



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet NORTH AMERICAN A-36A

The A-36A dive bomber was the first AAF version of the Mustang developed for Britain in 1940. The A-36 first flew in October 1942. Production of 500 A-36As was completed by March 1943.

Unofficially named "Invaders," A-36As were assigned to the 27th and 86th Bombardment Groups (Dive), later re-designated as Fighter-Bomber Groups. In June 1943 the plane went into action from [North Africa](#). During the [Italian campaign](#), A-36A pilots flew bomber escort and strafing missions, as well as ground support bombing attacks. A-36As also served with the 311th Fighter Bomber Group in India. In 1944 AAF A-36As were replaced by [P-51s](#) and [P-47s](#) when experience showed that these high-altitude fighters, equipped with bomb racks, were more suitable for low-level missions than the A-36As.

The A-36A was powered by an Allison V-1710 like the early versions of the P-51 (P-51A and RAF Mustang I) and had a three blade propeller. The small air intake on the top forward fuselage just behind the propeller is a distinguishing feature of all Allison-powered Apaches and Mustangs. The famous Packard-built [Rolls Royce V-1650 Merlin](#) engine was introduced beginning with the P-51B but was never used on the A-36A. The A-36A can be distinguished from a P-51A by noting the dive brakes on the Apache.



North American A-36A "Margie H" (S/N 42-83665). The A-36A on display in the National Museum of the United States Air Force is painted to represent this aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo)

The National Museum of the United States Air Force has an [A-36A](#) on display.

Type	Number built/ converted	Remarks
A-36A	500	Ground Attack version of P-51

### TECHNICAL NOTES:

**Armament:** Six .50-cal. machine guns, 1,000 lbs. of bombs externally

**Engine:** [Allison V-1710](#) of 1,325 hp

**Maximum speed:** 365 mph

**Cruising speed:** 250 mph

**Range:** 550 miles

**Service ceiling:** 25,100 ft.

**Span:** 37 ft.

**Length:** 32 ft. 3 in.

**Height:** 12 ft. 2 in.

**Weight:** 10,000 lbs. loaded

**Serial numbers:** 42-83663 to 42-84162

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