



Memorandum of Record

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Subject: WPR19LA171, NTSB Structures Report

An NTSB Structures Engineer examined photos of the accident airplane. His observations follow.

Examination of the photos does not show any evidence of impact damage to the airplane. The photos show damage to the right aft fuselage of the airplane between about fuselage station (FS) 200 and FS 256. The fuselage skin exhibited diagonal buckling damage, several stringers were bent or deformed, and at least three fuselage bulkheads were fractured and/or deformed. At several locations on the fuselage skin coincident with a stringer or bulkhead location there were opposing diagonal buckles or skin fractures in an X pattern. There was no obvious damage noted to the left aft fuselage.

There were no maintenance records supplied for the airplane to verify what, if any, work had been done on the accident airplane.

The damage evident in the photos is consistent with an empennage flutter event that produced fuselage loads in excess of the airplane structural limits. Without additional examination of the wreckage, possible metallurgical testing, examination of maintenance records, or performance modeling of the airplane, it is impossible to ascertain the exact cause of the flutter.