2023: Courtesy Aircraft of Rockford, IL announced the purchase of a North American AT-6 by the famous WASP Museum in Sweetwater, TX. The Women Airforce Service Pilots trained on five aircraft: PT-17, PT-19, BT-13, AT-6, and the UC-78 during their time in Sweetwater.

The Museum was proud to have four of these five airworthy trainers in its collection. However, the collection was incomplete without the AT-6. Courtesy Aircraft was able to assist the museum in completing the collection. Courtesy's President Mark Clark said *"It was an honor to help the WASP museum find the perfect AT-6 they needed. This flying example is an excellent way for the museum to honor those who served before us and remember the contributions the WASP pilots made."*

Who were the Women Airforce Service Pilots?

Info Provided by: Sarah Byrn Rickman, WASP author and historian

In 1942, as the country reeled from the attack on Pearl Harbor, trained male pilots were in short supply. Qualified pilots were needed to fight the war. The Army also was desperate for pilots to deliver newly built trainer aircraft to the flight schools in the South. Twenty-eight experienced civilian women pilots volunteered to take those ferrying jobs. They formed the country's first female squadron late summer 1942.

Between November 1942 and December 1944, 1,074 more women were trained to fly first in Houston and then moved to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, TX. Nancy Love and Jacqueline Cochran founded the two programs (Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and Women's Flying Training Detachment) that became the WASP.

WASP flew every aircraft in the Army's arsenal. In addition to ferrying, they towed gunnery targets, transported equipment and non-flying personnel, and flight-tested aircraft that had been repaired before the men were allowed to fly them again. For over two years, the WASP went on to perform a wide variety of aviation-related jobs and to serve at more than 120 bases around the country.

The man who championed the WASP was Army Air Forces Commanding General "Hap" Arnold. He was revered by the U.S. Congress, but in June 1944 when he sought to officially designate the WASP as members of the United States military, Congress said "no." After a protracted fight, the WASP were granted military status in 1977, thanks to a law signed by President Carter. These 1,102 Women Airforce Service Pilots flew wingtip to wingtip with their male counterparts and were just as vital to the war effort.

About the National WASP WWII Museum

The WASP WWII Museum is preserving the history, promoting the legacy and protecting the airfield of the WASP Pilots. In addition to the museum, they have a Welcome Center and Gift shop, a temperature and humidity-controlled archival vault and suite, a fully stocked Catering room, state of the art Conference Room, and a beautiful Exhibit Gallery. The mission has expanded to preserve the history of the WASP and its airfield and promote their legacy down to our youngest generation.

[Click Here to Visit the National WASP WWII Museum Website](#)

About Courtesy Aircraft

QUALITY Warbird & Civilian Aircraft Sales Since 1957

Courtesy Aircraft, Inc. was founded in 1957, by D.M. Clark, as a new Cessna aircraft dealer, and grew through the 60's to include Piper and Champion (Citabria) dealerships. In addition, Courtesy Aircraft, Inc. was active in the sales of select used aircraft. It was in the success of the used aircraft market that pointed the way to the firm's current position as a world leader in quality warbird and civilian aircraft sales. In the early 70's, due to the knowledge and enthusiasm of the founder's son, Mark Clark, today an accomplished pilot and A&P mechanic, Courtesy Aircraft, Inc. found itself heavily involved in sales of a new market – Warbirds.

This market consisted primarily of World War II and Korean era ex-military trainers, fighters, and bombers such as the T-6/SNJ Texans, P-51 Mustangs, and B-25 Mitchells.

Courtesy Aircraft continues to provide customers with unique military aircraft across the globe!

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