

# Army suspends chemical testing

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army on Monday suspended testing chemical compounds with human volunteers at its Edgewood, Md., Arsenal.

At the same time, the Army said its inspector general has been ordered to check on what it called "some possible adverse information" about Dr. Van M. Sim, who has headed such testing programs for 19 years.

The statement did not give any details on the information about Sim, and Army spokesmen refused to elaborate.

In a statement, the Army said temporary suspension of the pending program for testing chemical compounds on human volunteers at Edgewood Arsenal "will permit the Army to determine all the facts con-

nected with the test programs which were initiated in the 1950s."

It said 36 military volunteers now at Edgewood to participate in planned tests will be sent back to their home stations.

The inspector general was ordered to report back to acting Secretary of the Army Norman R. Augustine, and the Army said its findings and actions, if any, will be announced after that.

The spotlight recently was focused on testing of chemicals on humans at Edgewood by publicity given such tests with the drug LSD conducted with 585 officers and enlisted men between 1956 and 1967.

The Army says it is not experimenting with LSD any longer.

Sim, who defended the testing

program at a Pentagon news conference last week, said he and his organization were awaiting approval from the Army surgeon general before conducting further experiments on a number of other drugs.

No experiments were under way pending this approval, Sim said.

Augustine's action suspends any further tests along these lines for the time being.

At his news conference on July 23 Sim, who is chief of the medical research division at the biomedical laboratory at Edgewood, said the LSD experiments were necessary in the study of a variety of chemicals and drugs which might pose potential problems for the Army and the civilian population. Researchers were interested in methods of detection and treatment, he said.