

IPACO expert report

Expert name

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Report date

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Type

I
F
O

Class

B

Explanation

Fake

Complement

Probable magnesium fire

Document

Photographs

Imaging location

Near Gulf Breeze, FL,
USA

Imaging date

May 2007, approximately
at 09:30 PM local time



I. Imaging circumstances

This photo was posted in an English-speaking UFO forum, in two copies with different characteristics (which will be named for convenience "photo n°1" and "photo n°2") with the following anonymous testimony:

1- Photo n°1:

« For Public Release:

This photograph was forwarded by persons who wish to remain anonymous in order to ensure the safety and security of the people involved.

The photo was taken in May of 2007 near Gulf Breeze FL. at approx. 9:30 PM.

Rancher's spouse was supervising their children playing in a tree house near the incident, as she witnessed a disc shaped object that was rapidly descending in their immediate vicinity.

Rancher armed himself and ran towards the rear of the property where he witnessed an extremely bright object that had come to rest near the entrance to the cattle pasture. The gate was open and broken loose of its chain. Said object was approx. 10-12 ft. in diameter; dome shaped, and emitted a slight "humming" sound. Rancher states that he felt an "electrical" sensation and was unable to lift his firearm.

The children were oblivious to any danger and were strangely calm as they approached closer to the object (the parents were unaware of the children's proximity to them). The wife stated she was nearly overcome with fear, but was able to capture this photo via digital camera (she was taking pictures moments earlier near the tree house).

A small spherical shaped object was seen hovering motionless near the primary object (immediately to the right of the glowing dome in the photo).

Note that the children appear to be looking directly at this "orb." The family watched the object for approx. 2-3 min. and was able to retreat to the safety of their home.

Unknown object ascended approx. 10 minutes later and departed at high velocity.

The family did not report this incident DIRECTLY to law enforcement for fear of ridicule in the media, loss of privacy, and the possible repercussions associated with exposure.

Albeit, this may be the most substantial photographic evidence of a close encounter of the second kind.

Note: PHOTO CAN ALSO BE SEEN (and downloaded) BY CLICKING THE LINK BELOW:

{“Photo bucket” link} (That was removed since then)”.

2- Photo n°2:

This version of the photography was given by email to some people of the forum, who wanted to study it, by the same anonymous person who posted a link to the first one. This person, at first, posted the following statements:

*“The statements are from the contact as to the image and its contents; that is, that the **CONTENT was not altered in any way what-so-ever**. The uploader of this image **SLIGHTLY** narrowed the photo to fit within the confines of this forum.”*

*“It is important to understand that **the photo has not been altered, tampered with, added to, deleted from, or manipulated by any means what-so-ever**. All are invited to study and examine the photo by whatever means they see fit (i.e., a forensic or other scientific analysis).”*

“We have tried several times to upload the raw file to the server. The server attempts to lower the resolution to make the file smaller for unknown reasons. We have no control over the server. Therefore, you may request that we email the photo to you directly. You may use whatever software to check for viruses etc... We can assure you there are none. It is an outstanding photograph to say the least.”

*File size is very large at approx. 20.7 Megs. at **2958 x 2448 pixels**. You will need software capable of viewing a bitmap file (.bmp).”*

It will turn out that neither the photo n°1 nor the n°2 are the original versions.

The person, who posted the photograph and the testimony on the Internet, after some talks, refuses to transmit the “real” original (which is in “*bitmap*” format, according to him) and the EXIF data, even separately.

II. Camera settings

The camera model that was used is unknown

III. Data examination

a. Authentication

A document is deemed authentic original, within the meaning of the "[IPACO Analysis Methodology](#)", if it results from a direct copy of the original file created in the camera.

Any modification, made either to the file whilst still in the memory of the camera, or later, can be detected by IPACO with the "*Authentication*" module, in two different possible ways; the results can be displayed together in the IPACO window.

The « *Comparison with CamCAT* » tool allows the analyst to compare the technical data of the studied file with an internal database, in order to check if they comply with what the camera used can produce. Unfortunately, as the camera brand and model used are unknown, this tool is useless in the present case.

The "*Suspect tags*" tool, in particular, can be used to determine, for example, the possible use of third-party software, or a modification of the file size (cropped picture).

This tool shows that, for the photo n°1, software have been used ("Picasa 3.0") and that XMP and IPTC tags are present. Various tests showed that such tags are created by the use of the software "*Picasa 3.0*".



This alone is highly suspect.

b. Detailed examination of the metadata

The two photographs are totally devoid of technical metadata (focal length, ISO, aperture, etc.), which is impossible in the context of authentic original photographs, and cannot have been caused unintentionally, for example by the use of the Picasa software or when passing these photographs through an online sharing site like Photobucket.

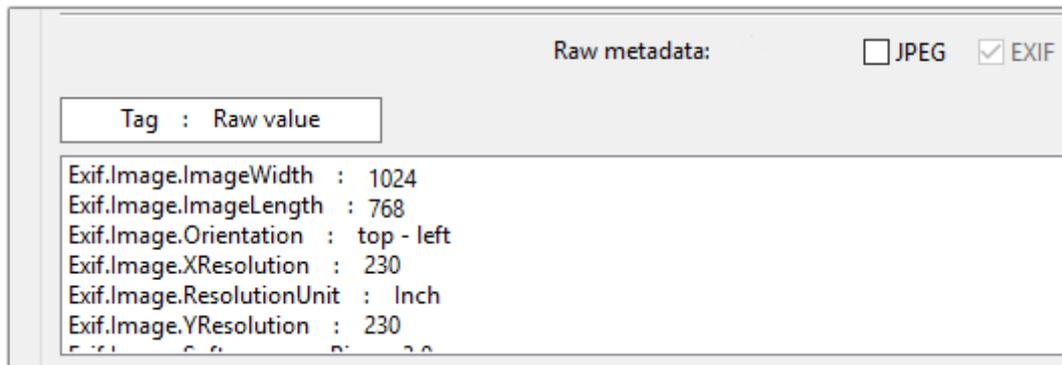
Their dimensions are also interesting to study as they appear in metadata.

They can be read by IPACO as follows:

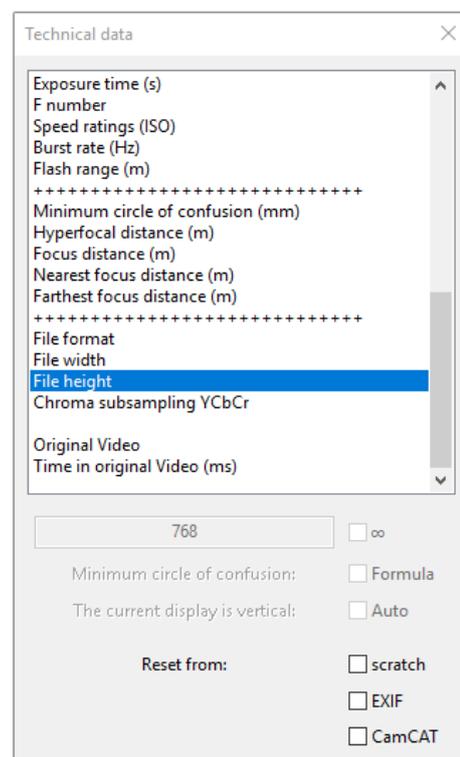
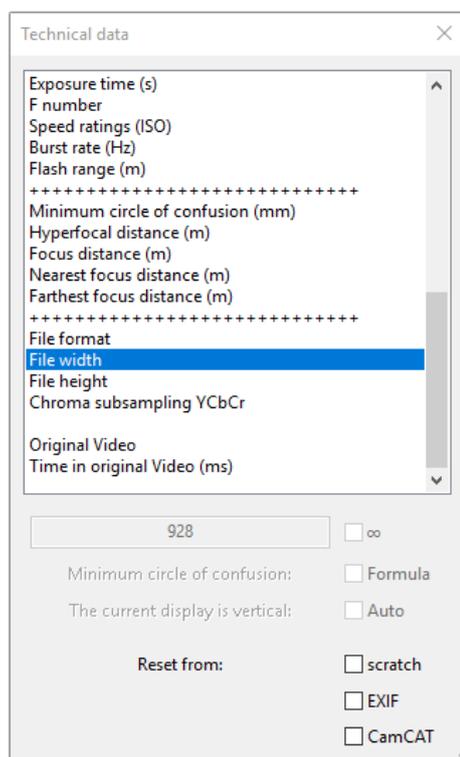
- Photography n°1:

The original size of the file is kept in the metadata, even after it has been cropped, and provided that other manipulations aimed at deleting these very metadata were not voluntarily performed later.

This dimension can be read by using the tool "Remote check » in the Raw data at the following two lines: « *Exif.Image.ImageWidth* » et « *Exif.Image.ImageLength* »:



As for the effective dimension of the file, it can be read in « *Technical data* », at the two lines « *File width* » and « *File height* »:



Two lessons can be drawn from these metadata readings:

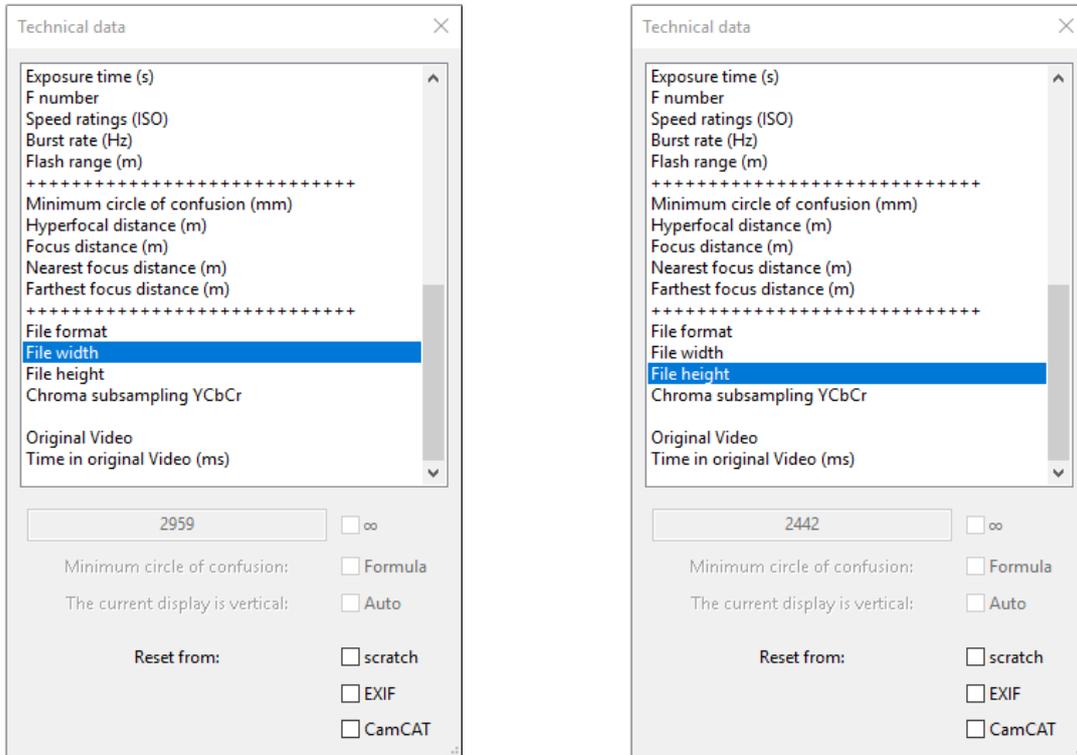
1- The image has been cropped vertically which has decreased its width from 1024 pixels to 928 pixels

2- The width / height ratio is 1.33 for the original dimensions, which corresponds to the conventional and very common 4/3 image format.

- Photography n°2:

In this copy, and unlike photo 1, the raw metadata relating to the size of the file has not been kept.

Only the actual image size appears in "*Technical data*", in the two lines "*File width*" and "*File height*":



We note that the dimensions given are 2959 x 2442, i.e. a width / height ratio of 1.211.

In addition, the anonymous person having transmitted this file renamed it in the following way: "*RAW (2959 x 2448) .jpg*", seeming to indicate here the allegedly original dimension of the image, whose height is different from that recorded in metadata (2442 instead of 2448). The width / height ratio here is 1.208.

In digital photography, most "*authentic original*" images, generated (excluding panoramas) by conventional cameras, respect a certain width / height ratio (which one could qualify as native or "*original*"). This ratio can typically be 1; 1.33; 1.5 and 1.77.

Of all the metadata listed above, only those relating to the original dimensions of the first photograph respect an original ratio, namely 1.33.

However, compared to the dimensions relative to photograph n°2, they are much smaller, which suggests that the original dimensions of the native file were larger on the one hand, and that this native file was resized between photograph n°2 and photograph n°1, on the other hand.

The CamCAT catalog, fully integrated into IPACO, is based on a unique multi-million-strong image library. The metadata of each of these images has been used to help, in addition to the data provided by the manufacturers, in the creation of CamCAT.

The possible dimensions of the images depending on the device used have all been listed.

Research performed in CamCAT relating to these dimensions shows that only three exist natively among all those listed in the previous pages for the two photographs: 768, 1024 and 2448. This last dimension is always associated in CamCAT with its unique counterpart for the ratio 1.33, i.e 3264 (2448 x 1.33).

We can therefore say with a very small margin of error that the original dimensions of photograph n°2 were 3264 x 2448 and not 2959 x 2442.

The transition from photograph n°2 to photograph n°1 was therefore probably carried out in several stages with probably at first a resizing of photograph n°2 making its dimensions go from 3264 x 2448 to 1024 x 768, thus creating photograph n°1, then a cropping in width decreased the dimensions of this photograph n°1 from 1024 x 768 to 928 x 768 pixels.

In a second step, photograph n°2 was also both slightly cut in height and in width, decreasing its dimensions from 3264 x 2448 to 2959 x 2442.

To go further, it is even possible, by browsing CamCAT, to indicate the type of device used, even the brand and a list of camera models that may have generated the original file.

Indeed, the 3264 x 2448 dimensions are only associated with a limited number of devices capable of generating this image format. In particular, this format is only generated by smartphones, and more particularly by those of the Samsung brand (although some models of the HTC and LG brands can also produce this image dimension).

- Conclusion:

Various successive manipulations of the original file (resizing, cropping, etc.) have led to a substantial modification of the metadata associated with its initial dimensions and to the generation of photograph n°1.

c. Visual examination of the photograph

The photography presents a dramatic aspect, like some sort of smokescreen, with a central male character, seen from back, and that largely masking the luminous phenomenon. Two children on either side of the man also turn their backs on the photographer. The little boy on the left seems to lose interest in the scene.

What was described by the anonymous poster as "*a small object of spherical shape hovering motionless near the main object*" resembles a round headlight of an old car (looks like for example that of a Dodge Dart 1964) hung on the fence in the background:



1964 Dodge Dart

A zoom on the central part just below the hand of the central figure shows us what looks like projections of a material in combustion, strongly resembling of what it is possible to observe in the presence of combustion of magnesium.

We can notice, in the example below, magnesium combustion characteristics that are common to those visible in the photograph and which are:

- The high brightness
- The slightly yellowish white color
- Significant smoke production
- The projection of small particles





IV. Conclusion

All the objective data collected during the examination of metadata associated to the two copies of the photograph show that it has undergone substantial and intentional modifications for purposes of trickery and deceit.

The bright object is probably a magnesium fire, masked by the central character and the small spherical object a car headlight or similar hanging on the fence.

V. Sources - Acknowledgements

All discussions reproduced here and the two versions of the photograph come from the website "*UfoCasebook*" (closed in 2020), and precisely from this topic: "*UFO Close Encounter Gulf Breeze FL 2007*".