

IPACO expert report

Expert name

Antoine COUSYN

Report date

June 14, 2012

Last update

February 08, 2015

Type

IFO

Class

A

Explanation

Helicopter

Complement

Long exposure

Document

Photo

Imaging location

Palm Beach, Florida,
USA.

Imaging date

July 11, 2005,
02h19'12'' Local time



I. Shoot circumstances

Unknown.

II. Camera settings

The camera model that was used is a Nikon D50 whose settings are exposed in details [here](#).



III. Data examination

Close examination of the EXIF data with [EXIFTool](#) shows that there was an exposure time of 10s. The lack of [motion blur](#) is very likely due to the use of a tripod.

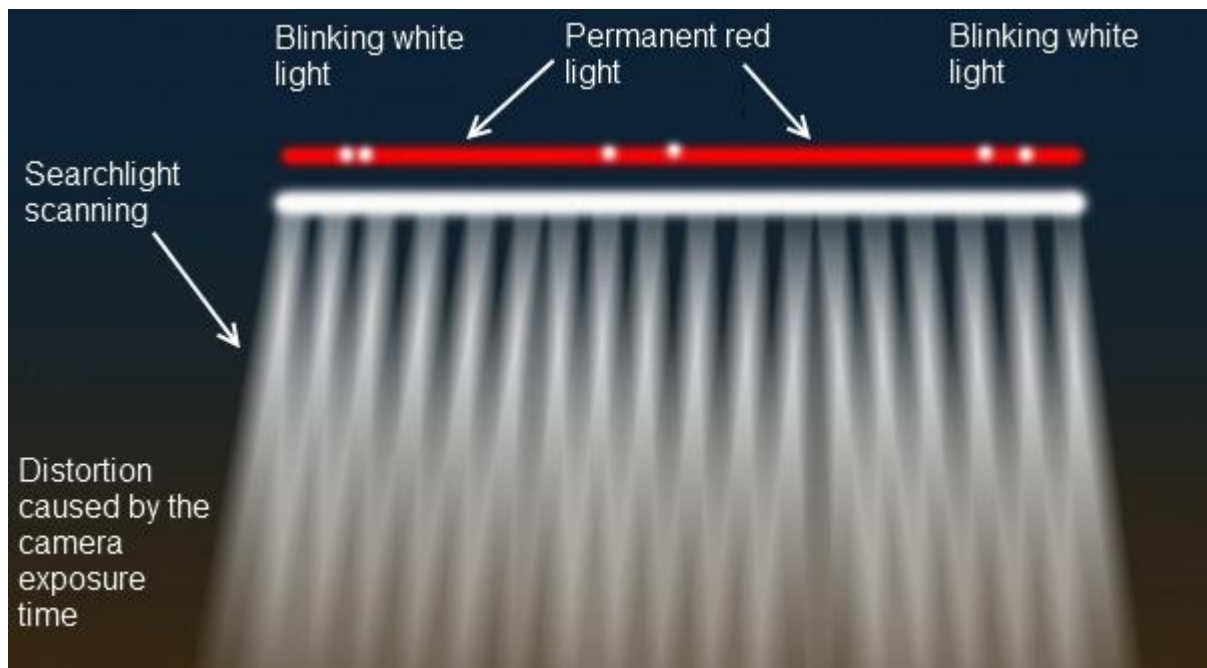
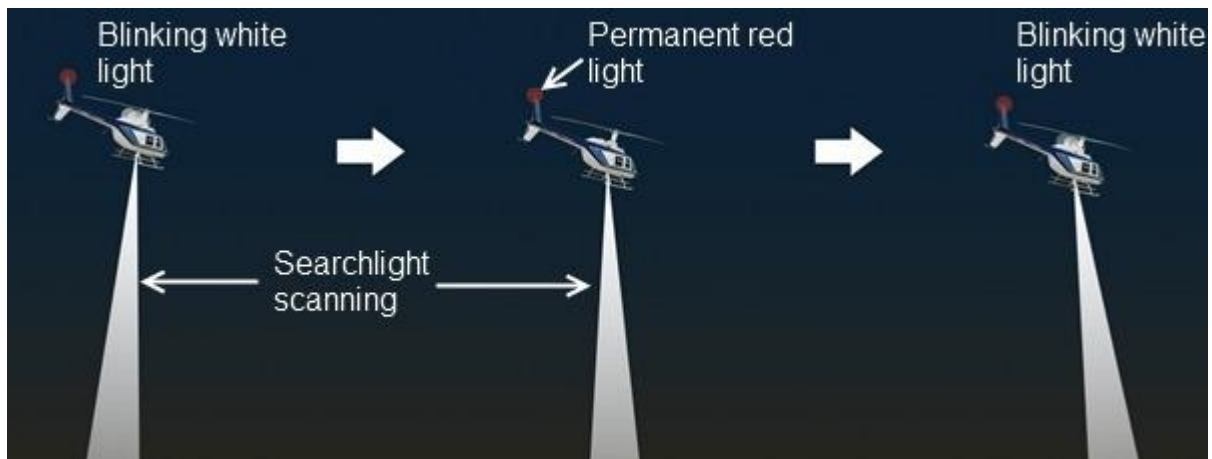
IV. Conclusion

Given the objective data provided by the examination of the photographic document, we can conclude that the object contained in this document is a helicopter flying at low altitude, with a projector sweeping the area.

V. Technical explanation

During its move, the helicopter, equipped with its navigation, fixed white and blinking red, lights (or vice versa, as in our example below), will respectively produce in the long-exposure photography a trail of white light and a succession of red dots.

The use of a searchlight sweeping the area underneath the helicopter will produce this "solid light" aspect:



VI. Sources – photo credits

This photo comes from Flickr's user [GTMeyers](#) gallery.