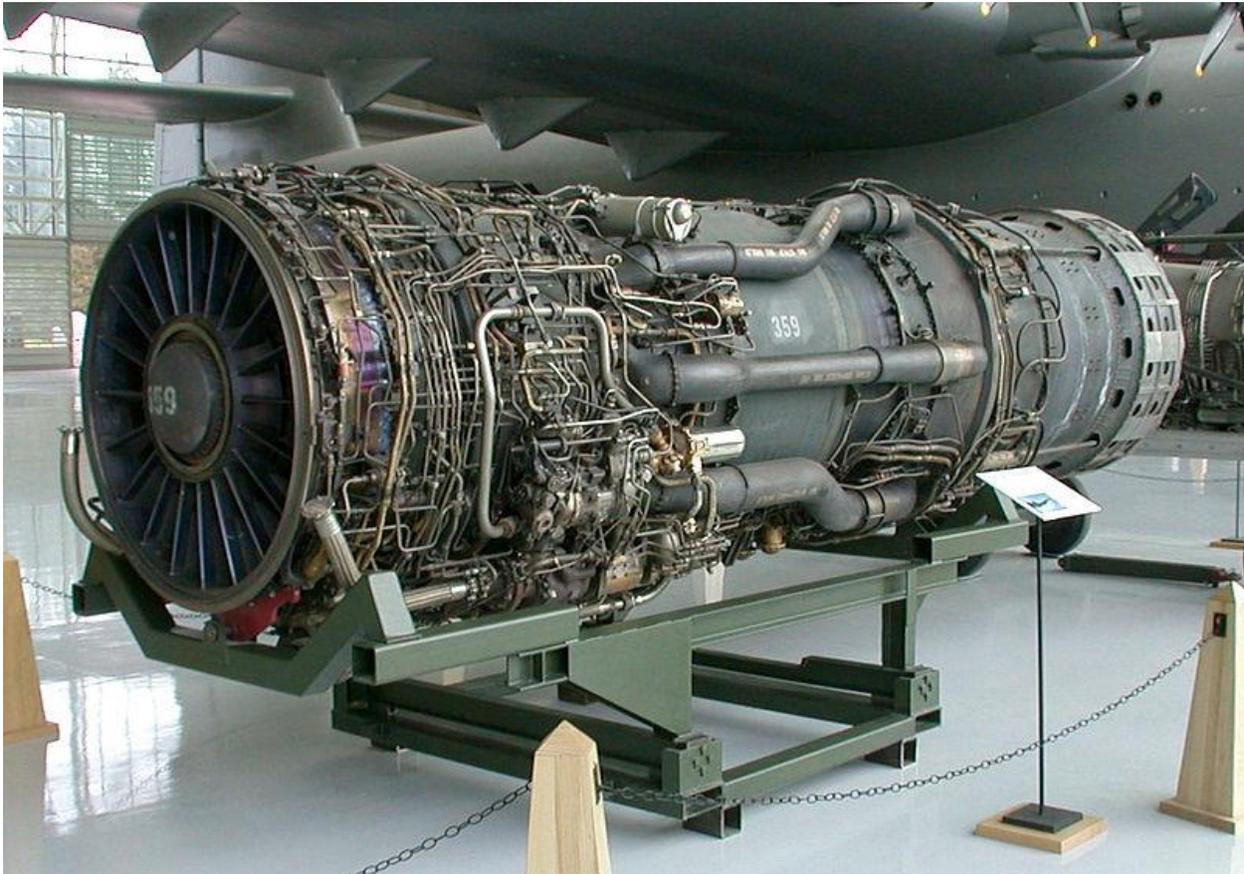


SR-71 Symposium
Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum
McMinnville, Oregon
Reported by W. Richard Davis

June 16-17, 2018: An SR-71 symposium was held in McMinnville, Oregon at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum. **The SR-71 was the last aircraft designed using slide rules** and remains the fastest production plane ever made. In attendance were several SR-71 pilots, co-pilots (RSO), maintainers, film specialists, and a Lockheed engineer. Four presentations were made by those directly involved with flying military reconnaissance missions as well as speed records – audience questions were freely answered.



The SR-71 was developed at Kelly Johnson's "Skunk Works" division of Lockheed-Martin in a three year time span to replace or supplement the U-2 spy plane after one of the latter was shot down over Russia. The SR-71 was designed to fly higher (85,000 ft+) and faster (Mach 3.2 = 2450 MPH). It first flew in December of 1964 and was retired in 1989. The aircraft is impressive in size coming in at 107.5 feet long! It has 2 Pratt and Whitney JT-58 engines, each with a thrust of 34,000 lbs. It flew from New York to London in 1.5 hours. In contrast the Concorde (Mach 2.0) took 3.5 hours!



A total of 29 SR-71A's were manufactured, 11 were lost in accidents. Two SR-71B trainers and one SR-71C were built.

The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum is located in McMinnville, Oregon, just a few miles south of Portland. It is a world class museum, rivaling the Smithsonian Aerospace Museum in Washington, DC. It not only has many aircraft and helicopters on display, but also entire rockets including V-2's, a Juno, and a Saturn. In addition Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" is on display inside a building especially built to house it!