

AF Paid For LSD Studies

Drug Given To Children, Mental Cases

By Bill Richards
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Air Force financed at least five research projects where LSD was given to civilians, including one in which disturbed children and adult mental patients got the drug, according to an Air Force spokesman and nonmilitary officials yesterday.

Another one of the five projects began with the testing of LSD on adults and students at Baylor University in Texas but ended up with the Air Force acting as cover for a CIA drug test, Dr. Neil R. Burch, the project administrator, said yesterday.

In response to a query from The Washington Post last week, an Air Force spokesman said yesterday that the Air Force paid for LSD research at the University of Minnesota, New York University, Duke University and the University of Missouri. The spokesman said he was not aware of the Baylor testing.

Earlier this week the Army temporarily halted its 20-year program of drug tests on humans to review the effects of LSD experiments on about 1,500 military and civilian volunteers and of other hallucinogenic tests on nearly 2,500 military volunteers. Last month the Rockefeller commission on the CIA reported the intelligence agency tested LSD on unsuspecting persons in the 1960s. Dr. Frank Olson, a civilian scientist committed suicide after getting LSD from CIA agents in one of the tests in 1953.

According to the Air Force information yesterday it spent a total of \$222,000 on LSD experiments at all the schools except Baylor in tests on 84 persons conducted between 1958 and 1969.

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LSD From A1

An Air Force spokesman said yesterday he did not have any information on whether the Air Force Office of Scientific Research monitored the programs it financed or whether all the persons involved in the programs had signed consent forms before they were given LSD.

A research assistant in one of the programs, at the University of Minnesota, told The Post yesterday that she never saw a consent form for any of the psychiatric patients involved in the LSD tests there.

"Even if they were signed they would seem to have been meaningless in some of the cases," said Mary Ray, who was a research assistant at the program in 1965 and 1966. "They used one 17-year-old mental patient whose mother was also a mental patient and whose father was an alcoholic."

"The girl came in acting more or less normal," said Mrs. Ray, who now lives in Edgewater, Md. "After they gave her LSD she was devastated. I saw her as they were taking her in to administer LSD and she definitely didn't want to be part of that experiment."

The Minnesota LSD program was run by Dr. Amedeo S. Marrazzi. In the early 1950s Marrazzi was in charge of the Army's drug testing program at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. Marrazzi, who is scheduled to begin teaching this fall at the Detroit Psychiatric Institute, could not be reached at his home in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., this week.

In a book, "Recent Advances in Biological Psychiatry," co-authored by Marrazzi in 1967, he described the LSD tests on the young female mental patient. The patient was admitted into the LSD program with a diagnosis of "personality disorder," according to the book. Four days after the drug was given, the book said, the woman's diagnosis was changed to "psychosis of an acute schizophrenic variety."

A spokesman for the University of Minnesota said that the LSD tests at the University involved normal volunteers, disturbed children and mental patients. At least a dozen psychotic and neurotic patients at the university hospitals were given between 100 and 200 microgram doses of LSD—the equivalent to as much as twice the ordinary dose used in street drug culture—according to the spokesman.

The university did not have records available yesterday, the spokesman said, to show whether or not there were consent decrees signed by all those who took part in the tests. He said he believed the Marrazzi tests were cleared by the university's Committee on the Use of Human Volunteers in 1965.

In its statement accompanying the list of LSD experiments it financed, the Air Force said yesterday that the tests "were conducted in controlled clinical areas at reputable institutions and by highly qualified investigators."

The purpose of the tests, the statement said, was "to investigate possible uses of the drugs in treating severe psychiatric disorders and to investigate human behavior patterns inherent in the use of drugs."

In the Baylor LSD tests, which were not included on the list provided to The Post by the Air Force, Dr. Burch said the experiments were conducted to detect the early symptoms of the drug after it was administered. "The Air

Force was concerned an enemy could put it into a water supply," Burch said.

Burch conducted his LSD experiments on about 20 persons at Baylor between 1956 and 1958 and then completed the LSD study at the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences in Houston. The institute is an umbrella organization that includes the Baylor Medical School, where the original experiments were financed.

Burch applied in 1964 for additional money for a program designed to use drugs and computer technology to test the effectiveness of lie detectors when the persons taking a polygraph test uses drugs.

In his initial proposal for the program Burch said he planned to use amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers and LSD in his testing. Burch said yesterday he used the first two types of drugs on human subjects during the tests from 1965 to 1969 but dropped LSD from the program.

Burch said he could not recall why he dropped his initial plan to use the hallucinogen in the studies.

While the lie detector experiments were conducted ostensibly for the Air Force, Burch said he understood that the actual financing for the program was done by the CIA using the Air Force as a cover to hide the source of the money. Burch said he was contacted by the CIA in 1964 and told to apply for money for the tests through the Air Force.

"As I understand it the money went from the CIA through the Air Force to us," said Burch. "The paperwork all showed the money came from the Air Force but it was actually from the CIA."

According to Burch, the CIA said it wanted the drug tests made for "internal security," especially with regard to applicants to the intelligence agency.

In 1966, when retired Marine Col. James Christensen committed suicide after a series of interviews with the CIA, Christensen's family sued the CIA saying Christensen became irrational because of drugs he said he had been given during the application procedure by the CIA.

The CIA denied it had ever given any drugs to applicants and produced affidavits from what it said were all persons in the agency who handled Christensen's application stating that none ever gave him drugs. A Justice Department attorney for the CIA in the case told *The Post* recently he could not get the CIA to swear it never gave applicants drugs.

The information in the Rockefeller report that the CIA was testing drugs on unsuspecting persons "in social situations" and the report by Burch that the CIA was interested in drug tests on applicants has recently renewed interests in the Christensen case.

David Kairys, a lawyer for the Olson family, which is planning to sue the CIA for the agency's part in giving him LSD before his suicide, said yesterday he had agreed to take on the Christensen case also.

Kairys said the first step probably would be a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all CIA documents involving the handling of Christensen's case.

Burch said yesterday that he had no idea what the CIA did with his test data or whether his own drug tests were repeated by the CIA. He declined to reveal the name of the CIA contact to whom he turned over his test data.

Mental Health Institute Says It Quit LSD Tests

Associated Press

The National Institute of Mental Health yesterday said it no longer provides funds for LSD human experiments, although it conducted or funded LSD studies with volunteers for two decades.

In its first official accounting of human research with the powerful hallucinogenic drug, NIMH said it carried out 27 LSD projects involving "about 3,000 volunteers" between 1953 and 1968.

Many of the volunteers were patients at the Lexington Addiction Research Center, the agency said.

NIMH also said it funded 20 outside studies of humans between 1953 and 1974, at a cost of more than \$2 million.

"These studies generally explored LSD as a therapeutic drug with alcoholics and psychiatric patients and its effects on normal volunteers," an internal fact sheet said. "Many of the studies have long since been terminated."

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