

BILVA CITY
TIMES 2/9/64

Lie Tests

In Army

Are Curbed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The army has laid down strict regulations designed to prevent any abuses in the use of lie detectors by military police investigators.

This was disclosed Thursday when an unpublicized army order became available.

In the main, the army order bars MP criminal investigators from taking advantage of a person who may be tired, upset, ill or otherwise not at his best.

Deception Barred

It also forbids anything deceptive, such as investigators wearing white coats which might make them look like doctors.

The army regulation goes well beyond a defense department order intended to safeguard a person's constitutional and legal rights when confronted by a lie detector.

Use of lie detectors by government agencies has come under sharp attack in congress and has been investigated by a house subcommittee.

Approval Needed

The army order says that no lie detector test will be given without the express approval of the provost marshal of a base and that the device may be operated only by an accredited examiner.

Among the restrictions listed were these:

— Criminal investigators will not subject a person to prolonged questioning just before a lie detector examination.

Further Curbs

— Such an examination

“will not be conducted when it is apparent that the subject is mentally or physically fatigued.”

— “No person will be examined while obviously emotionally upset, intoxicated, under the influence of a sedative, or who is known to have a mental disorder or to be addicted to drugs or marijuana.”

— A test may not be held while the subject is “experiencing physical discomfort of significant magnitude or while possessing physical disabilities which, by themselves, might cause an abnormal response to be recorded.”

Consent Needed

— An examiner will confine his test questions to matters pertinent to the offense being probed.

The army order also incorporated the defense department's basic instructions that no lie detector examination shall be conducted without first getting the written consent of the person involved, and only after the person has been advised of his rights to refrain from doing anything that may tend to incriminate him.