Pentagon Is Studying Polygraphs

Pentagon scientists are weighing evidence to judge the value of lie detector examinations, a Defense Department spokesman told congressional investigators yesterday.

The Department, which has been the Government's principal user of polygraph examinations, has taken steps under congressional pressure to limit use of the tests.

Walter T. Skallerup Jr., deputy assistant secretary of defense, told a House Government Operations subcommittee that a directive was issued last month "as a first step toward bringing polygraph examinations under appropriate controls."

In addition, he said, a panel of scientists is considering ways of measuring the reliability of the examinations and the equipment.