

# Senate Hearing Is Told That Pentagon Conducted

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The secret experiments with LSD and other drugs that the Defense Department conducted were performed with virtually no outside supervision or review, although the Food and Drug Administration had the responsibility for such supervision and review for more than a decade, military and civilian officials testified today.

The disclosure followed by only three days concessions by the Army that its testing had not always adhered to "the sound ethical principles directed in past and present" Department of Defense regulations. It came in the opening of joint hearings by two Senate subcommittees on drug experimentation on humans by the military and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In recent weeks numerous abuses in the drug experiments by the Army and C.I.A. have been reported—most frequently that subjects were given drugs without being told what they were to receive or how the drugs might affect them, and in some cases under coercion.

In the hearings today, several men and women gave the following accounts of tragic and traumatic experiences en-

duced after they or relatives were given LSD and other hallucinogens under Government auspices:

¶A retired Army colonel who had been in charge of top secret biological warfare research said the C.I.A. had slipped LSD into his after-dinner drink, causing the "most frightening experience I have had." The colonel said he had unwittingly taken the drug in the same experiment that led to the death of Frank R. Olson, whose fatal plunge from a 10th story hotel room in New York City was linked to the C.I.A. drug tests only this June. The disclosure of Mr. Olson's death in November, 1971, was the principal catalyst for the ensuing series of investigations by the press and Senate and House subcommittees.

¶A young woman research assistant told of trying to jump out a three-story window after receiving an injection of LSD in an Air Force-sponsored experiment at the University of Minnesota in 1966 and said she has been "overwhelmed and flooded with anxiety" since.

¶A retired Air Force master sergeant's wife said her husband had become depressed after an Army test with LSD and, at one point, threatened to shoot himself, but later had

no memory of the suicidal incident.

¶A retired Army lieutenant colonel said he had experienced flashbacks and periods of amnesia and within less than two years developed epilepsy, after being given LSD by the Army. He said he had not been able to absolutely confirm that his seizures resulted from the LSD, but that medical experts had told him there had been other such cases.

Under the terms of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1962, the F.D.A. is charged with overseeing all experiments with drugs, whether by private or Government researchers.

However, Dr. Alexander M. Schmidt, the Commissioner of the F.D.A., said that in 1964 his office entered into an agreement with the Pentagon whereby the Department of Defense "would take full responsibility for the safety of the subjects" in its secret tests, which comprise a small portion of all military drug experiments but are believed to have involved several thousand persons in the last quarter of a century.

The Army, which is the Defense Department's principal investigator in chemical warfare, suspended its experiments with drugs on humans in July as criticism of its procedures

mounted and institute an investigation by the Inspector General.

Under questioning by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, who directed the hearing as chairman of both subcommittees, Dr. Schmidt said that a central procedure for liaison and review of the military's secret experiments had been established.

But Dr. Schmidt added that in 11 years there had been only four meetings of officials of the two agencies for purposes of studying the classified tests and he said only two of the sessions appeared to involve substantive review.

In one exchange, Senator William D. Hathaway, Democrat of Maine, said it appeared that the F.D.A. was "delegating your responsibility to the peo-

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ple you're supposed to regulate."

The F.D.A. Commissioner replied that "in a sense, that's the case."

Several times, the commissioner said, he personally had "serious questions" about whether the F.D.A. "should be in the business of exercising control over such things as weapons systems and other things of national security."

Senator Kennedy indicated that he could see no reason for confusion on this point, since Congress had given the responsibility for such supervision in the field of drug experiments with humans to the F.D.A.

Summing up, at one juncture, the F.D.A. Commissioner said, "Very clearly, as far as classified [secret] research, we have known essentially noth-

ing. I think it is clear that in no way has the F.D.A. monitored or controlled the performance of classified research by the Department of Defense."

In an internal F.D.A. memorandum that Senator Kennedy submitted, a staff attorney wrote that the General Accounting Office had been looking into the relationship between the F.D.A. and the military and "has concluded that it is not legal."

The primary reason the F.D.A. agreed to the special relationship, the memo said, is there "was a feeling that this agency should not handle classified security matters. This premise would not hold up in close scrutiny."

An Army memorandum, which Senator Kennedy submitted, indicated that the Army had failed to live up to the agree-

ment to police itself. The memo said that the "secretiveness and 'closed shop' atmosphere" at the biomedical laboratories at the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, where most of the Army's drug research was done, had been "mainly responsible for a decade of broken trust with the F.D.A."

One Army officer said it had been the "collective judgment"

of the military that the experiments pertaining to chemical warfare were "unique" and therefore required special consideration in regulation.

"The way I see it," said Senator Kennedy, "is that as a result of the 'collective judgment' the human rights of American citizens were subverted to chemical warfare."