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After 10 Weeks, Army Has Not Tried to Reach LSD Subjects for Check-Ups

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 28 —

Ten weeks ago, the Army promised to conduct follow-up examinations of about 550 soldiers to whom it had given LSD, but a spokesman disclosed today that the service has not yet tried to reach any of the men.

At the same time, the spokesman said in response to an inquiry that the Army had decided not to do follow-up exams on approximately 900 civilians who were given LSD and other psychochemicals in experiments sponsored by the service at universities and research centers.

Representative Thomas J. Downey, a Long Island Democrat who has been one of the most prominent critics of the Army's human experiments with drugs, said that he was "astounded" by the latest disclosures.

The follow-up checks must be given the highest priority, Mr. Downey declared, adding that it is "absolutely essential" to include the civilians who were given the drugs. "If anything needs to be investigated," the Congressman

said, "it's the outside programs where there was no Army supervision and the researchers were able to do whatever the hell they wanted."

The Army acknowledged on July 18 under questioning from newsmen that nearly 1,500 soldiers and civilians had received LSD under its auspices. It said then that it intended to try to locate all of the experimental subjects to determine if they had suffered any ill effects.

Eleven days later, with criticism mounting, the Army announced that it was suspending the testing program, which began at civilian facilities in the early nineteen-fifties, and was starting a major internal investigation.

Since then, subcommittees of both the Senate and the House have begun hearings into the drug experiments, which were conducted not only by the Army, but also by the Air Force, the Navy and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Altogether, more than 4,000 persons were given mind-altering drugs in the experiments by the military and the C.I.A. Some of the test subjects were incapacitated for as long as four days. So far only the Army

has indicated its intention to conduct follow-up testing.

The Army spokesman said today that since July the efforts of the service's Human Use Review Office had been limited to "setting up the administrative system for locating the individuals" who had been given LSD.

In explaining why so little progress had been made, the spokesman said, "You must keep in mind that this has been an additional load on individuals who have other responsibilities and assignments. They have not been able to devote their entire effort to this one project."

"There has also been delay," he said, "caused by the tremendous amount of work in re-

sponding to public and Congressional inquiries. The spokesman said that Army personnel had telephoned and visited offices of the Veterans Administration, the Social Security Administration and the Army's Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, seeking assistance in locating the soldiers involved in the experiments.

He indicated that he felt "substantial progress" had been made in the preliminary stages of the project.

The spokesman said that the Army could make "no estimate at this time of how long the take."

Most of the subjects in the Army's drug experiments were not told before or after the tests what substance they had been given or exactly how it might affect them.

After the flood of newspaper and television reports on the experiment began this summer, the Army spokesman said, 110 former soldiers inquired of the Pentagon whether they had been given LSD, and records showed that 26 of them had been. These 26, he said, were notified that follow-up tests were being planned.

Subject Has Epilepsy

For more than 10 years, Lieutenant Col. William Jordan tried to get the Army to conduct a follow-up study on him and 33 other officers who were administered LSD at Fort Benning, Pa., in January, 1960. A month after receiving the drug, he said, he began having flashbacks in which buildings suddenly seemed to melt and weave, and less than two years later he was stricken with epilepsy.

After the colonel had written more than 200 letters in his campaign, the Army turned him down, saying that an examination of the man would be costly and would be of no value either to the military or to the men themselves.

Then Colonel Jordan, who now lives in Pensacola, went to Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida, and after one letter from the Senator the Army reversed itself.

In the eight months that followed, the Army was able to examine only 19 men. In addition to Colonel Jordan, one other man was found to be suffering from epilepsy, but Col. Archer D. Huot, who is the chief of neurology service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, has reported having found no connection between the LSD and the epilepsy in these cases.

The incidence of two cases of epilepsy among 19 men is at least five times the normal rate of occurrence in the United States, according to figures of the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

Several doctors said, however, that 19 men constituted too small a group from which

to draw any statistically valid conclusions.

Furthermore, Dr. David D. Daly, the chairman of the professional advisory board of the Epilepsy Foundation of America, said in a telephone interview from his office in Dallas that, while he could not comment on the two specific cases, "on the basis on existing evidence, there is no convincing evidence of any association between LSD and epilepsy."

The army had not intended after completing its examination of Colonel Jordan and his fellow officers to test the other soldiers who had been given LSD in its experiments. It decided to do so only after the drug program came under considerable criticism this summer.