

February 44

Briefing Book

P. 10

Info Not Confir**LSD EXPERIMENTS**

RCC1.960618.014b

- Conducted by Army Chemical Corps during the period 1955-67
- Army says volunteers were solicited from the Army at large.
- Army says tests were conducted under strict medical supervision.
- Army says written consent was obtained from participants though surviving subjects claim they were not told of the substances they would receive.
- Several efforts were made to do follow up evaluations on the subjects.
 - Δ Two preliminary evaluations done.
 - Δ Pilot Study designed and completed in 1977
 - Δ Full Scale follow up project subsequently developed.
- Full scale project sought to contact all of those for whom addresses could be obtained who had received LSD.
 - Δ Asked them to come to either Walter Reed Hospital, Letterman Hospital in San Francisco, or Eisenhower Medical Center in Augusta, GA. for a complete week long series of studies including medical and neurological examinations, screening laboratory tests, EEGs, psychiatric interviews, ophthalmology and ENT consultations, and a Halstead Reitan Neuropsychological Test Battery.
- Pertinent data compiled in a comprehensive report.
- Unfortunately, a control group with which to compare the LSD exposed subjects could not be obtained.
- Comparison was then done with the general male population in the US.
- Conclusions:
 - Δ Majority of examined subjects did not appear to have sustained significant damage;
 - Δ LSD could not be identified conclusively as the cause when abnormalities were found; due primarily to many confounding variables which could not be controlled such as length of time expiring and onset of symptoms, exposure to other chemical, intervening life experiences, etc.
 - Δ Incidence of psychiatric illness was identical to the general population;
 - Δ LSD exposed subjects as a group were unusually well educated, maritally stable, and economically successful;
 - Δ No consistent evidence of chromosomal damage;
 - Δ Neuropsychological testing showed abnormalities in about one-third of the subjects. Most cases were borderline and 73% had probably etiologic explanations other than LSD exposure.
 - Δ 16% of the subjects reported psychological symptoms occurring within a reasonable proximity to LSD exposure (defined as within 2 years).
- The Department's position has been, however, that these human subjects should be afforded the opportunity to present their complaints for consideration on a case by case basis.