



Dornier Do 27

The Dornier Do 27 was the first aircraft to enter production in Germany after World War II and some seven Dornier Do 27H2s were delivered to the Swiss Air Force in 1958 (two) and 1959 (five), coming directly from the manufacturing plant at Oberpfaffenhofen, West Germany.

Of the seven aircraft procured, one crashed in 1969 and four were sold in 1981, leaving only two to remain in active service. These continue to provide sterling service and in 2004 both aircraft are the only fully military aircraft belonging to the Fachdienst Luftaufklärung, itself part of the Überwachungsgeschwader (UeG). V-601, at over 45 years of age, is the oldest aircraft currently in the Air Force inventory.

Originally planned for retirement in 1980, the Dorniers are still in service due to their unrivalled suitability as camera platforms. The high-wing layout provides 150° coverage beneath the aircraft, while the engines have been modified with an underslung exhaust pipe to avoid obstructing photography.

Learjet 35A and Falcon 50

Two Learjets were bought second-hand from Swiss Air Ambulance in 1988. One remains in service (right) and is normally based at Dübendorf as part of the Ressort Lufttransport. It is operated alongside a single Falcon 50 (below) on VIP flights, which are mostly operated out of Bern on government duties.

