

MUFON PARIS MEETINGS 11th
JANUARY 2013
-Ailleris' notes (UAP Observations
Reporting Scheme)-

# 1. Introduction

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2013, a series of meetings took place in Paris between the American Mutual UFO Network (MUFON, David MacDonald), the French Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Study Group (GEIPAN, Xavier Passot) and various European Ufologists. These meetings were organised by John Tomlinson, a French MUFON Regional Director, and Jacky Kozan, one of the founders of the Academy of Ufology.

The overall goal of the MUFON coming to Paris was to set the basis of an international scientific cooperation between MUFON and different European UAP organisations. One of the first priorities was to define some cooperation between the MUFON and the GEIPAN, starting with the finalization of a memorandum of understanding regarding guidelines for sighting cases occured in France and collected by MUFON. Besides various individual meetings held during the day between the participants, a special MUFON presentation was organized on Saturday evening by Guy Loterre (OVNI-Paris) and Jacky Kozan in Paris-La Defense.

My personal objective in participating to this day was to meet the various researchers, learn about the MUFON corporation, get updated on the latest GEIPAN news, and introduce my own UAP research project.

# 2. MUFON

MUFON (http://www.mufon.com/), a nonprofit volunteer organization created in May 1969, represents today the largest American UFO American association. It gathers 1100 volunteers and edits the MUFON UFO Journal, a monthly magazine of approximately 24 pages. MUFON has always been characterized by appointing regional representatives throughout the United States and abroad. It currently has 3000 members worldwide in 39 countries.

Its current director, David MacDonald, director/CEO of Flamingo Air Inc and a veteran pilot came to Paris with his wife, Sharon McGee, who is actively involved at the MUFON Headquarters (Cincinnati HQ, Ohio) as Business Manager.

As clearly stated on the corporation's website, the MUFON mission statement is "The scientific study of UFOs for the Benefit of Humanity" and its goals are as follows:

- a. Investigate UFO sightings and collect the data in the MUFON Database for use by researchers worldwide;
- b. Promote Research on UFOs to discover

- the true nature of the phenomenon, with an eye towards scientific breakthroughs, and improving life on our planet;
- c. Educate the public on the UFO phenomenon and its potential impact on society;
- d. Ensure the Economic Viability of MUFON such that the organization achieves its mission and goals.

On Saturday, several private meetings were held between the participants, notably between MUFON, GEIPAN, The Academy of Ufology, EUROUFO, CISU and SIGMA-3AF.



Fig.1: J.Tomlinson, D. Mc Donald, X. Passot and J. Kozan

## Cooperation GEIPAN/MUFON

In my judgment, one of the most important meeting was the one between MacDonald

and Passot. Its first purpose was to define a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the way to deal with UAP observations which had occurred over French territory and which were collected by MUFON. These cases are essentially sightings made by Englishspeaking foreigners while crossing over the French national territory. Passot and MacDonald agreed on starting a cooperation between the two organisations and approved the content of a Memorandum of Understanding. A second objective was that MUFON wanted to pass the message that they were motivated to collaborate with GEIPAN in all areas where GEIPAN would wish to collaborate with them.

In a nutshell and as far as I have understood, the following process should apply: MUFON will propose to witnesses who report UFO observations over French territory, to directly send their sighting reports to GEIPAN for investigation. After a witness has submitted his testimony, GEIPAN will perform a standard analysis of the case. The investigation report will be written in French and delivered to the national Director of MUFON (the conclusion will have been translated to English). After a period of approximately one week, if no objection is received, then the investigation report will be published on the GEIPAN website. In parallel, MUFON will be free to publish the GEIPAN report on its website as a direct link from the GEIPAN website, or as a copy of the report, but specifying that it is a GEIPAN report.

#### MUFON Science Review Board

In support of MUFON's mission for the scientific study of UFOs, the International Director along with the Board of Directors formed in July 2012 a Science Review Board which directly reports to the International Director.



Fig.2: MUFON SRB slide

The MUFON Science Review Board (SRB) consists of seven to nine scientists whose backgrounds are distributed across physics,

chemistry, engineering, biology, statistics and earth sciences. To be nominated as a Board member, an individual must possess a minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree and preferably an advanced science degree.

The SRB is led by MUFON's Director of Research, Robert Powell, and has three main responsibilities. One is to improve MUFON's scientific status with the media, the scientific establishment, and the public. The second is to function as advisers to the International Director, the Director of Investigations, and – should a unique case arise – to provide the necessary advice and/or help to the Star Team. The third role of the SRB is to review and drive major science projects within MUFON and to review any scientific papers that are published under the MUFON name (Ref. MUFON UFO Journal, Jan. 2013).

Overall, the SRB is the science arm of MUFON. As it was mentioned in Paris that an important aspect of this Board was the inclusion of some international partners, in view of sharing information and cooperating whenever necessary, my intention is to establish soon contact with Robert Powell.

One example of an excellent recent detailed study made by Powell relates to the sightings of a UFO that apparently buzzed President Bush's Texas ranch in 2008. Radar data from five different radar sites as well as witness testimony were reviewed in detail. The thorough report can be consulted at: <a href="http://www.ufocasebook.com/pdf/mufonste">http://www.ufocasebook.com/pdf/mufonste</a> phenvilleradarreport.pdf

# MUFON Nebraska Space Warp Research

In relation to MUFON scientific study, John Tomlinson informed me about some fascinating research conducted by the MUFON-Nebraska/Omaha UFO study Group. David Pares (Adjunct Professor at the University of Nebraska) and Matt Judah (Physics Student) conduct laboratory experiments aimed at demonstrating the existence of micro space warp.

As indicated on the SUFOR website (http://www.sufor.org/Projet\_Space\_Warp/Space\_Warp.htm), the Space Warp concept (originally proposed by Miguel Alcubierre in 1994) is a method of stretching space in a wave which would in theory, cause the fabric of space ahead of a spacecraft to contract and the space behind it to expand. A ship would ride this wave inside a region known as a local warp bubble of flat space. Pares believes that this capability is created in nature under certain conditions and proposes

to use a converted Cessna 152 into an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle equipped with remote control hardware and software, for verifying the existence of Space Warp. According to the researchers, this discovery, will have far reaching implications for space flights and terrestrial transportations, if confirmed.

# 3. Presentations

At the end of the afternoon, all participants met in a Commercial center cafeteria of Paris La Defense, to listen to the MUFON presentation. The video recordings (duration 1h39) of the evening presentations have been uploaded on YouTube (courtesy of G. Loterre, OVNI-Paris) at the following link <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-5ylv9p1gs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-5ylv9p1gs</a>. As introduction to the main evening's MUFON presentation, some speakers first delivered short speeches:

#### **GEIPAN**

Firstly, Xavier Passot (GEIPAN, <a href="http://www.cnes-geipan.fr">http://www.cnes-geipan.fr</a>) summarized the discussions that he had in the morning with David MacDonald about the MUFON/ GEIPAN Project of Memorandum of Understanding. He indicated that this document related to the treatment of the UFO sightings on French territory that had been collected (or will be in the future) by MUFON. Passot confirmed that a formal agreement had been reached between himself and MacDonald, and that a specific procedure would implemented as from now on (ref. second paragraph of this page).



Fig.3: G. Bourdais, X. Passot

Asked about how many French cases were listed today on the MUFON database, Passot answered not many. Kozan clarified this point by stating that around 95 French cases had been collected by MUFON during the period 1957-2011. It should be noted that

since this Paris meeting the following statement for English speakers has been uploaded on the GEIPAN's website (appearing by clicking on the upper right corner UK flag):

"GEIPAN is a CNES (French national space agency) service, funded by the French government. Its mission is to collect reports of UFO or UAP (Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena) sightings that have occurred over the French territory, to provide explanation where possible, and to answer questions from the general public. GEIPAN addresses mainly the French population. Their staff is French-speaking and understands English. The GEIPAN website is designed for the French population, but is of course open to all who can read French".

It should be mentioned that a recent CNES management decision might have an impact on the GEIPAN functioning. The CNES President (Y. d'Escatha) announced in January that he would be stepping down at the end of March when he would reach the mandatory retirement age of 65 for heads of government agencies in France. On 3 April, the French Council of Ministers appointed Jean-Yves Le Gall as President of the CNES. The question naturally arises about whether new orientation will be given to the GEIPAN and if Le Gall will be providing more support to the GEIPAN mission compared to d'Escatha. Under the previous president, it is my opinion that GEIPAN's existence and activities were just "tolerated" by CNES management, as long as not too much "noise" was created by GEIPAN. But I guess that this is not surprising the topic is highly controversial and considered as entertainment by many people.

#### CISU

After Passot, it was the turn of **Edoardo Russo** (The Italian Center for UFO Studies or CISU, <a href="http://www.cisu.org/">http://www.cisu.org/</a>) to shortly present the CISU activities. Founded in 1985, CISU is a private, nonprofit organization based on volunteer work of its unpaid



Fig.4: E. Russo

members. The CISU objectives are the following:

- **a.** to promote scientific study of UFO phenomena;
- **b.** to let information and documentation circulate among researchers;
- **c.** to coordinate nationally activities of data collection, analysis and its diffusion.

Russo underlined that CISU activities included firstly the investigation on UFO sighting reports, secondly the filing and cataloguing of collected data and archiving of any useful documentation, thirdly promoting analyses and research, and finally providing information to its members and towards public education. Russo indicated that CISU was dealing on average with 1300 UAP sightings reports per year.

This last statement intrigued me with respect to the French situation. Considering that there is also in Italy a second major organization (CUN) dealing with UFO research, therefore also collecting UFO testimonies, it appears obvious that the number of registered Italian UFO sightings is considerably higher than what is officially collected in France. Indeed, in March 2013, the online GEIPAN statistics reflected for the last three years the following number of UAP cases: 2010 (89); 2011 (87); 2012 (62).

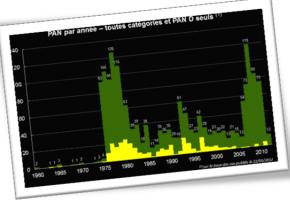


Fig.5: GEIPAN stats (May 2012)

However, one shall recognize that the methods of collecting UAP sightings in these two countries differ. GEIPAN only takes into account UAP sightings that are transmitted to them via the National Gendarmerie or other official organisms (e.g. the Army Air Force, the Civil Aviation), and not the ones directly communicated by the general public. Still such a major difference raises the question about whether the number of GEIPAN reports really provides a reliable indicator on the number of French UAP observations. Alternatively, one could claim that only the most interesting cases reach GEIPAN and therefore the difference is not

important.

Finally, Russo informed the audience about the existence of the "EuroUfo.net" informal network (of which I'm a member). This group is a virtual community of scientifically oriented European UFO researchers, which included in 2012 around 118 members from many different countries. (http://www.euroufo.net/).

#### **Commission SIGMA**

After Russo, it was the turn of Alain Boudier to briefly present the activities of the French Commission SIGMA that he created in May 2008 within the Association of Aeronautics and Space (3AF) (http://www.3af.fr/commission-technique/siqma).



Fig.6: A. Boudier

Founded in 1972, the association is a French "Société Savante" in the fields of Aeronautics and Space. The 3AF technical committees are one of the principal elements of the association. They provide three types of mission: the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information, the study of specific scientific, technical and techno-economic topics, and the recognition of professional experts in the Aeronautics and Space' domains.

Within this structure, the SIGMA commission goal is to study Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena and in particular to:

- a. Analyse official declassified documents (from France and other countries);
- b. Organise meetings with relevant important institutions and researchers interested or associated with the PAN topic;
- **c.** Perform some detailed analyses of evidence (e.g. pictures, films, testimonies, samples).

At its inception, the SIGMA commission comprised around 14 eminent scientists and military persons (e.g. Astrobiologist A. Brack, Army General P. Bescond, European

Astronaut J.F. Clervoy, GEIPAN Expert F. Louange). In May 2010, the first progress report of the SIGMA commission was released. Nowadays it can be consulted at the following link:

http://www.openminds.tv/wp-content/uploads/Rapport\_Etape\_Com.SIGM A\_Juin2010.pdf.

In Paris, A. Boudier indicated that the final report of the Commission SIGMA was planned to be issued in April 2013. We will be looking forward to discover its content, conclusions and also to understand if this final report reflects the opinion of all its members or if it is the opinion of mainly Boudier himself.

#### **MUFON Presentation**

David MacDonald gave then his presentation, with the translation into French assured by Jean-Luc Rivera (editor-inchief of "The Fortean Gazette", published in French). Until February 2012, MacDonald was a member of the MUFON board of Directors and State Director for Kentucky, before becoming MUFON International Director replacing Clifford Clift.



Fig.7: Jean-Luc Rivera, David MacDonald

The first part of the MacDonald presentation was aimed at providing to the audience a general introduction to MUFON, in terms of structure and objectives: Who they were, what they were and what was their vision (illustrated by the next three slides).



Fig.8: MUFON presentation

MacDonald recalled the MUFON mission statement: "The Scientific Study of UFOs for the Benefit of Humanity" and pointed out that applying the scientific method was the heart of what MUFON is about. MacDonald then underlined the role of the newly created MUFON Science Review Board (ref. page 2) and commented that the most unique cases will be brought to this panel of scientists for cold eyed assessment.



Fig.9: MUFON presentation



Fig.10: MUFON presentation

Furthermore, in order to maximize its chances of retrieving hardcore data for scientific analysis and obtaining first-hand eye witness testimony, MUFON has created a rapid response unit called a "STAR Team". This group (STAR standing for Strike Team Area Research) is composed of highly trained Field Investigators equipped to go anywhere within 24 hours in the USA that a highimpact UFO event occurs.

After this general overview, MacDonald provided some statistics about UFO sighting reports received by MUFON. As indicated on the following two slides, a considerable number of testimonies was registered by MUFON in 2012 (8400). It was interesting to hear that on average 15 reports per month include a landing case or a UFO sighting at close distance, that observations of "entities" were still made, and that around 10% of the cases remained unexplained after study.

MacDonald also commented that the number of UAP cases seemed to be

increasing. Obviously one will have to look in detail at the quality of these reports before producing more precise and useful UFO statistics.

A quick Reference was made by MacDonald regarding the MUFON Case Management



Fig.11: MUFON presentation



Fig.12: MUFON presentation

System (CMS). This is an interesting new internet based sighting and reporting system, recently added on the MUFON website. It allows customized search of the sightings database by various factors (e.g. date, event country, event state (USA), shape, color, distance from witness, presence of entity), a look at the last twenty sightings, and displays a real-time UFO map (USA). I have tried myself and the tool works well, allowing me for example to consult some French cases and uploaded UFO pictures. To review the CMS data yourself, go to <a href="https://www.mufon.com">www.mufon.com</a> and click on the top



Fig.13: Sample CMS data

right rectangle: "UFO Case Files". Obviously if you are a MUFON State Directors or Field Investigator, more functionalities are open to you.

The third and last part of MacDonald's talk was about a specific event, the Buffalo Oklahoma UFO case, from May 2009. MacDonald personally investigated this case at the time. This proved to be a very interesting UFO event as it not only included the analysis of soil samples but because it also gave MacDonald the opportunity to witness his first (and to this day only) UFO. The following text is the original witness statement that I have extracted from the CMS(CMS Case # 17125) and that MacDonald presented throughout a series of slides

Buffalo Oklahoma, May 18, 2009, Close encounter 3 lights blue red strobing white light.



Fig.14: MUFON Buffalo Oklahoma UFO

"I was feeding my horses last Sunday about 12:30am. I was standing facing west, all of the sudden some very low flying lights caught my eye. I first noticed that the lights were flying very low, and then that they were going way too slow to be an airplane. There was a blue, red, and white strobing light and they appeared to have just flown over Buffalo. The lights were large and in line with each other, with quite a bit of distance in between all three. The middle light was white and strobed very slowly, and the red/blue lights were on the ends. The lights turned and were coming directly towards me at a diagonal angle. The white light was covered with a round, concave, clear, glass-type covering which appeared to be very thick glass, and had some type of circular design on it. The red and blue lights were different than the center light. They were tall and cylinder shaped, more like beacons, and they appeared to be sitting on top of something. They appeared to be covered by a different type of material, it looked more like

some type of colored plastic, but transparent enough that the lights underneath could shine through.

I never saw a shape or even any type of structure behind the lights. Within 10-15 seconds the lights had reached the dirt road in front of me, and were crossing over the top of the power lines. It became apparent that the lights were slowing down as they got closer, and were now nearly at a complete stop. I turned and ran from the corral to my pickup and jumped inside, which took about 15 seconds, because I was wearing flip flops. Once in the pick-up I was now facing north, and the lights had moved just behind the corral and had turned south, facing me again. THE LIGHTS WERE SITTING COMPLETELY STILL, HOVERING, ABSOLUTELY NO MOVEMENT, other than the strobing white light.

The distance between me and the lights at this point was probably around 150'. I felt it was a single craft, and judging by the distance of the lights from end to end, would have been anywhere from 25' to 50', I cannot judge distance very well, plus I was busy running to my vehicle. I lean more toward 40-50'. For about another 5 seconds I fumbled trying to find my cellphone, and staring at the lights in disbelief.



Fig.15: Buffalo's ground

This was the most terrifying moment I have experienced, I threw the pick- up in reverse, then drove forward, and when I got to the gate leading out of the pasture, I stopped looked over my shoulder, the lights were still sitting in the same place, NOT MOVING. I couldn't go towards town without passing close by the lights, so I turned south and laid the pedal down. About a 1/4 mile down the road, I turned and looked over my shoulder, and the lights were nowhere there, or anywhere in sight. Since the incident I have driven behind the corral and a large portion of the grass is laid down, which may be due to wind current, I took some pictures of that area. I have been fascinated by the UFO phenomenon since the massive sightings in TX/PA in 2008, and

thought if I ever saw one, that I would be brave and take pictures and size it up. I was so scared and I had an innate feeling that if I didn't leave fast, something bad was going to happen. This is a very small town and I do not want any notoriety, if you wish to do an investigation or speak to anybody from this area about this incident, please contact me first. Thank you."

MacDonald investigated the flattened grass, which included a swirled pattern (ref. Fig. 15). Vegetation and soil control samples were extracted from within the affected zone and from outside it. The analysis revealed that all the chlorophyll and moisture were gone. No water could be absorbed within the affected zone. Interestingly, three weeks later the same witness photographed some other unidentified lights flying above her house. She provided to MUFON the following (unusable) picture.



Fig.16: Buffalo's witness picture 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009

While performing his investigation, MacDonald, the witness and her husband observed a phenomenon near the house that they could not identify: Five fluorescent lights in a triangle silently going around the night sky. This observation represented For MacDonald his first and only UFO experience. Although he is an experienced plane pilot, he still does not know what this phenomena was. MacDonald finally indicated that due to the complexity of the Buffalo Oklahoma UFO case, the investigation is still on-going.

### The Academy of Ufology

The final speaker of the evening was Jacky Kozan, who rapidly presented The Academy of Ufology (<a href="http://www.ufolog.eu/eng/">http://www.ufolog.eu/eng/</a>) throughout two slides. The first one depicted the number of persons currently affiliated to this structure (around 90 persons) and their related locations (16 countries). It should be noted that The Academy aims at developing its structure internationally, based on its

members. In this respect, an Academy already exists in the USA and another one will soon be created in Argentina. Kozan made clear that the persons belonging to The Academy of Ufology are also de-facto members of MUFON.

The second slide focused on France (see Fig. 17) and its structure (National and Regional representations). Kozan mentioned that the first contacts between The Academy of Ufology and MUFON originated from 2007, just after he had created the association. During this year he travelled to the USA to initiate collaboration with American ufologists.

In line with what had been previously mentioned, Kozan's presentation meant that effectively a picture of the MUFON structure in France had been shown to the audience, and not only one of The Academy of Ufology. Furthermore this also implied that the cooperation between the MUFON American headquarters and GEIPAN would be realized via The Academy of Ufology. GEIPAN/MUFON activities described on the page 2 of these notes (e.g. translation and adaptation of the French reports, contacting the witnesses, transfer of the files to the GEIPAN) will be realized by MUFON's French structure, i.e. The Academy.

For the readers' interest, I add here below a few explanations about The Academy of Ufology that I have extracted from the Internet. Created in July 2007, this structure is a virtual place where the members share their efforts to improve the knowledge of the UFO phenomenon, according to their personal means. The Academy has no budget, no financing, and aims to promote and organize the scientific and historical study of ufology.



Fig.17: J. Kozan

Its objective is to become the qualified intermediary between the public in search of serious and reliable information and the ufologists working in the associations. Each member is committed to taking part in the improvement of ufology by sharing his knowledge and participating in the Academy's activities, according to his personal means. As a commitment to quality, the members of the Academy of Ufology must accept and respect a strict code of ethics. This document was approved in 2006 by the original 17 founders of the Academy. It can be found at the following address:

http://www.ufolog.eu/eng/?/Presentation/de ontology

# 4. Concluding remarks

My personal opinion is that this day has been very successful. All discussions between different ufological associations and actors have been conducted in a very open and cooperative manner. GEIPAN has shown that it was willing to cooperate not only with French investigators and associations, but also with MUFON. We should thank Passot for his attitude and recognize his efforts, while trying to help him in his endeavors whenever possible. The importance of the fact that for the first time GEIPAN, despite having a national limited mandate, has accepted to cooperate with a private organization outside Europe should not be under estimated. This is real progress.

The MUFON presentation was very well accepted by all participants and undoubtedly MacDonald made a very good impression. His charisma, vision of international cooperation for combining resources worldwide to solve the UFO enigma, and the openness that he demonstrated during that day for sharing information and cooperating whenever necessary, were perceived as genuine and more than welcome. It is clear that the French MUFON representatives are strongly motivated for developing in France a coherent and effective MUFON ufological organization, while at the same time setting up other MUFON structures across Europe.

Overall, I was satisfied that the need for a serious, objective UAP study, using scientific method of investigations, was emphasized by all actors, and the basis for an international scientific cooperation were set.

I'm already looking forward to a potential 2014 follow-up meeting.

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Fig.18: MUFON UFO Journal cover February 2013