

FEIGNED GERM WAR ADMITTED BY ARMY

It Says It Used 'Nondisease Causing'
Agents in 'Attacks' in 8 Areas of
Nation From 1950 to 1966

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 22—The Army acknowledged today that from 1950 to 1966 it used what it described as "nondisease causing biological substances" to conduct simulated germ warfare attacks in eight areas of the nation.

The Army said "there are no records indicating" that the tests "caused death or pneumonia in any of the test locations."

As was disclosed in the Senate Intelligence Committee hearings last year, one of the tests was conducted in Manhattan in 1966 to test the vulnerability of the New York subway system to a biological warfare attack. The Army said today that it conducted another test in San Francisco in 1950.

The six other tests were conducted at military installations at Panama City, Fla., in 1953; Point Mugu and adjoining Fort Hueheme, Calif., in 1954; Fort McClellan, Ala., in 1952; Key West, Fla., in 1952; Mechanicsburg, Pa., in 1951, and in the Pentagon in 1950.

The Army said that the tests had been conducted "for training and field evaluation to determine vulnerability to enemy biological attack and the adequacy of defense measures."

Patient Reported Dead

The Army identified the locations where the tests were conducted after the newspaper Newsday reported yesterday that a hospitalized patient died in San Francisco after the 1950 test with the biological substance in his bloodstream, and that after the 1952 tests at Fort McClellan the number of pneumonia cases more than doubled in the surrounding county.

An Army spokesman said, "There is nothing we have that shows any linkage between these tests and any outbreaks of infection or any deaths."

At all eight sites the Army used a biological substance known as *serratia marcescens*, which an Army statement said "is present throughout the environment and is considered not to cause disease."

The statement said, however, that "for some individuals who lack a capability to develop immunity to most diseases, *serratia marcescens* could conceivably act as an opportunist and produce an infection."

"The number of incidents of *serratia marcescens* infection cannot be determined because it is not a reportable disease, it occurs in isolated circumstances or is invariably associated with some other disease or injury which lowers the resistance of an individual," the statement said.

Another Substance Used

In the tests at Panama City, Point Mugu, San Francisco, Fort McClellan and Mechanicsburg, the Army also used another substance known as *bacillus globigii*. The Army said that the substance was present throughout the environment and "is considered not to cause disease." Nor, it said, is it considered an "opportunist" agent that will produce infections in individuals who lack immunity against most diseases.

In one test in a warehouse at Mechanicsburg, the Army used a fungal substance that it acknowledged could cause disease. The substance was *aspergillus fumigatus*, which is commonly found in compost piles and damp hay and can cause aspergillosis, an uncommon sporadic disease that can take the form of asthmatic attacks or infection in the external ear.

The Army said, however, that the substance was used on naval supplies in a closed warehouse and was not released into the atmosphere outside the warehouse.