

LSD Used in U.S. Interrogation

By Bill Richards
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Army intelligence agents used LSD in two series of field tests conducted during interrogation sessions on unidentified subjects prior to 1963, military officials told a Senate subcommittee in closed hearings yesterday.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairman of the joint hearing of the Senate Health Subcommittee and the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure, cited the Army's claim of national security in declining to identify who got the drug during the interrogation.

"I think there are intelligence activities of a sensitive nature which raise some very serious questions about intelligence-gathering activities," Kennedy said after the closed session yesterday afternoon.

Kennedy would not say whether the drug experiments — which were described this week by an Army official as having been conducted "in conjunction with actual interrogation situations" — were performed inside or outside the U.S. He said the drugs were not administered to U.S. soldiers.

Other sources said yesterday that the drug tests described for the subcommittee did not involve Vietnam or prisoners of war in Vietnam. The Army has previously denied using



DR. VAN SIM
... reported on tests

LSD or any other hallucinogens in combat situations.

Kennedy said the details of the drug experiments conducted being investigated by the Senate Army intelligence were at Subcommittee on Intelligence, which is currently looking into CIA drug activities as well.

He said there was no connection with the LSD interrogation experiments run by Army intelligence and the CIA.

During the open session of the subcommittee hearing yesterday morning Dr. Van M. Sim, former civilian director of the Army drug program for 20 years at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., disputed claims by senior Army officials this week that the Army surgeon general

never got full reports on drug experiments.

Sim has been reassigned to the job of special assistant at Edgewood Arsenal since the controversy arose over the military's drug experiments. Prior to the hearing yesterday he indicted that he believed the Army may be trying to make him a scapegoat by blaming him for not filing full reports of the tests conducted on thousands of volunteers in the drug program.

The Army has acknowledged that it tested LSD on about 585 persons at Edgewood Arsenal and other military bases under Sim's direction and that at least another 900 persons got the drug during tests run by outside researchers but funded by the military. At least 30 servicemen a month have been used for drug experiments since 1953 until the tests were halted this August.

In every experiment, Sim told Sen. Kennedy a full report averaging 52 pages was made for the Army with copies forwarded to the surgeon general.

In addition, Sim said, drug researchers at Edgewood conducted monthly, quarterly and semi-annual conferences on their experimentation and invited staff members from the surgeon general's office.

Army Surgeon General Richard R. Taylor and General Counsel Charles D. Ablard have testified twice this week that despite Defense Department regulations calling for a full reporting system on human drug experiments actual reporting by researchers at Edgewood was scanty.

Asked by Kennedy why Tay-

lor and Ablard had made the charge Sim replied, "They haven't had time to look to see how complete the reports are."

An Army spokesman said yesterday that the protocols, reports on drug tests, were in the process of being researched by the Army inspector general. "At this time I have no information on the apparent discrepancy," the spokesman said.

Sim also told the subcommittee that about 19 different hallucinatory and delirium producing drugs have been tried on 300 to 400 volunteers annually at Edgewood and other Army installations. In addition, he said that 100 to 200 prisoners at Holmesburg State Prison near Philadelphia had also received the drugs each year between 1967 and 1973.

While no deaths from the Army's testing program in drugs have been reported, Sim acknowledged that because of a lack of followup on drug experiment subjects he could not be sure drug-related deaths had not occurred.

In 1971, Sim said, researchers at Edgewood conducted followup studies on 40 persons involved in drug tests over the years but found the results "dissatisfying." "We did not have the money or people to follow up with the type of investigation that was necessary," Sim said.

Kennedy called the failure to follow up "intolerable" and said he would try to make enough money and manpower available to conduct a full followup study on all subjects of the military's drug experiments.

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