

No medical follow up on drug tests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only a fraction of more than 1,000 volunteers given drug tests by the Defense Department last year have been checked for possible side effects, a top Army medical research officer acknowledged Friday.

"We did not stress the importance of medical people to follow up on the type of investigation we thought was necessary," Dr. John M. Sim, said in sworn testimony before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

"That's an intolerable situation," subcommittee chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., commented.

"I agree with you, Mr. Sim," Kennedy responded.

Sim's civilian...

from his job as head of the Medical Research Division of the Biomedical Laboratory at Edgewood, Ala., where Defense Department drug tests were conducted.

Sim said he knew of no deaths which had resulted from the tests, but of incapacitating side effects. "But when Kennedy asked him how you know there were no deaths involved, if you had no medical follow up," Sim replied.

"That's a good question," Sim testified that he was not on duty from July 1975 to July 1976. "I was not on duty from July 1976 to July 1977."

Sim's civilian...

According to Sim, the Defense Department was "inadequately staffed" to handle the 1,000 volunteers who were given LSD, barbiturates and other drugs. "I don't know how many tests were given," Sim testified. "I don't know how many tests were given."

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