

MAY 20 1968

Job Applicant's Widow Sues CIA Over Drugs

CPYRIGHT

The widow and daughter of a retired Marine Corps colonel have sued the Central Intelligence Agency on charges that drugs it used in screening him for a job led to his suicide in January.

Three suits asking a total of \$800,000 damages were filed yesterday in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at Norfolk.

Mrs. Edith W. Christensen, the widow, and Linda Anne Christensen, the daughter, filed the suits against the United States government.

The family resides at 4112 Thorogood Drive, Virginia Beach, Va.

According to the suit, Col. James R. Christensen, who retired from the Marines on June 30, was being interviewed for a position by the CIA on Jan. 18 when he was given certain drugs or toxic substances which led to his death.

It said the CIA was negligent in that it knew or should have known that Christensen would be allergic to the drugs or substance.

Christensen was found dead Jan. 26 outside the home of a retired Army general he did not know, according to William L. Shapero, the Christensens' attorney.

Christensen had been shot in

the head and police ruled it was a suicide.

The suit charged that CIA negligence extended to the point that the agency failed to properly and adequately care for Christensen after the substance was administered. This resulted in painful physical, emotional and mental injury and ills, resulting in Christensen's death, the suit said.

Shapero said the colonel's general medical record indicated a history of allergies. He said the complainants did not know the specific drug used on Christensen.

He said the colonel told his family he was drugged during the interviewing process by the CIA to test his reactions under the influence of drugs.

Christensen, 49, had a long record of military achievement and was a Marine pilot with 4,700 flight hours to his credit. Before his retirement, he last served with the commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet as director of joint operations.

The three suits included one filed by Mrs. Christensen as administratrix of the estate, asking \$500,000; one filed by her as widow, seeking \$250,000, and one filed by the daughter, asking \$50,000. There are two other children, both adults.