

From: <JDSomm1@aol.com>User Field PRIVATE =
To: <jatkins@troopers.state.ny.us>
Date: 2/7/2005 11:55:54 PM
Subject: Fleet aircraft photos

Hello Jim:

I can provide you with some information to your inquiry appearing in the January 2005 issue of the International Fleet Club newsletter.

I have a Fleet factory photo of the aircraft you identify as 968V. If you look closely at your photo you will see the registration number is not 968V, it is NS68V. Your photo does not appear to show front cockpit details. Perhaps a flush fitting cover was installed over the front cockpit at the time of your photo. The caption on my photo says:

No. 2262 7-24-31 S&F
Fleet Aircraft Inc.
Division-State Police-New York
Model 8, 3 place Fleet DeLuxe

The number 2262 is a Fleet factory photo number. S&F indicates both side and front photos were taken. My photo is the side view and is nearly identical to yours with the exception it shows the front cockpit details.

I also have a small side view photo of a Fleet Model 2 that has the word "Police" painted on the side of the fuselage. At first, I thought this was the same aircraft that appears in your second photo, but it is not. The registration number appearing in my photo is NS 700Y and this plane differs from your photo in that it has two curved windshields, a navigation light on the top of the rudder (early style light and location), three vertical stripes painted on the rudder, light colored wings, horizontal tail surfaces, cockpit and nose cowling. It is also equipped with Aircraft Products wheels. The aircraft in your photo is a Model 2 but it appears to have 26x4 wheels and two flat fold down windshields. I believe both of these features were common to the early Model 2 Fleets.

I am not familiar with the NS registration designation. Perhaps other Fleet Club members can help you with this designation. If the NS is unique to New York State Police registered aircraft, then possibly NS700Y was also operated by the New York State Police.

I hope this helps to answer some of your questions.

Sincerely,

John Sommerfeld
101 Windemere West
Leander, TX 78641

CC: <flyboy@ntplx.net>