

James Caputo

13 June 2024

Personal Statement

Arrow N287ND

To the NTSB investigators,

My name is James Caputo and I am a CFI at Skyborne Airlines Academy. On June 5th, 2024 I was scheduled to fly in Arrow N287ND. Whenever I walk out to the aircraft I routinely go around the backside of the aircraft to get to the right side of the empennage by the door to place my bag on the ground. While I walked up to the aircraft I noticed a missing rivet on the left side of the vertical fin. The rivet was very easy to see and sticking out as the silver area beneath where the missing rivet was contrasted the bright white paint of the N287ND. As I continued my way around the arrow to directly behind the vertical fin it was apparent that the skin (aircraft sheet metal) around the missing rivet was bent outwards. When standing directly behind the arrow I saw that both sides were missing the same rivet and also nearly symmetrically bent outwards on the skin. Following this discovery I called over the Skyborne maintenance department who immediately told me to tie up the aircraft and "squawk it". So that is exactly what I did.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Caputo