

Author A.C. Frieden Pilots a Former U.S. Navy Training Aircraft

AURORA, Illinois, USA (July 20, 2013) – Author-pilot A.C. Frieden completed his first training flight on a vintage T-6 military aircraft operated by Gauntlet Warbirds in Aurora, Illinois. “The T-6 is a dream aircraft,” said Frieden after the one-hour flight. “It flies smoothly, has great maneuverability and gave me a memorable adrenaline boost.” Frieden’s training flight with instructor pilot Ted Ribbens included aerobatics, slow flight, stalls, basic pattern flying and other maneuvers. “I can already imagine a scenario to put this wonderful aircraft into one of my novels,” added Frieden.



(Above) Author A.C. Frieden stands with his parachute and gear next to the T-6 prior to his first training flight. Most of the training was done at about 6000 feet, a few miles west of Aurora, Illinois.

Powered by a 600hp Pratt & Whitney R-1340 radial engine, the North American Aviation T-6 *Texan* was designed to carry three .30 caliber machine guns and 500 pounds in bombs or rockets, though its principal role was that of a trainer aircraft. The aircraft served as a single-engine advanced trainer for pilots of the United States Army Air Forces, United States Navy, and other allied air forces during World War II and beyond. The T-6 was produced in a number of variants, designated by the model and operating air force. The USAAC and USAAF variant was the AT-6, while the Navy called it the SNJ, and British Commonwealth air forces, the *Harvard*.

Today the T-6 and SNJ are popular aircraft at airshows worldwide and are a favorite among aircraft collectors and enthusiasts. Gauntlet Warbirds operates two T-6s, both of which are SNJ-5s that were delivered to the Navy in 1944. The aircraft are also available for passenger rides by non-pilots.



(Above) A.C. Frieden in the cockpit of the T-6, flying over Aurora Airport.



(Above, left) The instrumentation in the rear seat of the cockpit, where Frieden operated the aircraft during the training flight; (Above, right) Frieden maneuvers the T-6 toward the airport for a fly-by.



(Above) Frieden and the T-6 after an exciting training flight.

About the author: A.C. Frieden is an international author and lawyer based in Chicago. His works include the Jonathan Brooks series thrillers *Tranquility Denied* and *The Serpent's Game*, as well as other fiction and non-fiction books. For more information, visit his website at www.acfrieden.com and his blogs.

About Gauntlet Warbirds: Gauntlet Warbirds is a warbird, aerobatic and tailwheel training center based at Aurora Airport, about 50 miles west of downtown Chicago. In addition to the T-6, it operates several other aircraft types, including the L39 Albatros, Extra 300, and Decathlon. For more information, visit the website at www.gauntletwarbirds.com.

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