



TWCO

The **TWCO**[®] AIR CONTROLLER

A tribute to and inspired by the legendary *Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II* forward air controller and its heroic pilots.



What inspired us

The TWCO Air Controller and the A-10 Thunderbolt II, they seem to have nothing in common but what a great source of inspiration and above all what a similarity in approach!

Both are specifically designed to meet with a very demanding aviation environment and all the fundamental forces of nature that come with it.

Bottom line is that it all comes down to control, dependency and reliability under the most severe circumstances of even combat aviation! This truly inspired us to develop a watch that you can rely on in such a demanding environment!

About the Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II

The A-10 Thunderbolt II is the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. A simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles.

The primary mission of the A-10 is to provide day and night close air combat support for friendly land forces and to act as forward air controller (FAC) to coordinate and direct friendly air forces in support of land forces. The A-10 has a secondary mission of supporting search and rescue and Special Forces operations.

The A-10 aircraft was specifically developed with reliability and maintainability as major design considerations. The Air Force requirements documents emphasized payload, low altitude flying capability, range and loiter capability, low speed maneuverability and weapons delivery accuracy.

Specific survivability features include titanium armor plated cockpit, redundant flight control system separated by fuel tanks, manual reversion mode for flight controls, foam filled fuel tanks, ballistic foam void fillers, and a redundant primary structure providing get home capability after being hit. Design simplicity, ease of access and left to right interchangeable components make the A-10 aircraft readily maintainable and suitable for deployment at advanced bases.

The A-10 has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude. They can operate under 1,000-foot ceilings (303.3 meters) with 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometers) visibility. Their wide combat radius and short takeoff and landing capability permit operations in and out of locations near front lines.

The A-10 is a single place, pressurized, low wing and tail aircraft with two General Electric TF-34-100/A turbo-fan engines, each with a sea level static thrust rating of approximately 9000 pounds. The engines are installed in nacelles mounted on pylons extending from the fuselage just aft of and above the wing. Two vertical stabilizers are located at the outboard tips of the horizontal stabilizers. The forward retracting tricycle landing gear incorporates short struts and a wide tread. The nose wheel retracts fully into the fuselage nose. The main gear retracts into streamlined fairing on the wing with the lower portion of the wheel protruding to facilitate

emergency gear-up landings. The General Electric Aircraft Armament Subsystem A/A49E-6 (30 millimeter Gun System) is located in the forward nose section of the fuselage. The gun system consists of the 30mm Gatling gun mechanism, double-ended linkless ammunition feed, storage assembly and hydraulic drive system.

The A-10, history and future

- First flight in 1972, officially introduced in 1977, since then over 700 were produced
- Many upgrades and modernizations took place since its introduction
- Still in service, primary user: The United States Air Force
- Retired: not before 2028 and probably much later.

