

ARMY TRICKED G.I.S INTO DRUG TESTING

Admits Men Were Not Told
LSD Was in Cocktails—
Coercion Also Indicated

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The Army disclosed today that it had surreptitiously given LSD to soldiers in cocktails in much the same way the Central Intelligence Agency did in an experiment that led to the death of one of its subjects.

There were no deaths in the Army's tests in the late nineteen-fifties and early nineteen-sixties, senior Army officials said as a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee opened hearings on drug experimentation in the military. But they said it appeared that commanders had coerced some soldiers into participating in the experiments and that the soldiers had neither been told what drug they were to receive nor when, where or how it could be administered.

Explanation Offered

The officials said that both the Army and research institutions working under contract to the Army had at times failed to follow "sound ethical principles" in their experiments with hallucinogenics and other drugs involving more than 7,000 persons in the last 25 years.

In the first of the contracts let by the Army, the New York State Psychiatric Institute administered a fatal dose of a mescaline derivative in early 1953 to Harold Blauer, a 42-year-old Long Island tennis professional who had entered the hospital for treatment of depression and tension. His death was kept secret until last month and the Army ex-

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Associated Press

Representative F. Edward Hebert of the House Armed Services Committee talking with Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor before yesterday's hearing on military drug experiments.

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periments continued.

Charles D. Ablard, the general counsel for the Army, told subcommittee that the Army had started experimenting with hallucinogens partly in hopes of finding an alternative to nuclear war, a concept that was enthusiastically and openly discussed in military publications and before Congress in the late nineteen-fifties.

The tests showed, Mr. Ablard said, that LSD could be effective in reducing resistance to interrogation.

Mr. Ablard said the Army, like the C.I.A., was also interested in knowing how these drugs might be applied in intelligence operations, particularly how they might be used as aids in interrogations or as tools by foreign operatives attempting to break-down American agents.

Finally, Mr. Ablard said, the Army hoped to find an antidote to the hallucinogens.

In recent weeks Army officials have insisted that its experiments with hallucinogenics had been strictly for "defensive purposes." Mr. Ablard has been the first to concede the offensive intentions, although The Times and at least one other newspaper had reported this aspect of the tests.

The Army stopped experi-

menting with LSD in 1967 because it was considered to be "too unpredictable." But another hallucinogen called BZ, which, like LSD is a derivative of lysergic acid, but is more potent and stable, is still stockpiled in bombs at the Pine Bluff arsenal in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Mr. Ablard said the Army's initial interest and concern with the odorless, colorless and tasteless hallucinogens were spurred by intelligence reports that "other governments" had made large purchases of "possible hallucinogenic agents," and information that foreign agents captured by the United States and its allies had been carrying "syringes of fluid to facilitate control of captives."

In addition, he said, a civilian doctor, whose name he said was a part of a secret document and could not be disclosed, had sent a report to the Army's surgeon general telling about the use of the drugs by foreign agents.

Tests Part of a Series

The experiments in which soldiers were unwittingly given LSD in cocktails were part of a series of tests striving to evaluate the potential applications of the drug in intelligence operations, Mr. Ablard said.

He said that 31 soldiers, all with extensive backgrounds in

intelligence, were given LSD in the tests for intelligence purposes and that in addition to taking part in "simulated social receptions," which included the cocktails, the men were placed in "simulated stress situations." There they were given polygraph or lie detector tests after having received the drug. He said the men were also given LSD and then placed in isolation, another experience that was thought might be likely for a captured agent.

Mr. Ablard said the soldiers had been told that the "project" would consist of a series

of mental and physical tests of human reaction to a specific material that would be administered under in-patient conditions.

He said they had not been told, however, the exact properties of the material to be given, the intelligence potential, nor in some of the experiments, like the cocktail party, the time, location or method of administration.

Soldiers Not Informed

"The information was withheld," he said, "in order not to prejudice experimental results by suggestion."

Earlier, Dr. Van M. Sim, who was chief of the Army's human drug experiment program for more than 20 years, said that, in fact, none of the approximately 600 soldiers who received LSD had been told before or after the tests exactly what drug had been involved—also, purportedly, out of concern for prejudicing the tests.

When questioned about the coercion, Mr. Ablard said there had been "some indications," in testimony taken from soldiers as part of a current internal investigation being conducted by

the army, that "some commanders might have exceeded what they should have done in, let's say, encouraging men to participate in the program."

"There are significant unanswered questions as to whether participation in the program was truly voluntary by today's criteria," he said.

Army Policy Given

Lieut. General Richard R. Taylor, the surgeon general of the Army, said it had been Army policy since 1953 that human subjects in experiments be fully informed of the nature, purposes and effects of the experimentation, and that they give written voluntary consent without coercion.

Dating from the same time, he said, Army regulations required that experiments involving humans be approved by the Secretary of the Army, but he said he had been unable to find any indication of compliance in connection with the LSD tests until 1958—after the tests had been going on for at least three years. He said he had been able to find only sketchy compliance afterwards.

In the fatal LSD experiment conducted by the C.I.A., Frank R. Olson, a department of the Army biochemist, was surreptitiously given the drug in an after dinner drink while attending a business conference at a retreat in Maryland in November, 1953. After the disclosure of his death earlier this summer newsmen began to query the Pentagon and subsequently learned of the military experiments.