

WASHINGTON POST
20 JULY 1975

ARDS, Bill
CIA 4-01 Drugs
ORG 1 NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF Mental Health
(original under
Richards)

Several Hallucinogens Tested by Army

By Bill Richards

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Army experimented with several powerful types of hallucinogenic drugs on servicemen in addition to LSD during tests that may have lasted as late as 1973, according to researchers who handled the drugs at Edgewood Arsenal.

A senior civilian researcher at the Maryland facility, who asked not to be named, confirmed yesterday that other longer-lasting hallucinogens in addition to LSD were tested on U.S. troops at Edgewood and other military bases.

He declined to say when the tests were halted, but a second researcher at the base said they were stopped after government inquiries about drug testing on humans by the Defense Department in 1973.

The Army disclosed Fri-

day that it used nearly 1,500 servicemen and civilians in LSD experiments between 1956 and 1967. It now plans to give all of them physical and mental examinations to determine whether the testing caused any harmful aftereffects.

An Army spokesman said yesterday that the LSD experiments were ended in 1967. But he said he had no information on whether there were experiments with other hallucinogens and did not know how long such tests could have lasted if they did take place.

The Army's announcement of its follow-up examinations of servicemen and civilians involved in LSD tests made no mention of any other types of hallucinogens.

Dr. Gerald Klee, a Baltimore psychiatrist who was involved in the experiment-

al hallucinogen testing program at Edgewood between 1956 and 1959, said he knew of one serviceman who required psychiatric hospitalization for two weeks in 1960 after being exposed to a type of hallucinogen known as an anticholinergic.

Other drug experts said yesterday it would be difficult for an outsider to identify which type of anticholinergics may have been used at Edgewood since researchers have synthesized dozens of varieties of the drug.

Uses of the drug range from a hallucinogenic with potency for a day or more to a nerve gas antidote to a nonhallucinogenic antispasmodic drug used for stomach cramps and available on the open market, the experts said.

The senior Edgewood researcher said reports on experiments involving anticholinergics and other drugs

used on U.S. troops were being prepared by Army officials at Edgewood and would be sent on to the Pentagon.

"It takes time to get all the facts into the Army's hands," he said. "Eventually it will all come out through official channels."

Testing of the anticholinergics on humans at Edgewood was halted, according to a second researcher at the base, after inquiries were made to the Defense Department in 1973 by a federal commission studying biomedical and behavioral research.

The researcher said the type of anticholinergic used at the base caused confusion in the servicemen who were given the drug that lasted for several days in some cases. "The program involved military volunteers," said the researcher. "They brought about 30 or so in every two months for new tests until they stopped in 1973."

Lawrence Horowitz, a former official of the National Commission for Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, said yesterday that while the commission did not have jurisdiction over the Defense Department's tests he understood that several experimental projects were halted after his group made inquiries to the Pentagon.

The senior Edgewood researcher said that he knew of no deaths resulting from any hallucinogen testing experiment at the base. "No one has ever been made severely ill," the researcher said, "and there has been no long-term damage."

The Army said Friday that LSD was tested on military volunteers at bases in Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Utah. Testing was also done on civilian volunteers in Army-sponsored studies at the University of Maryland medical school, New York Institute, Uni-

continued