

CIA May Have Tested Biological War

The Central Intelligence Agency may have been involved in "open air" biological warfare tests in streets and tunnels in the New York City area in 1955 and 1956, according to an analysis of CIA records released yesterday by the Church of Scientology.

The four-month analysis suggests that the CIA purchased supplies for experiments that included the dissemination of unknown substances from aerosol devices mounted in suitcases and in the exhaust of a specially modified 1953 Mercury, according to the church's report.

The church's analysis said they examined about 600 pages of CIA financial records that were part of the agency's MK-ULTRA mind control experiments. The documents have been made public by the CIA during the last 2½ years.

The Scientologists report is to be made public today. Copies of the report were sent to congressional Intelligence and Armed Services committees as well as to the CIA and the Army, a church spokesman said.

The Scientologists said analysts had pieced together scattered bits of information they found in the heavily censored CIA documents. They said they believe the biological warfare experiment was code-named "Operation Big City," and that details of the operation have either been destroyed by the CIA or are still shielded by a top-secret classification.

The CIA has never acknowledged any involvement with open air tests of biological agents. Much of the intelligence agency's biological testing during the 1950s was conducted for the agency by the Army.

Previously released documents and congressional hearings showed the Army's "Special Operations Division" at Fort Detrick, Md., carried out a series of tests between 1949 and 1968 apparently designed to gauge the vulnerability of American metropolitan areas to possible Soviet chemical and bacteriological warfare.

Early this year, a San Francisco lawyer released Army documents ob-

tained under the Freedom of Information Act describing a 1950 test in which a bacteria cloud was sprayed from a ship off the Golden Gate warded inland to cover the entire bay area.

"We feel that the public has a right to know of every incident where U.S. citizens may have been the target of chemical and-or biological warfare

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A 7

fare in New York in '50s, Church Says

testing," said Church of Scientology spokesman Brian Anderson.

From the 75 pages of receipts, church investigators concluded:

"Equipped with test animals, the CIA-Army team experimented with a variety of devices capable of disseminating a powder or gas into the air under covert conditions. Battery driven 'dusters' were installed in suit-

cases that had been soundproofed to muffle the noise. Similar devices were also constructed to sample the air to determine the effectiveness of the test. Personnel were protected with, at least, nasal filter pads.

"The primary test occurred Feb. 11-15, 1956, in the New York City area when a 1953 mercury with tail pipes extending an extra 18 inches traveled

only 80 miles but covered four turnpikes and tunnels. When the test car returned it was washed to handle 'contamination' and washed again a few days later."

A church spokesman said, "We would like to know, and are sure the people of New York would like to know, what the Army-CIA used in 'Operation Big City.'"

Data Show '50s Projects

Germ Testing by the CIA

By Bill Richards

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency ran experiments with germ and virus cultures as well as mind-altering drugs as part of its top secret MKULTRA program in the 1950s, according to documents released on the project.

The documents show that during the project shipments of viruses and at least two germ cultures containing whooping cough microorganisms and a canine bacterial infection were sent to a CIA researcher at the U.S. Army bacteriological warfare center in Camp Detrick, Md.

In addition, they show that an MKULTRA agent purchased a copy of the book "Birds of Britain, Europe," as part of what was described in a financial accounting as a "continuous project on bird survey in special areas."

A study of possible uses of migratory birds in germ warfare was funded through Camp Detrick for years using the Smithsonian Institution as a cover, according to previously published reports. Unreleased and still classified documents have linked the Smithsonian to MKULTRA, according to knowledgeable sources.

The latest batch of fragmentary and heavily censored financial records from MKULTRA, which spanned nearly 25 years, included these other details:

•MKULTRA agents at one point flew small dogs and monkeys to an unidentified isolated site, constructed homemade wooden shelters for the animals and then—after the animals died or were killed—buried them un-

See CIA, A11, Col. 1

CIA, From A1

der coatings of lime in a remote field.

During the same MKULTRA project, agents spent several days firing darts into a small slab of meat and apparently, in one instance, accidentally into one of the agents.

The documents show that the CIA's financial office watched its pennies closely, in one case initiating a flurry of memos to retrieve 5 cents left over after completion of an MKULTRA project.

In another instance, a magician hired by the program wrote a handbook for agents on "tricks" with small objects, loose solids and liquids. Later, the magician contributed a paper on "nonelectric" communication that included the secrets employed by magicians and mind readers.

These and other operational tidbits were included among 1,410 pages of financial documents relating to MKULTRA which the CIA released this week. The agency has said it will make public nearly 8,000 pages of MKULTRA material as soon as they are "sanitized" with all names removed.

MKULTRA was the CIA's principal

program for research and development of chemical and biological agents during the 1950s and 1960s. Most of the full descriptions of experiments during the program were destroyed by Sidney Gottlieb, the former MKULTRA chief, when he retired from the intelligence agency in 1973.

The remaining financial records, which the agency is making public at the direction of CIA Director Stansfield Turner, are so sketchy that they have become an intriguing puzzle for congressional investigators and reporters who have seen them.

In one 1955 MKULTRA project, for example, an agent was reimbursed for apparently renting a cargo freighter and its crew and diverting them from their course for an unspecified task. In addition to renting the ship and its crew for several hundred dollars the agent charged the CIA for a set of work clothes and \$25 for "operational liquor."

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In another 1955 project researchers requested \$5,720 from MKULTRA officials to test LSD on "returnees" from Communist countries. No indica-

tion is provided in the released documents why a hallucinogen was needed to interrogate the returnees or of their nationality.

Last week in testimony before the Senate Health Subcommittee Turner called MKULTRA tests run on unsuspecting human subjects "Abhorrent." The CIA director promised this week he would notify each of the 86 private institutions and corporations where MKULTRA experiments were run of their part in the program. Many of the program's experiments were conducted using nongovernmental "cover" organizations.

A CIA spokesman said yesterday, however, that Turner would urge each of the institutions to keep its part in the program to itself and not make it public.

The documents released this week show that in addition to tests with drugs on humans some type of testing was conducted on small dogs and monkeys as part of the MKULTRA program.

In early 1955 a number of small animals were flown to a remote site where at least six agents were living in a rented cabin. Receipts for the period note that the agents bought a

piece of meat and marked the receipt "meat used for dart target." Agents also purchased tetanus toxoid and marked that item "for SO [Special operations] personnel emergency."

Among the other receipts turned in by the agents were several for bags of lime. A March receipt is marked, "Lime used for decomposition of animals in field after test—buried."

Report Suggests CIA Involvement In Fla. Illnesses

By Bill Richards

Washington Post Staff Writer

The CIA may have conducted open-air tests of whooping cough bacteria in Florida in the mid-1950s, when state medical records show a whooping cough outbreak killed 12 persons, according to a Church of Scientology analysis of agency records.

The Scientologists said their examination of about 150 pages of financial records released in recent years by the Central Intelligence Agency indicates that the agency conducted at least one open-air biological test along Florida's Gulf Coast in 1955.

In a report the Scientologists are scheduled to make public today, the group said the CIA documents show that shortly before the test someone in the agency signed out a specimen of whooping cough bacteria known as *Hemophilus pertussis* from the Army's biological warfare center at Fort Detrick, Md.

The bacteria apparently was used in tests conducted around the Tampa Bay area near Sebring, Fla., according to the Scientologists' report.

State medical records examined by the group show that the number of whooping cough cases recorded in Florida jumped from 339 and one death in 1954 to 1,080 and 12 deaths in 1955. A spokesman for the Scientologists said one of three areas that experienced a sharp increase in 1955 was the Tampa Bay area.

"It is our hope that the outbreak and the testing is a mere coincidence," the Scientologists said.

A spokesman for the CIA said the agency would have no comment on the report.

American Citizens for Honesty in Government, a group formed by the Church of Scientology, has been active in recent months in analyzing chemical and biological testing programs run by the Army and possibly the CIA in the 1950s and 1960s.

Earlier this month the Scientologists said their analysis of financial records that were part of the

analysis of financial records that were part of the CIA's MK-ULTRA testing program showed the agency conducted open air tests around New York City.

The same heavily censored records also contain fragments of information that indicate the CIA reimbursed a physician, whose name is deleted, for \$4 for the bacteria withdrawn from Fort Detrick on Jan. 26, 1955.

A few days later, according to receipts from the CIA, the intelligence agency paid for pair of boots contaminated during testing. The boots were purchased in Sebring, according to copies of the receipts.

The CIA records also show reimbursements for jeeps, lumber, several test animals and long distance calls regarding security set up at "field test sites." Several other entries at the time indicate the team was testing some type of biological agent.

According to the records, several test animals were killed and buried and a "biological specimen" was shipped by air to an unnamed location by the researchers. CIA petty cash vouchers show a one-way railway ticket was purchased March 6, 1955, for \$54.99. A Seaboard Railroad chart from that time indicates \$54.99 was the fare from Sebring to Washington, D.C.

The Scientologists said they checked Florida State medical records and found whooping cough cases jumped 300 percent over previous years, with the highest increase recorded in July 1955.

Earlier this year, Army records indicated that a biological warfare test conducted in San Francisco in 1950 may have been responsible for the death of a hospital patient there.

Brian Anderson, a spokesman for the Scientologists, said in a statement that the evidence the group has gathered indicates a need for the release of all government biological warfare test files.

The CIA says most of its chemical and biological test files were destroyed in 1973 at the order of former CIA director Richard Helms.

Army Discloses 1951 Virginia Germ Test

NORFOLK, Va., Sept. 13 (UPI)—A Navy supply shipment from Mechanicsburg, Pa., to the Norfolk Naval Base was deliberately contaminated with bacteria in 1951 as part of a germ warfare experiment, the Army said today.

The test concluded the supply system was "vulnerable to biological warfare attack," but there were no indications any civilian or military personnel were harmed, an Army spokesman said.

Authorities said the three types of bacteria used in the test are relatively common organisms in the natural environment and, at the time, were all believed to be harmless. Since then, however, it has been determined that two of the bacteria could cause potentially fatal pneumonia, in rare instances, if a large quantity is inhaled by either sick or elderly persons.

Public admission of the test drew sharp criticism from some military and local officials. The previously undisclosed test was performed by the Army in conjunction with the Navy.

Rear Adm. George Gorsuch, head of the Navy Regional Medical Center in neighboring Portsmouth, was quoted as saying biological testing of any kind near a populated area is "totally irresponsible and reprehensible."

"I don't think you'd find a naval officer today who would endorse such a thing," Gorsuch told The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Dr. Mason Andrews, vice mayor of this city of 280,000 residents and a physician at Eastern Virginia Medical School, vowed to seek more information about the study.

Army conducted open air tests of chemicals near Maryland town

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army in 1969 conducted 115 open-air tests of a potentially toxic chemical near a small Maryland town, according to government documents released Monday.

The documents, released to the Church of Scientology under the Freedom of Information Act, said the tests were intended to check the dispersion of potential chemical and germ warfare agents in forested areas.

No chemical or germ warfare agents were used in the tests near Cambridge,

Md., but the fluorescent tracer particles released could have posed a health risk to some persons, church officials said in a statement.

The Army had no immediate comment on the tests or the church's report.

The tracer particles contained zinc cadmium sulfide, which some scientists think could be hazardous to infants, the elderly and those with respiratory problems, if inhaled in sufficient quantities.

It is unknown how much of the chemical anyone might have been

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A-9

exposed to as it drifted from the test site, located in the Green Brier Swamp 12 miles southwest of Cambridge.

The church charged that the Army never assessed the dangers of spraying the chemical near populated areas. It asked the White House and the Environmental Protection Agency to investigate potential long-term health effects on exposed people.

Church officials said information on the tests was needed to prevent renewed testing on civilian populations.

"The testing done in Cambridge gives Americans an idea of what can be expected if the United States resumes production of chemical weapons," said Brian Anderson, a church spokesman.

The tests in Cambridge were conducted from Aug. 1 through Nov. 25, 1969, by Army scientists and a contracting company, Meteorological Research Laboratory of Falls Church, Va.

Local landowners gave permission to the Army to use their land, but neither they nor town officials were told the nature of the tests, church officials said.

The Army constructed a 200-foot tower in the forest from which clouds of the tracer chemical were released. Samples were taken at varying distances from the tower to see how different foliage and weather conditions affected the spread of the particles, according to the documents.

Zinc cadmium sulfide particles were used because they glow under ultraviolet light and can be distinguished from other material in the environment when evaluating samples, they said.

Md. Forest Sprayed in 1969 Tests

Eastern Shore Area Was Used 115 Times To Measure Fallout

10/14/80
By Eugene L. Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

For four months in 1969, the Army sprayed a swampy forest on Maryland's Eastern Shore with fluorescent particles in an effort to gauge the extent of fallout in chemical and biological warfare, according to government documents.

Residents were told only that their land would be used for a "government project" which, according to the documents, involved "open air" spraying of the chemical zinc cadmium sulfide. The chemical, whose immediate and long term effects on humans are in dispute, was sprayed 115 times from Aug. 1 to Nov. 24, 1969.

"All they told me was it was a governmental test," said Ralph Asplen, now a retired farmer who rented a nine-room house to participating scientists. "I didn't figure it was any of my business."

"I'm looking right at the area out my window right now," said State Sen. Frederick C. Malkus (D-Dorchester), "but as far as I knew, the only chemical warfare we've had down here was on the damn mosquitoes."

The testing program was disclosed in documents obtained through a freedom of information request by the Church of Scientology, which, among its many other pursuits, has been fighting proposals for renewed chemical and biological warfare research.

Other documents obtained by the Scientologists in recent months have revealed a whole series of similar tests that were conducted in the 1950s and 1960s in places such as Fort Wayne, Ind., Dallas and Fort Worth, Tex. and Norfolk. Earlier documents showed that similar tests were conducted in 1953 in Frederick County, Md., and Loudon County, Va.

In several instances, the government

used a chemical that Pentagon spokesman Maj. Leon T. DeLorme said yesterday only "simulated" a substance intended for possible military use. The chemical, he said, is "like dust" and "would have no impact on you."

Dr. L. Arthur Spomer, formerly assigned to the chemical warfare corps at the Army's Dugway Proving Ground in Utah and now a horticulture professor at the University of Illinois, has disagreed with that assessment, however. Writing in a professional journal in 1972 and during more recent interviews, Spomer has said the use of the chemical compound in atmospheric tests presents "a potential human health hazard."

"Even brief exposure to high concentrations may result in pulmonary edema and death," Spomer wrote.

See CAMBRIDGE, C3, Col.1

Eastern Shore Was Sprayed In Army Tests

CAMBRIDGE, From C1

"Water is potentially harmful," countered DeLorme. "If you ingest enough water, it will kill you."

The latest documents do not detail the quantities used on the Eastern Shore. The sparsely settled site 12 miles southwest of Cambridge was chosen for the testing program after two other locations in Northern Virginia were rejected, in one case due to "public concern for the integrity of the bald eagle nesting area," a "final report" on the program said.

The two Virginia locations were Mason Neck in southeastern Fairfax County and the Conway Robinson Memorial Forest, 16 miles from the Falls Church laboratory which produced the chemical. The Eastern Shore site, in Dorchester County's Green Briar Swamp, was described as an "excellent experimental ground" because of its flat terrain and "mature, temperate, deciduous stand" of trees.

Explaining the choice, the 1970 report said, "A bomb bursting in a tropical jungle will give quite different sizes and shapes of dosage contours, and different rates of dosage buildup, than will a similar bomb in temperate grassland. These differences need to be known for all potential operational areas, for prediction of weapons effects and defensive requirements."

During the Dorchester testing, four local residents were hired to stand guard at the Green Briar site and the chemical manufacturer hosted a party for the citizens. A tower was erected in the middle of the swamp, and air samples were collected at various points and sent by registered mail to the Army's Desert Testing Center for further examination.

The day after the final test in the series, President Richard M. Nixon ended such programs, saying the United States henceforth would limit its biological research "to defensive measures such as immunization and safety."

William Wingate, the current president of the Dorchester County commissioners, said yesterday he lacked sufficient information to react to the report.

"I still got a little bit of confidence in Uncle Sam," he said, adding, "Of course, sometimes it's kind of shaken."