

# Army Nerve Tests Using LSD

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 12—

The former chief of the Army's drug testing program disclosed today that the Army was experimenting on soldiers with a potent, incapacitating psychochemical known as BZ until as recently as late last year. As in the Army's LSD tests, he said, the subjects were never told what they were to receive or exactly how it might affect them.

The sworn testimony of Dr. Van M. Sim, at a joint hearing of two Senate subcommittees looking into drug experimentation by the military and the Central Intelligence Agency, contradicted Army spokesmen who have been saying that the Army's experiments with BZ were discontinued in 1964, when the drug was formally made a part of the service's arsenal.

In a closed session late this afternoon, Army officials reportedly disclosed to the Senators details of two Army intelligence corps tests in which LSD was used in "actual interrogation situations."

These experiments are believed to have been conducted in Indochina, but Senator Edward M. Kennedy, chairman of both subcommittees, refused to confirm this. He would only say that the experiments had taken place in the early nineteen-sixties and that the subjects had not been American soldiers.

Earlier this week, Army officials disclosed that the Army had conducted several tests on soldiers with LSD for intelligence purposes between 1953 and 1962.

### Too Unpredictable

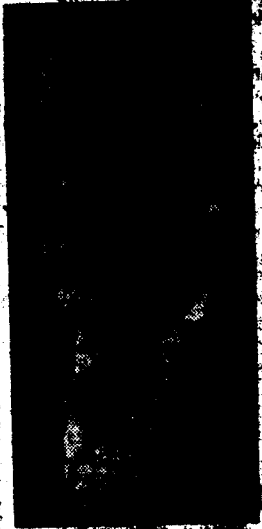
Dr. Sim estimated that since 1967, from 2,100 to 2,800 soldiers had been given BZ, which attacks the nervous system, usually causing dizziness, blurring of vision, vomiting and finally immobility. The symptoms can last from two hours to as long as four days, depending upon how much of the drug is administered.

The formal scientific name of BZ is 3-quinuclidinyl Benzilate. Dr. Sim said seven variations of the formula were tested in the seven years ending in 1974.

Just as in the LSD experiments, which the Army says ended in 1967 with the conclusion that the drug was "too unpredictable" for military use, the soldiers given BZ were told only that they would be taking a drug that would affect their behavior, Dr. Sim told the Senators.

In the Army form on which the soldiers gave their written consent to take part in the tests, they were told that they might experience "temporary discomfort."

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