

U-M med school conducted LSD tests

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BALTIMORE (AP)—The University of Maryland's medical school collaborated with the Army in giving LSD to hundreds of soldiers—some of whom had only the vaguest notion of what they were getting—during experiments in the late 1950s, according to one of the senior researchers.

Dr. Gerald D. Klee, a Baltimore psychiatrist who was one of the senior staffers at the school's Psychiatric Institute, confirmed published reports that the institute was involved in the secret research between 1956 and 1959.

According to unnamed researchers quoted by the Washington Post, LSD and even more powerful mind altering drugs were tested on persons at the institute and at the Army's Chemical Center, which is now Edgewood Arsenal.

One official was quoted as saying LSD was also given to soldiers at Aberdeen Proving Ground to determine its effect on their ability to handle complex military equipment.

The university issued a statement Thursday acknowledging that it conducted research for the Army during

that period, adding that most of the university personnel associated with the project are no longer with the medical school.

According to the statement, some of the results of the research were published in leading medical journals after screening by the Army.

A university spokesman declined further questions, directing them to the Army.

Klee said some of the experimental methods may be questionable by today's standards and university personnel did not follow up on the soldiers to determine the drug's now well-documented long-range effects on the experimental subjects.

Whether the Army followed up on the soldiers' health is unknown.

The researcher said the institute participated in the program in order to study the effect of the drug objectively.

"A large proportion of the people who have gotten involved in research in this area have been harebrained and irresponsible—Timothy Leary being the most notorious example—and a lot of the

stuff that has been published reflects that," he declared.

He said most of the subjects were soldiers brought in from posts around the country for experiments involving various drugs and chemical warfare agents, including the hallucinogens.

What the subjects were told about the experiments is a matter of speculation. Klee said the subjects, mostly enlisted men, were given leave time as a reward for volunteering. "They were mostly unlettered and rather naive," he said.

"There was a split authority situation" between the civilian researchers and the military, according to Klee. "They were told different things by different people."

He said civilian researchers tried to tell individuals they worked with about the effect of the drugs, adding that many of the men didn't seem to care.

"The Army selected the military personnel for testing and explained the project to them. The university screened

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LSD

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the applicants to determine their psychological acceptability for the testing," according to the university statement.

Klee recalled that he told the soldiers that they could control their behavior despite the way they felt. "We had some pretty tough paratroopers there and we didn't want them busting up the place," he said.

He said he once took LSD himself at the beginning of the experiments. "I felt obligated to take it for experimental reasons and also because I didn't think it was fair to administer a drug to someone else that I hadn't taken myself."

He said LSD experiments also went on at the medical school itself and said subjects there were strictly volunteers.