

Students LSD Guinea Pigs

San Diego

About 50 University of Washington students were given LSD in the 1950s as part of a series of research projects that included a secret army program to study the use of the hallucinogenic drug in warfare, a researcher involved in the program said yesterday.

"The army was looking for an agent that would incapacitate but not kill and where the effects would be reversible," said Dr. Audrey Holliday, now Chief of Psychology at the Veterans Hospital in San Diego and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego.

Holliday and Dr. James M. Dille, who directed the project at the University of Washington in Seattle, said the army research program was discontinued after five years and expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars because it was found that the effects of LSD could be easily counteracted.

"Our subjects were primarily sophomores in medical school, who were volunteers," Holliday said. "They knew what they were taking and had signed consent forms. Our requirements were that they be stable personalities, which we selected from a pool of volunteers."

Holliday, who began working in the project in 1957, said only low dosages of LSD were used and "we didn't get any dramatic bad trips or good trips, either."

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