



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet DOUGLAS A-26C

The Douglas A-26C was basically the same as the [A-26B](#) with the solid nose replaced with a glass nose. The solid nose of the A-26B was designed for ground attack mission and carried machine guns or cannons for this role. The A-26C's glass nose was fitted with a bombardier's compartment and was designed for use as a lead ship for medium altitude bombing missions. On a typical bombing mission, a single A-26C would lead a formation of A-26Bs. When the bombardier in the lead aircraft dropped his bombs, it also signaled the Bs in formation to drop their bombs. The lead ship bombing technique was quite common for light bombers and was also used with A-20s. The glass nose [A-20Js](#) and [A-20Ks](#), developed as lead ships, were replaced relatively quickly once the A-26C production began.

The development of the A-26C paralleled the A-26B. Most improvements to one model were incorporated into the other (except for the nose compartments). The early production block -Cs had a heavy framework canopy limiting pilot visibility and making emergency escape difficult. A side-hinged clamshell canopy fitted to later models solved these problems. Other improvements included more powerful engines with water injection, a strengthened wing capable of carrying rocket launchers for 14 5-inch rockets or 2,000 pounds of bombs and provisions for internally mounted machine guns within the wings.

In 1948 the USAF dropped the attack designation and renamed the aircraft B-26C. The [Martin B-26 Marauder](#) was out of service by this time so there was no confusion.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force has an [A-26C](#) on display.

Type	Number built/ converted	Remarks
A-26C*	1091	Light attack bomber

* The A-26C was re-designated B-26C in 1948 after the USAF dropped the attack designation.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

Armament: Highly variable -- A-26C had two forward-firing .50-cal. machine guns and two turrets with two .50-cal. machine guns each, also carried bombs internally (4,000 lbs. maximum) and under wings (2,000 lbs. maximum)

Engines: Two [Pratt & Whitney R-2800s](#) of 2,000 hp each

Maximum speed: 373 mph

Cruising speed: 284 mph

Range: 1,400 miles

Service ceiling: 28,000 feet

Span: 70 ft.

Length: 51 ft. 3 in.

Height: 18 ft. 3 in.

Weight: 35,000 lbs. loaded

Crew: Three (pilot, bombardier/navigator/pilot and gunner)

Serial numbers: 41-39152; 41-39193; 41-39195; 41-39199; 41-39200; 43-22304; 43-22308 to

43-22312; 43-22346 to 43-22349; 43-22467 to 43-22493; 43-22494 to 43-22564; 43-22565 to 43-22751; 44-35198 to 44-35357; 44-35996

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