

63. (O) Ltr. 24 Apr. 1944
Fr: Col. G.E. Price
Chief, Prod. Eng. Sect.
WF
To: Chief, Tr. Aids Div.
New York City
Attn: Chief, Devel. Br.
(File: Central Files)

Prod. Eng. Sect. (WF) advised Tr. Aids Div. that development of the A-26 airplane had reached the point where training aids could be developed without the risk of becoming obsolete through changes in design of airplane and equipment. Prod. Eng. Sect. listed principal tactical production changes to be made on the A-26 airplane and stated that it would be advisable to consider these changes and installations in the development of training aids.

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ARMY AIR FORCES
MATERIEL COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL

RFB/mgs/70-2
(7-2)

WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO

24 April 1944

Subject: Development of Training Aids for A-26B Airplanes

To: Chief, Training Aids Division
One Park Avenue
New York 16, New York
Attn: Chief, Development Branch

Reference: a. Letter from Chief, Development Branch,
TAD, D27/WEK (452.3 TAD F2569) dated
15 February 1944.

1. Training Aid Division is advised that it is considered that the development of the A-26B production airplane has reached the stage where training aids can be developed without risk of being rendered obsolete by drastic changes in the design of the airplane and equipment.

2. Following is a list of principal tactical production changes being incorporated on A-26 airplanes manufactured at the Douglas Tulsa and Long Beach plants with the effective points on which these changes are started:

ITEM	DOUGLAS TULSA		DOUGLAS LONG BEACH	
	No. of Ap.	Ser.No.	No. of Ap.	Ser.No.
a. All Purpose Gun Nose	16th	43-22267	21st	41-39120
b. External Wing Guns	16th	43-22267	21st	41-39120
c. All Electric Bomb Release System	51st	43-22302	41st	41-39140

3. The all purpose gun nose specified above provides for interchangeable gun combinations of six .50 caliber guns, two 37mm guns and one 75mm cannon plus two .50 caliber guns. The external wing guns listed above are contained in four 2-gun packages mounted externally under the wings, which can be readily installed and removed in service. It is believed that it may be desirable to develop training aids in connection with these armament installations.

4. The all electric bomb release system differs considerably from the original installation and, in addition, provides for carrying 14 of the Type R-1 fragmentation bomb racks. It is believed desirable to consider this new bombing installation in the development of any training aids in connection with the bomb control system for the airplane.

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5. The A-26 airplane is at present being produced with only the all purpose gun nose noted above. However, a bombardier nose is being developed which will be incorporated in a bomber version of the airplane at a later date. It is expected that the first bombardier nose will be in production in October 1944. The bomber version of the airplane will comprise $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total airplane production and the present attack version will then be decreased to $\frac{1}{3}$ of total production. It would, therefore, appear advisable that a bombing training device should be considered for the bomber version of the A-26 airplane.

6. The specific features of the A-26 airplane which differ from current aircraft are the all purpose gun nose and the G. E. central station fire control system. It is understood, however, that fire control system training devices for the A-26 airplane comprising the sighting station and the upper and lower turrets have already been developed. No changes in the fire control system are contemplated at this time.

7. Information is furnished that a series of motion pictures on the maintenance and operation of the A-26 airplane have already been started by the Technical Data Laboratory at Wright Field. The Pilot's Handbook for the A-26 airplane has been published and distributed; however, it is undergoing a revision at this time to incorporate the all purpose gun nose and the all electric bomb release system as noted above. The Contractor has prepared an illustrated brochure of this airplane covering the salient features of the armament and equipment which can be available in quantity if desired and which might be of benefit in the training program.

8. The Materiel Command will be pleased to cooperate with Training Aids Division to the fullest extent in furnishing any information and material in connection with the development of training aids for the A-26 airplanes.

For the Commanding General:

GEORGE E. FREE,
Colonel, Air Corps,
Chief, Production
Engineering Section

cc: Eastern Dist. Supervisor