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## Animation used to investigate Olson's death

YORK, Pa. (AP) - Investigators are using computer animation and physics to determine if a Fort Detrick biochemist performing germ warfare experiments for the Army jumped or was pushed from a window in 1953 after secretly being given LSD by the CIA.

The body of Frank Olson was exhumed June 2 from a Frederick cemetery and given to investigators hired by Mr. Olson's family to determine if his injuries are consistent with the CIA's description of the events 41 years ago in a New York City hotel room.

The death was listed as suicide, but family members have long suspected otherwise.

Mike Selberg, a computer engineer who works with Engineering Animation, a firm in Ames, Iowa, has determined that Mr. Olson went out the 13th story window head first.

With the computer, Mr. Selberg can show Mr. Olson's fall from many angles. He can speed it up, zoom to the inside of the hotel room or focus on the impact.

"The animation enables you to go back to the 1950s and find out what happened," he said.

For example, Mr. Olson hit a barrier before landing on the ground, Mr. Selberg said. He has determined he fell about 175 feet at 67 mph.

Investigation team members will meet at York College to discuss their findings and make conclusions on Nov. 19. The findings will then be announced by the team at the National Press Club in Washington on Nov. 28, the 41st anniversary of Mr. Olson's death.

Although two investigators have said the latest experiment has yielded new information, they would not reveal details.

Professors Jack Levisky of York College and Jim Starrs of George Washington University have been

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# Olson

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studying Mr. Olson's skeleton, reconstructing the fractures and breaks.

Patrick Zickler, spokesman for the team analyzing the body, said they have found inconsistencies in Mr. Olson's injuries and the autopsy report.

"If Olson went through that piece of glass, there is a lot of glass that would have cut him," Mr. Zickler said. "If his body went through it, there would have been jagged shards left around the frame and he would have been cut."

The absence of cuts has bothered the family for years.

"I haven't believed this story from the beginning," said Mr. Olson's son, Frederick. "How could you go through a closed window and not get lacerations?"

The man in the room with Mr. Olson, CIA scientist Robert Lashbrook, said he was awakened by a noise and saw the window shade in the room flapping at the top of the

window.

Mr. Selberg said Mr. Lashbrook, who was smaller than Mr. Olson, was not likely to be able to throw Mr. Olson out the window.

However, Mr. Selberg said a study of the hotel room counters some of Mr. Lashbrook's original testimony: that he woke up and heard a crash as Mr. Olson jumped out the window.

Mr. Olson had suffered a negative reaction to LSD, which was slipped into a drink during a retreat in Western Maryland. He was taken to New York to visit an expert familiar with tests involving the little-known drug.

The family is also trying to determine if Mr. Olson could have been given more LSD or other drugs after his initial dose, about nine days before his death.

All of the investigators have volunteered their services in exchange for the complete investigatory records once the project is complete.

Mr. Selberg is also doing animation work on the O.J. Simpson case, reconstructing the area where the murders took place.