

# IPACO expert report

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<i>Type</i> <b>IFO</b>	<i>Class</i> <b>B</b>	<i>Explanation</i> Likely Chinese lanterns	<i>Complement</i>
<i>Document</i> Photographic	<i>Imaging location</i> Nashville, Tennessee USA	<i>Imaging date</i> June 05, 2011 08:37:21PM	



## I. Imaging circumstances

The following synopsis is extracted from the US forum ["Above Top Secret"](#).

*"I took this photo at the corner of Riverside Dr. and Eastland Ave. in Nashville, TN at 2144 CST on 5 June 2011. There was a large triangular form with lights at each point. It appears to be massive, over a football field in size. It also appeared to be over the river or close to it. It gained altitude while rotating clockwise and the "faded out" while heading NW. The rear lights faded before the front one. At the intersection, at least 7 cars were stopped and everyone was out of the car. I was with my wife. We pulled over and got out of the car and I took this photo with my HTC Thunderbolt Phone camera. This is the first time I have ever seen anything like this!"*

The following details were brought out by the main witness during the forum discussion.

*"My wife and I were driving home from visiting my parents who are flying to CA in the morning. On our return home we were heading West on Eastland Ave., up a slight hill. My wife points to the left over some trees and I can see something, it turned out to be these three lights. We stopped at the stop sign at the top of the hill and I got out my phone. I notice a car coming behind me, so I turned right and pulled immediately to the shoulder of the road. I got out and noticed that the car behind me stopped and got out too. It lasted about 3 minutes from when we first spotted it. After it faded everyone was just in shock and got it their cars and left. We talked to the guys who pulled up behind us, and I showed him the photo I took. We high-fived and left. It was certainly disturbing and everyone was in disbelief. It ascended slowly, while rotating clockwise, and then hovered. Two lights faded out, and the remaining light moved only slightly. Then it too faded out.*

*« It was no plane. Everyone was stopped at the intersection and was out of their cars watching it. I even high-fived a guy when I showed him the picture I got. There did appear to be a faint form between the lights, but it soon faded. Perhaps my eyes were adjusting. But I agree that it could have simply been a "flight formation" of some sort... I haven't reported it anywhere other than immediately to FB and then here. I am not a member of any UFO/ET forums. Prior to this sighting, I really hadn't formed a clear opinion on anything ET. I sincerely believe that this was not from Earth and/or it is from a Gov't Secret program.*

*I heard no sound. Size it seemed to be about 1 mile away, and it seemed very large about the size of LP Field - the Titan's stadium. They were not flashing, but they did seem to differ in brightness but in no regular pattern, just fluctuating brightness, then the rear two faded. After about 30 secs the front light faded and it was gone."*

## II. The camera

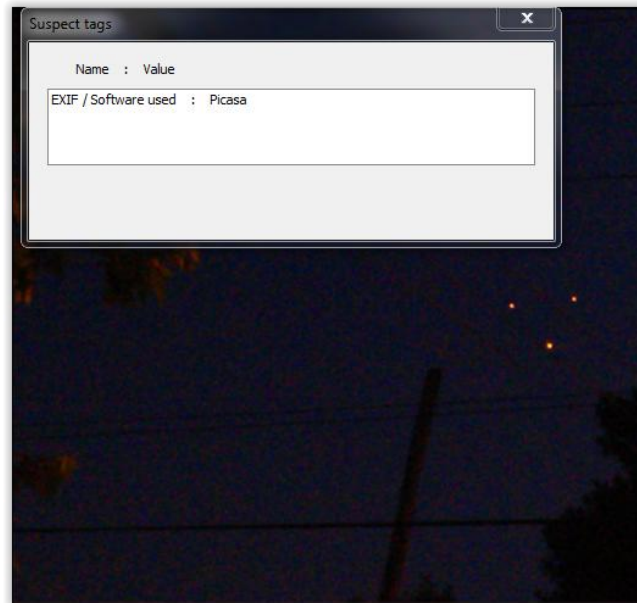
It was a HTC Thunderbolt (alias ADR6400L) of which technical characteristics are shown in details [here](#).



### III. Data examination

#### 1- Authentication

A quick reading, with the “*suspect tags*” tool of IPACO gives the following result:



This result is not necessarily a sign of a fraudulent use of the “*Picasa*” software; indeed, the witness did put its photograph in his “*Picasaweb*” online account, which modifies *de facto* the metadata associated with the picture.

#### 2- Analysis

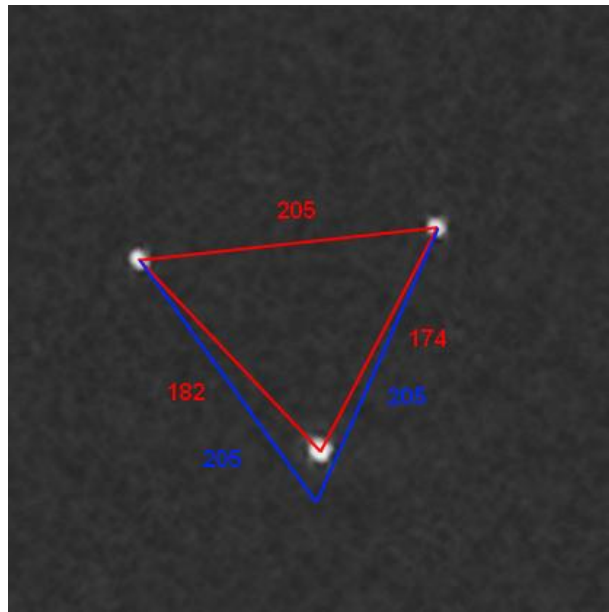
A careful reading of the testimony allows us to consider a Chinese lanterns fly-over as the most plausible hypothesis.

Indeed, we read :

- “*The rear lights faded before the front one*» and « *Two lights faded out, and the remaining light moved only slightly. Then it too faded out.*”
- “*It ascended slowly, while rotating clockwise, and then hovered.*”
- “*They were not flashing, but they did seem to differ in brightness but in no regular pattern, just fluctuating brightness.*”

It is apparent that these were objects moving slowly and with irregular variation of brightness, then turning off after a few moments in a non-simultaneous manner. All of these characteristics can be observed during release of Chinese lanterns.

The only objection to this hypothesis, which could be postulated, is that of the "almost perfect" triangular shape, which witnesses often liken to that of a "solid" object. However, it could just as well be three independent objects forming a roughly equilateral triangle:

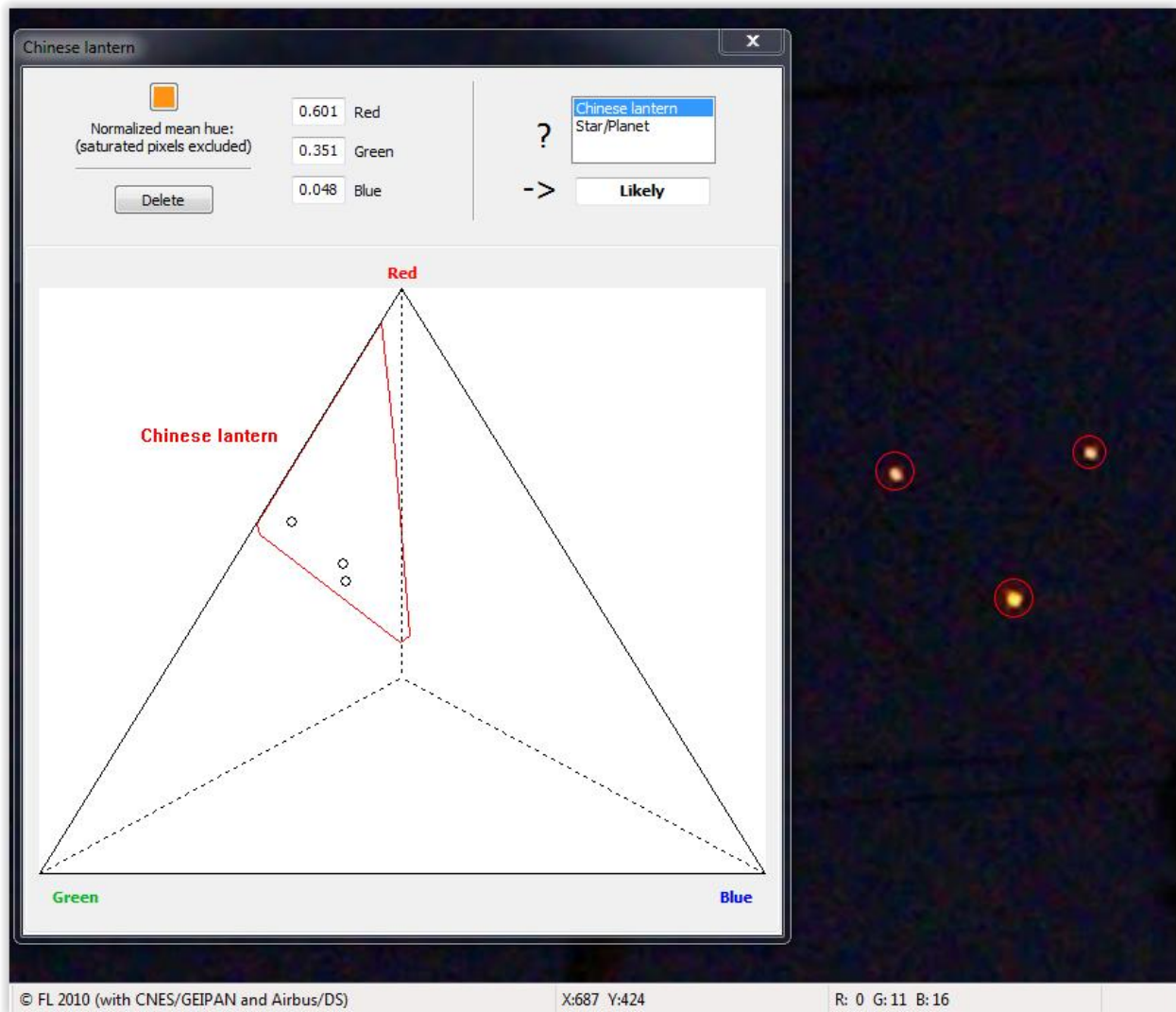


*Precise pixel spacing measurements between the lights (plotted in red) and materialization of a perfect equilateral triangle (plotted in blue) whose base measures 205 pixels.*

Moreover, we do not know, with the only reading the testimony, if this form remained constant throughout the observation. The photograph is just a snapshot of the moving objects at a "t" time and it is quite possible that this fortuitous triangular shape could evolve over time, but not necessarily be noticed by the witness.

In summary, many indications lead us to believe that the assumption of confusion with Chinese lanterns is more likely.

Further support may be given by using the "Chinese Lantern" IPACO specific tool. The methodology used can be found on the [IPACO](#) site.



The chromaticity of the three light sources is materialized in the Maxwell triangle above; we note that it is consistent with that of Chinese lanterns.

## IV. Conclusion

The review of testimonial and photographic evidences given by the witness allow us to conclude that the objects visible in the photograph are very likely Chinese lanterns.

## V. Sources

The case is presented and discussed by the witness in the forum "[Above Top Secret](#)", the 2011 June, 05.