

3. Lecture (10 May 2012)

Abstract

On Thursday 10 May, the Head of GEIPAN Mr Xavier Passot, will present a lecture on GEIPAN. GEIPAN is the official French bureau, part of the CNES, in charge of investigating UFO sightings on the French territory (since 1977).

GEIPAN receives every day some strange sighting reports from the French population. Its mission is to analyze these reports, to find possible rational explanations or classify it as "unidentified". The results of the investigations are published on their web site. The lecture will explain the organization and the methods used for these tasks.

The most common explanations of strange sightings will be explained, from the frequent Chinese lanterns, satellite or planes to some rare atmospherical phenomena. Some recent unidentified sightings will also be presented, with their possible assumptions. Mr Passot will give a statistical view of the large data-base of 2200 reports will be addressed. Some recommendations for the observers or ufologists will close the lecture and open the discussion.



Speaker

Xavier Passot is a computer scientist engineer by training (1976). He joined the CNES (French Space Agency) in 1983. He has been in charge of several satellite monitoring and control subsystems and has been responsible for the development of the VEGETATION image processing centre (VEGETATION is a wide field earth observation instrument on board SPOT4 and SPOT5).

In February 2007, Xavier joined the Gaia astrometry satellite project as manager of the CNES Data Processing Centre.

Xavier left Gaia in mid-2011 to be the head of the GEIPAN. He is an amateur astronomer in the modest CNES amateur astronomers club and has been practicing digital photography since 1999.



Groupe d'Etudes et d'Information des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non identifiés

Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Study Group

Xavier PASSOT
Head of GEIPAN

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- Introduction : Terminology, CNES & GEIPAN
- Sightings sampling : some strange phenomena
- Mission, Organization, Methods of GEIPAN
- Some unidentified sightings
- How to study the UFO's phenomenon ?
- How to observe ?

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(un)identified phenomena or objects



CNES & Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

- CNES created GEPAN (Groupe d'Etude des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non identifiés) in 1977.
✦ Heads : C.Poher then A. Esterle
- 1988 : GEPAN is replaced by SEPRA (Service d'Etudes des Phénomènes de Rentrées Atmosphériques).
✦ Heads : J.J. Velasco
- 2005 : after an audit, GEIPAN (Groupe d'Etudes et d'Information sur les Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non identifiés) replaces SEPRA.
✦ Heads : J. Patenet, Y. Blanc, X. Passot
- ✦ 2007 : GEIPAN sightings reports in line on Internet.

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Why a structure as GEIPAN ?

Scopes :

- Scientific scope to try to explain strange phenomena
- A response of the French state to the people questions
- Analysis of possible risks for the Defense

What GEIPAN is NOT

It's not :

- A worldwide specialist of UFOs
- A research institute
 - neither on extraterrestrial life
- Nor on advanced or futuristic technologies

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GEIPAN missions

- The GEIPAN missions :
 - ♦ To Collect UFOs sightings reports in France
 - ♦ To Analyze the sightings to possibly explain them
 - ♦ To archive the sightings reports
 - ♦ To inform the public
 - ♦ To analyze the global results for statistics
- GEIPAN is a part of CNES, is also under the control of a steering committee of independent members (Air traffic control, Air Army, Meteorological services, research institutes).

GEIPAN in the UFOlogists world

GEIPAN and the french ufologist associations

GEIPAN and the foreign ufologist associations

GEIPAN and the official foreign institutes

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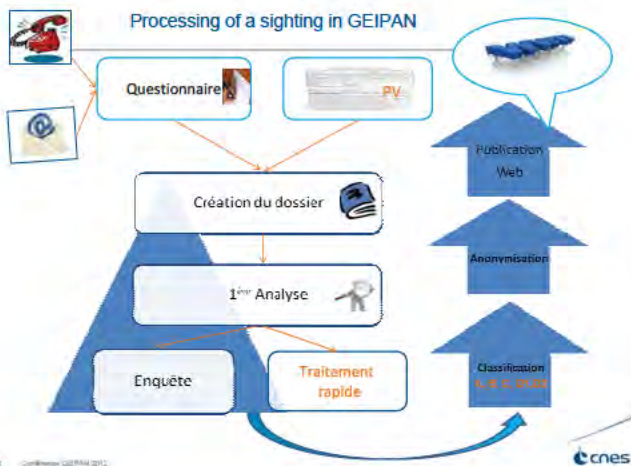


GEIPAN « How many divisions ? »

- 2 CNES people : The head, and the assistant
- 2 contractors : reports management, archive, web site, statistics
- 15 volunteer experts : on call expertises
- 99 volunteer investigators : on call investigations : 20/Years
- The steering committee : Twice a year meetings

Classification of the sightings

- A : Fully explained, with proofs
- B : Probably explained, but no solid proof
- C : Not enough information to decide
- D : Unidentified phenomenon
 - D1 : strange, but medium consistency
 - D2 : Very strange, high consistency : several independent witnesses, proofs or traces (photos, videos, ground traces).



The preliminary analysis of a case

- Strange photo, but no direct testimony
 - » Not really strange : optical effects, artefacts...
- Static, or quasi static lights in the sky
- Lights moving Straight during several minutes
- Lights moving Straight during several seconds
 - » Not so strange, probably easy to identify
- Other cases : nearby phenomena, erratic moving
 - » Strange : will be investigated

How to learn to identify a strange phenomena

See on the GEIPAN Website

« Qu'ai-je vu ? »



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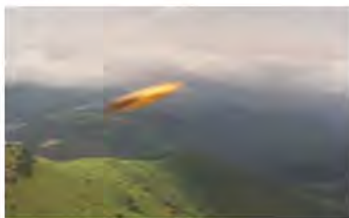
Mysterious snapshots, but no direct sighting



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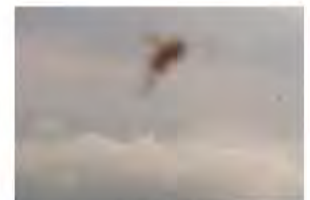
Mysterious video, but no direct sighting



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Video / next



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Mysterious snapshots, but no direct sighting



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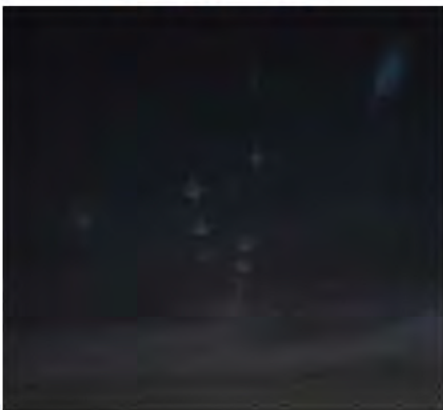
Mysterious snapshots, but no direct sighting



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Rome, November 2011



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NANTES – TRENTEMOULT: real object



A real flying saucer above Paris in April 2009

