High-altitude spy planes: the U-2s - Dakota County Library
The US Air Force U-2 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft first flew in 1955 and was developed by Lockheed Martin at the famous Skunk Works site. The aircraft, The U-2 Dragon Lady, has been in service since 1956. The aircraft has been used in various roles, including intelligence gathering and reconnaissance. It is capable of flying at high altitudes and has a long wingspan, which allows it to fly for extended periods without refueling.

The aircraft was designed to fly at altitudes of up to 60,000 feet, which is well above the majority of aircraft and air traffic. This allows it to avoid detection by enemy radar and means it can fly for longer periods without being detected. The aircraft is also equipped with advanced electronic sensors, which allow it to gather a wide range of information.

Despite its age, the U-2 remains in service today, and it is still considered to be one of the most capable reconnaissance aircraft in the world. It is used by the US Air Force, the US intelligence community, and other organizations around the world. The aircraft is known for its performance and its ability to operate at high altitudes, making it a valuable asset in the world of intelligence gathering.