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report on

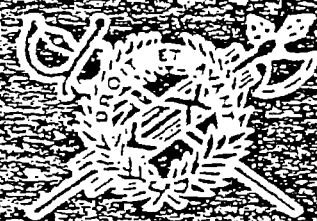
DAIG IN 21-75

Use of Volunteers in

Chemical Agent Research

by

the inspector general



department of the army

volunteer experiments. However, in March 1972, a fire within the prison damaged facilities and equipment located on the prison grounds which belonged to the prison, Ivy Research Laboratories and the Army. Because of the fire and of criticism of Ivy Research by the Prison Board, the contract was terminated in February 1973. No work on volunteers had been done since February 1971.¹⁷

One of the contracts was awarded to American Institute for Research, Silver Spring, MD in 1964. The objective of the contract was to develop a comprehensive test battery to measure the effects of incapacitating agents on the abilities basic to performance of militarily relevant tasks. Review of seven reports available regarding the contract indicated that the American Institute investigators conducted psychoactive chemical compound experiments on military volunteers. It was not clear from the reports if the volunteers came from Edgewood Arsenal or elsewhere or if the experiments were conducted at Edgewood Arsenal. Moreover, the only agent mentioned in the reports was EA 3580, a glycolate. Other studies conducted under the terms of the contract appeared to focus on academic type testing to determine the validity of the screening and selection process used to determine which military volunteers were eligible to receive psychochemical drugs.

In 1955 an Army grant (DA18-108-CML-5596) was provided to Tulane University, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, for research in abnormal brain functioning as related to mental illness. The few Army records available regarding the experiments conducted under the terms of the Army grant revealed that mental patients, normal volunteers and neurological patients were used by the Tulane medical investigators. The actual terms of the grant were not found and therefore no determination was made concerning the grantees' compliance with Department of the Army policies nor could any judgment be made as to the quality of consent rendered by the patients. One particular experiment involved giving LSD and mescaline to mental patients who previously had wire electrodes implanted in their brains. Reports indicated that the research group believed that a basic biochemical abnormality was responsible for the bizarre behavior demonstrated by many psychotic patients; and that the wire electrodes served a twofold purpose: to record electrical abnormalities in patients' brains, and to stimulate patients brains in hope of curing or ameliorating the patients' problem. The reports suggested that the implantation of electrodes was financed under a grant from the Commonwealth Foundation and not the Army grant. Finally, it was not clear what the Chemical Corps interests in the experiments were at the time, although, it was surmised that their interest did not go beyond gathering evidence of the effects of LSD and mescaline in humans. Some credence was lent to that belief by the reports provided the Chemical Corps, which did not discuss the implantation procedures, purpose or effect; rather they stressed the effects of the drugs.¹⁸