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Army's Stockpile Of Hallucinogen

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The Army manufactured quantities of a powerful hallucinogen known as BZ in 1963 and 1964 and still stockpiles the drug in bombs at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas, according to an Army spokesman.

In response to a query, the spokesman confirmed the stockpiles of the drug and said the army is cleared to use it in situations such as civilian riots, protection of military combat areas and military rescue missions.

A ban on development, production or stockpiling of biological or toxic weapons signed by President Ford last January excluded several riot control agents including BZ. Mr. Ford said at the signing of the ban that use of the excluded agents would require his personal approval.

The army spokesman said that neither BZ nor any other hallucinogen has been used in a combat situation or a civilian riot. "It's in a bomb configuration as part of our defense arsenal," he said. "It would be difficult to use it any other way."

BZ, whose scientific name is 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate, is a drug that requires only extremely small doses to produce hallucinations and a disorientation lasting 80 or more hours in humans, according to researchers.

The Army tested BZ on a substantial number of the 6983 servicemen and civilians who signed up for its drug experiments that also included LSD and other hallucinogens conducted at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. The experiments, which have continued from 1956, were halted last week by the Army for a full evaluation of the program and its civilian director, Dr. Van Sim.