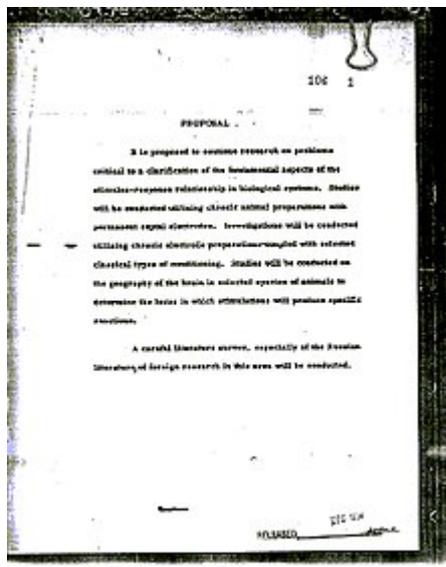


Project MKUltra

Not to be confused with Edgewood Arsenal human experiments.



Declassified MKUltra documents

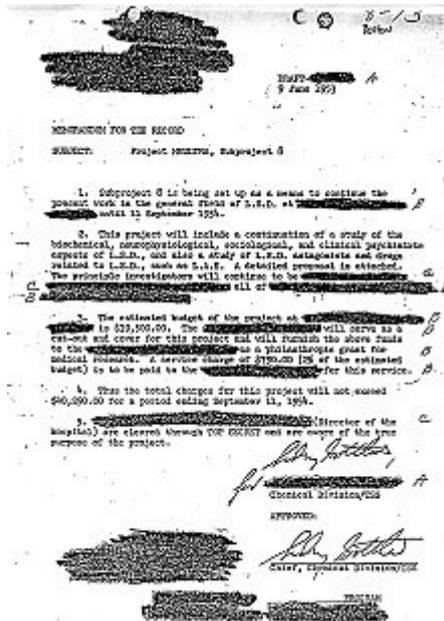
Project **MKUltra**, also called *the CIA mind control program*, is the code name given to a program of experiments on human subjects that were designed and undertaken by the United States Central Intelligence Agency — and which were, at times, illegal. [1] [2] [3] *Experiments on humans* were intended to identify and develop drugs and procedures to be used in interrogations in order to weaken the individual and force confessions through mind control. The project was organized through the Office of Scientific Intelligence of the CIA and coordinated with the U.S. Army Biological Warfare Laboratories.[4]

The operation was officially sanctioned in 1953, was reduced in scope in 1964, further curtailed in 1967, and recorded to be halted in 1973. The program engaged in many illegal activities, [5] [6] [7] including the use of U.S. and Canadian citizens as its unwitting test subjects, which led to controversy regarding its legitimacy. [5] (p74) [8] [9] [10] MKUltra used numerous methods to manipulate people's mental states and alter brain functions, including the surreptitious administration of drugs (especially LSD) and other chemicals, hypnosis, [11] [12] sensory deprivation, isolation, verbal and sexual abuse, and other forms of torture. [13] [14]

The scope of Project MKUltra was *broadened* with research undertaken at 80 institutions, including colleges and universities, hospitals, prisons, and pharmaceutical companies.[15] The CIA operated through these institutions using front organisations, although sometimes top officials at these institutions were aware of the CIA's involvement.[16]

Project MKUltra was *first brought to public attention* in 1975 by the Church Committee of the United States Congress and Gerald Ford's United States President's Commission on CIA activities within the United States. *Investigative efforts were hampered* by the fact that CIA Director Richard Helms ordered all MKUltra files to be destroyed in 1973. The Church Committee and Rockefeller Commission investigations relied on the sworn testimony of direct participants and on *the relatively small number of documents that survived Helms's destruction order*. [17] In 1977, a Freedom of Information Act request uncovered a cache of 20,000 documents relating to project MKUltra which led to Senate hearings later that year. [5] [18] Some *surviving information* regarding MKUltra was declassified in July 2001. In December 2018, declassified documents included a letter to an

unidentified doctor discussing work on six dogs made to run, turn and stop via remote control and brain implants. [19] [20]



Sidney Gottlieb approved of an MKUltra sub-project on LSD in this June 9, 1953, letter.

The project's intentionally obscure CIA cryptonym is made up of the digraph MK, meaning that the project was sponsored by the agency's Technical Services Staff, followed by the word Ultra which had previously been used to designate the most secret classification of World War II intelligence. Other related cryptonyms include Project MKNAOMI and Project MKDELTA.

The project was headed by Sidney Gottlieb but began on the order of CIA director Allen Welsh Dulles on April 13, 1953. [21] Its aim was *to develop mind-controlling drugs* for use against the Soviet bloc in response to alleged Soviet, Chinese, and North Korean use of mind control techniques on U.S. prisoners of war during the Korean War. [22] The CIA wanted to use similar methods on their own captives, and was interested in manipulating foreign leaders with such techniques, [23] devising several schemes to drug Fidel Castro. *It often conducted experiments without the subjects' knowledge or consent, for instance a US Presidential Candidate.* [24] In some cases, academic researchers were funded through grants from CIA front organisations *but were unaware that the CIA was using their work for these purposes.* [25]

The project attempted to produce a 'perfect truth drug' for interrogating suspected Soviet spies during the Cold War, and *to explore other possibilities of mind control.* Subproject 54 was the navy's top-secret 'Perfect Concussion' program, which was supposed to use sub-aural frequency blasts to erase memory. The program was 'never' carried out. [26]

Most MKUltra records were destroyed in 1973 by order of CIA director Richard Helms, so it has been difficult for investigators to gain a complete understanding *of the more than 150 funded research subprojects sponsored by MKUltra and related CIA programs.* [27]

The project began during a period of what Rupert Cornwell 'described' as paranoia at the CIA, when the U.S. had lost its nuclear monopoly and fear of Communism was at its height. [28] CIA counter-intelligence chief James Jesus Angleton believed that *a 'mole' had penetrated the organisation at the highest levels.* [28] The agency *poured millions of dollars*

into studies examining ways to influence and control the mind and to enhance its ability to extract information from resistant subjects during interrogation. [29] [30] 'Some historians' assert that one goal of MKUltra and related CIA projects was to create a "Manchurian Candidate"-style subject. [31] Alfred McCoy has claimed that the CIA attempted to focus media attention on these sorts of ridiculous 'programs' *so that the public would not look at the research's primary goal, which was effective methods of interrogation.* [29]

One 1955 MKUltra document gives an indication of the size and range of the effort. It refers to the study of an assortment of mind-altering substances described as follows: [32]

Substances which will promote illogical thinking and impulsiveness to the point where the recipient would be discredited in public.

Substances which increase the efficiency of mentation and perception.

Materials which will cause the victim to age faster/slower in maturity.

Materials which will promote the intoxicating effect of alcohol.

Materials which will produce the signs and symptoms of recognized diseases in a reversible way so they may be used for malingering, etc.

Materials which will cause temporary/permanent brain damage and loss of memory.

Substances which will enhance the ability of individuals to withstand privation, torture, and coercion during interrogation and 'brain-washing'.

Materials and physical methods which will produce amnesia for events preceding and during their use.

Physical methods of producing shock and confusion over extended periods of time and capable of surreptitious use.

Substances which produce physical disablement such as *paralysis of the legs*, acute anemia, etc.

Substances which will produce a chemical that can cause blisters.

Substances which *alter personality structure* in such a way the tendency of the recipient to become dependent upon another person is enhanced.

A material which will cause mental confusion of such a type the individual under its influence will find it difficult to maintain a fabrication under questioning.

Substances *which will lower the ambition and general working efficiency of men when administered in undetectable amounts.*

Substances which promote weakness or distortion of the eyesight or hearing faculties, preferably without permanent effects.

A knockout pill which can be surreptitiously administered in drinks, food, cigarettes, as an aerosol, etc., which will be safe to use, provide a maximum of amnesia, and be suitable for use by agent types on an ad hoc. basis.

A material which can be surreptitiously administered by the above routes and which in very small amounts will make it *impossible for a person to perform physical activity.*

The 1976 Church Committee report found that, in the MKDELTA program, ‘Drugs were used primarily as an aid to interrogations, but MKULTRA/MKDELTA materials were also used for harassment, discrediting, or disabling purposes.’ [33] [34] [35]

Other related projects

In 1964, MKSEARCH was the name given to *the continuation* of the MKULTRA program. The MKSEARCH program was divided into two projects dubbed MKOFTEN/CHICKWIT. Funding for MKSEARCH commenced in 1965, and ended in 1971. [36] The project was a ‘joint project’ between The U.S. Army Chemical Corps and the CIA’s Office of Research and Development to *find new offensive-use agents*, with a focus on incapacitating agents. Its purpose was to develop, test, and evaluate capabilities in *the covert use* of biological, chemical, and radioactive material systems and techniques of producing predictable human behavioural and/or physiological changes in support of highly sensitive operational requirements. [36]

By **March 1971** over 26,000 *potential agents* had been acquired for future screening. [37] The CIA was interested in bird migration patterns for CBW research; subproject 139 designated ‘**Bird Disease Studies**’ at Penn State. [38]

MKOFTEN was to deal with testing and toxicological transmissivity and behavioural effects of drugs in animals and, ultimately, humans. [36]

MKCHICKWIT was concerned with ‘acquiring’ information on new drug developments in Europe and Asia, and with acquiring samples. [36]

Experiments on Americans

CIA documents suggest that they investigated *chemical, biological, and radiological methods of mind control* as part of MKUltra. [39] They spent an estimated \$10 million or more, roughly \$87.5 million adjusted for inflation. [40]

LSD

Early CIA efforts ‘focused on’ LSD-25, which later came to dominate many of MKUltra’s programs. [41] *The CIA wanted to know if they could make Soviet spies defect against their will* and whether the Soviets could do the same to the CIA’s own operatives. [42]

Once Project MKUltra got underway in April 1953, experiments included administering LSD to mental patients, prisoners, drug addicts, and sex workers — ‘people who could not fight back,’ as one agency officer put it. [43] In one case, they administered LSD to a mental patient in Kentucky for 174 days. [43] They also administered LSD to CIA employees, military personnel, doctors, other government agents, and members of the general public to study their reactions. LSD and other drugs were often administered without the subject’s knowledge or informed consent, a violation of the Nuremberg Code the U.S. had agreed to follow after World War II. The aim of this was to find drugs which would bring out deep confessions or wipe a subject’s mind clean and program him or her as ‘a robot agent.’ [44]

In Operation Midnight Climax, the CIA set up several brothels within agency safehouses in San Francisco, California, to obtain a selection of men who would be too embarrassed to talk about the events. The men were dosed with LSD, the brothels were equipped with one-way mirrors, and the sessions were filmed for later viewing and study. [45] In other experiments where people were given LSD without their knowledge, they were interrogated under bright lights with doctors in the background taking notes. They told subjects they would ‘extend’ their trips if they refused to reveal their secrets. The people under this interrogation were CIA

employees, U.S. military personnel, and agents suspected of working for the other side in the cold war. Long-term debilitation *and several (sic) deaths* resulted from this. [44] Heroin addicts were bribed into taking LSD with offers of more heroin. [16]

At the invitation of Stanford psychology graduate student Vik Lovell, an acquaintance of Richard Alpert and Allen Ginsberg, Ken Kesey volunteered to take part in what turned out to be a CIA-financed study under the aegis of MKUltra, [46] at the Menlo Park Veterans' Hospital [47] [48] where he worked as a night aide. [49] The project 'studied' the effects of psychoactive drugs, particularly LSD, psilocybin, mescaline, cocaine, AMT, and DMT on people. [50]

The Office of Security used LSD in interrogations, but Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, the chemist who directed MKUltra, had other ideas: he thought it could be used in covert operations. Since its effects were temporary, he 'believed' one could give it to high-ranking officials and in this way affect the course of important meetings, speeches, etc. Since he realised there was a difference in testing the drug in a laboratory and using it in clandestine operations, he initiated a series of experiments where LSD was given to people in normal settings without warning. At first, everyone in technical services tried it. A typical experiment involved two people in a room where they observed each other for hours and took notes. As the experimentation progressed, a point arrived where outsiders were drugged with no explanation whatsoever and surprise acid trips became something of an occupational hazard among CIA operatives. Adverse reactions often occurred, such as an operative who received the drug in his morning coffee, became psychotic *and ran across Washington, seeing a monster in every car passing him*. The experiments continued even after Dr. Frank Olson, an army chemist who had not taken LSD before, went into deep depression after a surprise trip and later 'fell' from a thirteenth story window. [51]

Some subjects' participation was consensual, and in these cases they appeared to be singled out for even more extreme experiments. In one case, seven volunteers in Kentucky were given LSD for *seventy-seven consecutive days*. [52]

MKUltra's researchers later dismissed LSD as 'too unpredictable in its results'. [53] They gave up on the notion that LSD was the secret that was going to unlock the universe, but it still had a place in the cloak-and-dagger arsenal. However, by 1962 the CIA and the army *developed a series of superhallucinogens such as the highly touted BZ*, which was thought to hold greater promise as a mind control weapon. This resulted in *the withdrawal of support by many academics and private researchers*, and LSD research became less of a priority altogether. [51]

Other drugs

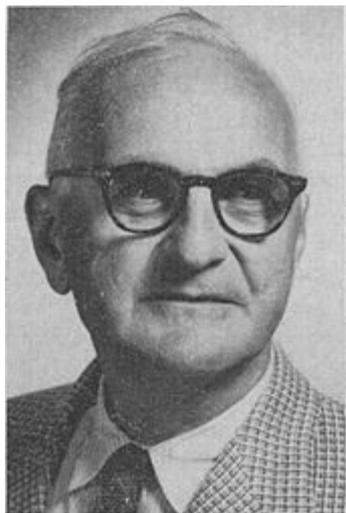
Another technique investigated was the intravenous administration of a barbiturate into one arm and an amphetamine into the other. [54] The barbiturates were released into the person first, and as soon as the person began to fall asleep, the amphetamines were released. The person would begin babbling incoherently, and it was sometimes possible to ask questions and get useful answers.

Other experiments involved heroin, morphine, temazepam (used under code name MKSEARCH), mescaline, psilocybin, scopolamine, cannabis, alcohol, and sodium pentothal. [55]

Hypnosis

Declassified MKUltra documents indicate they studied hypnosis in the early 1950s. Experimental goals included: the creation of 'hypnotically induced anxieties', 'hypnotically increasing ability to learn and recall complex written matter', studying hypnosis and polygraph examinations, 'hypnotically increasing ability to observe and recall complex arrangements of physical objects', and studying 'relationship of personality to susceptibility to hypnosis.' [56] They conducted experiments with drug-induced hypnosis and with anterograde and retrograde amnesia while under the influence of such drugs.

Experiments on Canadians



Alien Donald Ewen Cameron c.1967

They exported experiments to Canada when the CIA recruited British psychiatrist Donald Ewen Cameron, creator of the 'psychic driving' concept, which the CIA found interesting. Cameron had been hoping to correct schizophrenia by erasing existing memories and reprogramming the psyche. He commuted from Albany, New York, to Montreal every week to work at the Allan Memorial Institute of McGill University and was paid \$69,000 from 1957 to 1964 (which would be \$558,915 in 2018, adjusting for inflation) to carry MKUltra experiments there, the Montreal experiments. These research funds were sent to Dr. Cameron by a CIA front organisation, the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, and as shown in internal CIA documents; Cameron did not know the money came from the CIA. [57] In addition to LSD, Cameron also experimented with various paralytic drugs as well as electroconvulsive therapy at thirty to forty times the normal power. His 'driving' experiments consisted of putting subjects into drug-induced comas for weeks at a time (up to three months in one case) while playing tape loops of noise or simple repetitive statements. His experiments were often carried on patients who entered the institute for minor problems such as anxiety disorders and postpartum depression, many of whom suffered permanent effects from his actions. [58] His treatments resulted in victims' incontinence, amnesia, forgetting how to talk, forgetting their parents, and thinking their interrogators were their parents. [59]

His work was inspired and paralleled by the British psychiatrist William Sargant at St Thomas' Hospital, London, and Belmont hospital, Surrey, who was also involved in the intelligence services and who experimented on his patients without their consent, causing similar long-term damage. [60] In the 1980s, several of Cameron's former patients sued the CIA for damages, which the Canadian news program The Fifth Estate documented. [61]

Their experiences and lawsuit was made into a 1998 television miniseries called *The Sleep Room*. [62]

During this era, Cameron became known worldwide as the first chairman of the World Psychiatric Association as well as president of the American and Canadian psychiatric associations. Cameron was also a member of the Nuremberg medical tribunal in 1946 – 47. [63]

Naomi Klein argues in her book *The Shock Doctrine* Cameron's research and his contribution to the MKUltra project was not about mind control and brainwashing, but about designing "a scientifically based system for extracting information from 'resistant sources', in other words, torture." [64] Alfred W. McCoy writes 'Stripped of its bizarre excesses, Dr. Cameron's experiments, building upon Donald O. Hebb's earlier breakthrough, laid the scientific foundation for the CIA's two-stage psychological torture method,' which refers to first creating a state of disorientation in the subject, and then second creating a situation of 'self-inflicted' discomfort in which the disoriented subject can alleviate their pain by capitulating. [65]

Revelation



Frank Church headed the Church Committee, an investigation into the practices of the US intelligence agencies.

In 1973, amid a government-wide panic caused by Watergate, CIA director Richard Helms ordered all MKUltra files destroyed. [66] Pursuant to this order, most CIA documents regarding the project were destroyed, making a full investigation of MKUltra impossible. A cache of some 20,000 documents survived Helms' purge, as they had been incorrectly stored in a financial records building and were discovered following a FOIA request in 1977. These documents were fully investigated during the Senate Hearings of 1977. [5]

In December 1974, *The New York Times* alleged that the CIA had conducted illegal domestic activities, including experiments on U.S. citizens, during the 1960s. [67] That report prompted investigations by the U.S. Congress, in the form of the Church Committee, and by a commission known as the Rockefeller Commission that looked into the illegal domestic activities of the CIA, the FBI, and intelligence-related agencies of the military.

In the summer of 1975, congressional Church Committee reports and the presidential Rockefeller Commission report revealed to the public for the first time that the CIA and the Department of Defense had conducted experiments on both unwitting and cognisant human subjects as part of an extensive program to find out how to influence and control human

behaviour through the use of psychoactive drugs such as LSD and mescaline and other chemical, biological, and psychological means. They also revealed that at least one subject, Frank Olson had died after administration of LSD. Much of what the Church Committee and the Rockefeller Commission learned about MKUltra was contained in a report, prepared by the inspector general's office in 1963, that had survived the destruction of records ordered in 1973. [68] However, it contained little detail. Sidney Gottlieb, who had retired from the CIA two years previously, was interviewed by the committee but claimed to have very little recollection of the activities of MKUltra. [15]

The congressional committee investigating the CIA research, chaired by Senator Frank Church, concluded that 'prior consent was obviously not obtained from any of the subjects'. The committee noted that the 'experiments sponsored by these researchers ... call into question the decision by the agencies not to fix guidelines for experiments.'

Following the recommendations of the Church Committee, President Gerald Ford in 1976 issued the first Executive Order on Intelligence Activities which, among other things, prohibited 'experimentation with drugs on human subjects, except with the informed consent, in writing and witnessed by a disinterested party, of each such human subject' and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the national commission. Subsequent orders by Presidents Carter and Reagan expanded the directive to apply to any human experimentation.



1977 United States Senate report on MKUltra

In 1977, during a hearing held by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, to look further into MKUltra, Admiral Stansfield Turner, then Director of central intelligence, revealed that the CIA had found a set of records, consisting of about 20,000 pages, [citation needed] that had survived the 1973 destruction orders because they had been incorrectly stored at a records centre not usually used for such documents. [68] These files dealt with the financing of MKUltra projects and contained few project details, but much more was learned from them than from the inspector general's 1963 report.

On the Senate floor in 1977, Senator Ted Kennedy said:

The Deputy director of the CIA revealed that over thirty universities and institutions were involved in an 'extensive testing and experimentation' program which included covert drug tests on unwitting citizens 'at all social levels, high and low, native Americans and foreign.'

Several of these tests involved the administration of LSD to ‘unwitting subjects in social situations.’

At least one death, the result of the defenestration of Dr. Frank Olson, was attributed to Olson’s being subjected, unaware, to such experimentation, nine days before his death. The CIA itself subsequently acknowledged that these tests had little scientific rationale. The agents conducting the monitoring were not qualified scientific observers. [69] [70]

In Canada, the issue took much longer to surface, becoming widely known in 1984 on a CBC news show, *The Fifth Estate*. It was learned that not only had the CIA funded Dr. Cameron’s efforts, but also that the Canadian government was fully aware of this, and had later provided another \$500,000 in funding to continue the experiments. This revelation largely derailed efforts by the victims to sue the CIA as their U.S. counterparts had, and the Canadian government eventually settled out of court for \$100,000 to each of the 127 victims. Dr. Cameron died on September 8, 1967, after suffering a heart attack while he and his son were mountain climbing, similar to Robin Cook. None of Cameron’s personal records of his involvement with MKUltra survived, since his family destroyed them after his death. [71] [72]

1994 U.S. General Accounting Office report

The U.S. General Accounting Office issued a report on September 28, 1994, which stated that between 1940 and 1974, DoD and other national security agencies studied thousands of human subjects in tests and experiments involving hazardous substances.

The quote from the study:

Working with the CIA the department of defense gave hallucinogenic drugs to thousands of ‘volunteer’ soldiers in the 1950s and 1960s. In addition to LSD, the army also tested quinuclidinyl benzilate, a hallucinogen code-named BZ. (Note 37) Many of these tests were conducted under the so-called MKULTRA program, established to counter perceived Soviet and Chinese advances in brainwashing techniques. Between 1953 and 1964, the program consisted of 149 projects involving drug testing and other studies on unwitting human subjects

Deaths

Given the CIA’s purposeful destruction of most records, its failure to follow informed consent protocols with thousands of participants, the uncontrolled nature of the experiments, and the lack of follow-up data, the full impact of MKUltra experiments, including deaths, may never be known. [27][32][73][74]

Several known deaths have been associated with Project MKUltra, most notably that of Frank Olson. Olson, a United States Army biochemist and biological weapons researcher, was given LSD without his knowledge or consent in November, 1953, as part of a CIA experiment and committed suicide by jumping out of a window a week later. A CIA doctor assigned to monitor Olson claimed to have been asleep in another bed in a New York City hotel room when Olson exited the window and fell thirteen stories to his death. In 1953, Olson's death was described as a suicide that had occurred during a severe psychotic episode. The CIA’s own internal investigation concluded that the head of MKUltra, CIA chemist Sidney Gottlieb, had conducted the LSD experiment with Olson's prior knowledge, although neither Olson nor the other men taking part in the experiment were informed as to the exact nature of the drug until some 20 minutes after its ingestion. The report further suggested that

Gottlieb was nonetheless due a reprimand, as he had failed to take into account Olson's already-diagnosed suicidal tendencies, which might have been exacerbated by the LSD. [75]

The Olson family disputes the official version of events. They maintain that Frank Olson was murdered because, especially in the aftermath of his LSD experience, he had become a security risk who might divulge state secrets associated with highly classified CIA programs, about many of which he had direct personal knowledge. [76] A few days before his death, Frank Olson quit his position as acting chief of the Special operations division at Detrick, Maryland (later Fort Detrick) because of a severe moral crisis concerning the nature of his biological weapons research. Among Olson's concerns were the development of assassination materials used by the CIA, the CIA's use of biological warfare materials in covert operations, experimentation with biological weapons in populated areas, collaboration with former nazi scientists under Operation Paperclip, LSD mind-control research, and the use of psychoactive drugs during 'terminal' interrogations under a program code-named Project ARTICHOKE.[77] Later forensic evidence conflicted with the official version of events; when Olson's body was exhumed in 1994, cranial injuries indicated that Olson had been knocked unconscious before he exited the window. [75] The medical examiner termed Olson's death a 'homicide'. [78] In 1975, Olson's family received a \$750,000 settlement from the U.S. government and formal apologies from President Gerald Ford and CIA Director William Colby, though their apologies were limited to informed consent issues concerning Olson's ingestion of LSD. [74][79] On 28 November 2012, the Olson family filed suit against the U.S. federal government for the wrongful death of Frank Olson. [80]

A 2010 book by H. P. Albarelli Jr. alleged that the 1951 Pont-Saint-Esprit mass poisoning was part of MKDELTA, that Olson was involved in that event, and that he was eventually murdered by the CIA. [81][82] However, academic sources [by whom?] attribute the incident to ergot poisoning through a local bakery. [83][84][85]

Legal issues involving informed consent

The revelations about the CIA and the army prompted a number of subjects or their survivors to file lawsuits against the federal government for conducting experiments without informed consent. Although the government aggressively, and sometimes successfully, sought to avoid legal liability, several plaintiffs did receive compensation through court order, out-of-court settlement, or acts of Congress. Frank Olson's family received \$750,000 by a special act of Congress, and both President Ford and CIA director William Colby met with Olson's family to apologise publicly.

Previously, the CIA and the army had actively and successfully sought to withhold incriminating information, even as they secretly provided compensation to the families. One subject of army drug experimentation, James Stanley, an army sergeant, brought an important, albeit unsuccessful, suit. The government argued that Stanley was barred from suing under a legal doctrine—known as the Feres doctrine, after a 1950 Supreme court case, *Feres v. United States*—that prohibits members of the armed forces from suing the government for any harms that were inflicted 'incident to service.'

In 1987, the Supreme Court affirmed this defense in a 5–4 decision that dismissed Stanley's case: *United States v. Stanley*. [86] The majority argued that 'a test for liability that depends on the extent to which particular suits would call into question military discipline and decision making would itself require judicial inquiry into, and hence intrusion upon, military matters.' In dissent, Justice William Brennan argued that the need to preserve military discipline should not protect the government from liability and punishment for serious violations of constitutional rights:

The medical trials at Nuremberg in 1947 deeply impressed upon the world that experimentation with unknowing human subjects is morally and legally unacceptable. The United States military tribunal established the Nuremberg Code as a standard against which to judge German scientists who experimented with human subjects ... In defiance of this principle, military intelligence officials began surreptitiously testing chemical and biological materials, including LSD.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing a separate dissent, stated:

No judicially crafted rule should insulate from liability the involuntary and unknowing human experimentation alleged to have occurred in this case. Indeed, as Justice Brennan observes, the United States played an instrumental role in the criminal prosecution of nazi officials who experimented with human subjects during the Second world war, and the standards that the Nuremberg military tribunals developed to judge the behaviour of the defendants stated that the 'voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential ... to satisfy moral, ethical, and legal concepts.' If this principle is violated, the very least that society can do is to see that the victims are compensated, as best they can be, by the perpetrators.

In another lawsuit, Wayne Ritchie, a former United States Marshal, after hearing about the project's existence in 1990, alleged the CIA laced his food or drink with LSD at a 1957 Christmas party which resulted in his attempting to commit a robbery at a bar and his subsequent arrest. While the government admitted it was, at that time, drugging people without their consent, U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel found Ritchie could not prove he was one of the victims of MKUltra or that LSD caused his robbery attempt and dismissed the case in 2007. [87]

Notable people

Experimenters

Harold Alexander Abramson

Donald Ewen Cameron

Sidney Gottlieb

Harris Isbell [18]

Louis Jolyon West

Martin Theodore Orne

Documented subjects

Ken Kesey, author of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, volunteered for MKUltra experiments involving LSD and other psychedelic drugs at the Veterans administration hospital in Menlo Park while he was a student at nearby Stanford University. Kesey's experiences while under the influence of LSD inspired him to promote the drug outside the context of the MKUltra experiments, which influenced the early development of hippie culture. [88][50]

Robert Hunter is an American lyricist, singer-songwriter, translator, and poet, best known for his association with Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead. Along with Ken Kesey, Hunter was an early volunteer MKUltra test subject at Stanford University. Stanford test subjects were

paid to take LSD, psilocybin, and mescaline, then report on their experiences. These experiences were creatively formative for Hunter:

Sit back picture yourself swooping up a shell of purple with foam crests of crystal drops soft nigh they fall unto the sea of morning creep-very-softly mist ... and then sort of cascade tinkley-bell-like (must I take you by the hand, ever so slowly type) and then conglomerate suddenly into a peal of silver vibrant uncomprehendingly, blood singingly, joyously resounding bells ... By my faith if this be insanity, then for the love of God permit me to remain insane. [89]

Boston mobster James "Whitey" Bulger alleged he had been subjected to weekly injections of LSD and subsequent testing while in prison in Atlanta in 1957. [90][91]

'Alleged' subjects

Ted Kaczynski, a domestic terrorist known as the Unabomber, was a subject of a voluntary psychological study alleged by some sources to have been a part of MKUltra. [92][93][94] As a sophomore at Harvard, Kaczynski participated in a study described by author Alton Chase as a 'purposely brutalising psychological experiment', led by Harvard psychologist Henry Murray. [95][irrelevant citation] [96][irrelevant citation] In total, Kaczynski spent 200 hours as part of the study. [97]

Lawrence Teeter was the attorney for Sirhan Sirhan who assassinated Robert F. Kennedy, and he believed that Sirhan was 'operating under MK-ULTRA mind control techniques'. [98]

American fashion model and radio host Candy Jones claimed to have been a victim of mind control in the 1960s. [99]

Aftermath

At his retirement in 1972, Gottlieb dismissed his entire effort for the CIA's MKUltra program as useless. [28][100] The CIA insists that MKUltra-type experiments have been abandoned, although Canadian investigative journalist Elizabeth Nickson (whose mother had been a subject) claims that they continue today under a different set of acronyms. [66] Victor Marchetti, who had held several positions at the CIA before resigning in 1969, stated in 1992 that the CIA routinely conducted disinformation campaigns and that CIA mind control research continued. He called the claim that the program had been abandoned a cover story. [101][102]

MKUltra plays a part in many conspiracy theories due to its nature and the destruction of most records. [103]

Films

2008 film Pineapple Express depicts Project MKUltra in the intro scene, although it is portrayed as taking place in 1937.

2015 film Mr. Right depicts Hopper (portrayed by Tim Roth) mentioning the MKUltra program (at 27 minutes 15 seconds) as part of the foundation to the main character's motives and backstory.

2009 film The Killing Room invokes Project MKUltra as the foundation to the base plot.

2013 film The Banshee Chapter is largely based around MKUltra.

1990 film Jacob's Ladder alludes to Project MKUltra throughout the movie.

1997 film Conspiracy Theory Project MKUltra is referred to by Dr. Jonas (Patrick Stewart) who says he headed the project. Also, the protagonist, Jerry (Mel Gibson) is reported by Dr. Jonas to be a test subject of Project MKUltra.

2015 film American Ultra stars Jesse Eisenberg as a stoner slacker who discovers he is the sole survivor of the 'Ultra' program, which turned him into the ultimate assassin.

The Jason Bourne books and films starring Matt Damon, written by Robert Ludlum, are all based on MKUltra techniques.

2009 film The Men Who Stare At Goats is based on the MKUltra experiments. It is based on a 2004 book by Jon Ronson and its accompanying TV series.

2006 film Shadow Man starring Steven Seagal has a plot that revolves around a (fictional) cancer-causing biological weapon called 'MK Ultra'.

Marvin Boggs (played by John Malkovich) in the films RED (2010) and RED 2 (2013) had unknowingly been provided daily doses of LSD over a period of 11 years, making him highly paranoid, echoing the actions of MKUltra.

Chop Chop Chang: Operation C.H.I.M.P depicts a fictional mind control program inspired by MKUltra.

Mind Control: MK Ultra is a documentary directed by Bryan Law.

television

The 1998 CBC miniseries The Sleep Room dramatizes brainwashing experiments funded by MKUltra that were performed on Canadian mental patients in the 1950s and 60's, and their subsequent efforts to sue the CIA. [62]

BYU tv's drama Granite Flats is a fictional dramatisation of the implementation of MKUltra by a military hospital in Colorado.

In season 2, episode 19 of Bones, "Spaceman in a Crater", Jack Hodgins mentions that Frank Olson was an unwitting participant and committed suicide, but that an exhumation 45 years later proved he was murdered. [104]

In an episode of ABC's Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., 'The Things We Bury', one of the characters makes a reference to MKUltra.

In season 2, episode 5 of Fringe, 'Dream Logic', Walter Bishop briefly mentions his involvement with MKUltra.

In season 6, episode 7 of Archer, 'Nellis', Archer briefly mentions MKUltra while bluffing his way into Area 51. In season 7, episode 8, 'Liquid Lunch', the program is explained to Archer's colleagues.

In episode 'Via Negativa' from the eighth season of The X-Files, The Lone Gunmen mention MKUltra while discussing a case with Agent Doggett.

In The X-Files third-season episode 'Jose Chung's From Outer Space', Jose Chung mentions the experiments as an example of the powerful effect 'mere words' can have over the human mind.

In Alphas, events imply that the Alphas program had its starts in the MKUltra program, and Dr. Rosen has access to certain files from the MKUltra project.

In season 3, episode 10 of NUMB3RS, Don Eppes investigates the assassinations of a senator and a psychiatrist with links to MKUltra.

In the fourth episode of Season 2 of The Blacklist, Cooper mentions Project MKUltra while talking to Elizabeth Keen. The entire episode is based on the premise of using genetic predisposition to make someone commit an act that they most likely would not have done in the first place.

In season 1 of Stranger Things, the antagonist Dr. Martin Brenner is discovered to have been involved in MKUltra. One of the young protagonists, Eleven, was raised in a government laboratory after being born to an MKUltra test subject.

In Season 5, Episode 10 of The West Wing, the White House press secretary is questioned by a reporter about mind control, leading her to investigate MKUltra and the budgetary allocations of DARPA for the project.

Netflix original series Manhunt: Unabomber portrays the psychological torture of 16-year-old Harvard student Theodore Kaczynski by MKUltra researchers. Kaczynski was the perpetrator of serial bombings over a 17-year period and became known as the Unabomber.

The 2017 Netflix documentary re-enactment mini-series Wormwood tells the story of Frank Olson and MKUltra through the eyes of his son, Eric.

Audio

The song 'MK Ultra' by British band Muse makes direct reference to this project in the title and uses lyrics to convey the effects of the project directly on a subject.

Lyrics of 'Look ... The Sun is Rising', the opening track to The Flaming Lips' 2013 album The Terror, narrate 'a little spaceship' as a mechanism for MKUltra mind control.

The song 'The 4th Branch' by rapper Immortal Technique from his album Revolutionary Volume 2, compares modern media to MKUltra, 'controlling your brain'.

The songs 'US Government' and 'MK Ultra' by Black Rebel Motorcycle Club make direct reference to the project, as well as more oblique references in the lyrics.

The Providence, Rhode Island-based hardcore punk band Violent Sons named a song 'MK Ultra' on their 2013 full-length, Nothing as It Seems.

The song, 'MK Ultra' by progressive metal band Periphery makes direct reference to the project in the title and speaks of the supposed abuse children received from the CIA during the experiments.

Olympia-based band Unwound recorded a song named 'Mkultra' on both the A Single History: 1991–1997 and Rat Conspiracy compilations.

In 2019 Legendary British guitar amplifier manufacturer Orange Music Electronic Company designed a custom 'one off' amplifier for blues guitarist Marcus King named the 'MK Ultra'. "Instagram". Instagram @realmarcusking. July 23, 2019. Retrieved July 23, 2019.

The song 'They. Resurrect. Over. New.' by rapper Lupe Fiasco from his 2015 album Tetsuo & Youth mentions MKUltra.

The album Chemistry of Consciousness by heavy metal band Toxic Holocaust contains several references to the experiments, including a song titled 'Mkultra'.

On metal band Arsonists Get All the Girls' 2013 album, Listen to the Colour, a song references the program through title and lyrics called 'MK-ULTRA: Psychotropic Puppets'. Another song of the album is titled 'MK-DELTA: Glorified killers'.

Others

The Stephen King book Firestarter is based on a fictionalized version of the MK Ultra experiments, and the protagonists all acquire powers as a result of the experimentation.

Alan Glynn, the Irish novelist, uses Project MKUltra as part of the background for his plot in Limitless (also a film) and Paradime (2016).

The horror game Outlast makes several major references to MK Ultra and implies that the experiments on the asylum inmates in the game are either a part of or associated with the program.

Project MKUltra is mentioned in Call Of Duty: Black Ops as the Soviet Union's attempt to turn protagonist Alex Mason into a Soviet sleeper agent with orders to assassinate President Kennedy. Mason's handler, CIA agent Jason Hudson, even mentions it when telling Mason he had been brainwashed by the Soviets.

The manga Lost+Brain mentions MKUltra when speaking about using hypnosis to control the country.

Science Fiction/Fantasy novel Omens by Kelley Armstrong uses MKUltra as a driving portion of its plot.

The game Manhunt 2 is based around 'The Pickman Project' which has several similarities to MKUltra and it is likely it was directly inspired by it.

A cannabis strain called MKUltra has been developed by T.H.Seeds of Amsterdam.[105]

Project MKUltra is mentioned in the 2016 video game Mafia III. It is mentioned by one of the characters, an ex-CIA agent John Donovan.

In the Broadway musical We Will Rock You, MKUltra is referred to, as the Bohemians are brainwashed and experimented on to become vegetables.

The online, anonymously-written science fiction and horror story 9MOTHER9HORSE9 EYES9 borrows from and refers to the MKUltra project directly. [106]

The fictitious video game known as Polybius had spread around as an urban myth in 1981. Many of the key points of Polybius allude to government control testing and other 'men in black' type figures, suggesting Polybius took inspiration from project MKUltra at the time of its creation. [107]

Project MKUltra is mentioned multiple times in the Japanese anime Banana Fish and heavily revolves around modified psychedelic drugs in the plot of the anime.

The card game Android: Netrunner has a set of card named after famous CIA conspiracies, one of which is MKUltra.

See also

CIA activities in the United States

Operation Midnight Climax

Project ARTICHOKE

Human experimentation in North Korea

Human radiation experiments

Human rights violations by the CIA

Nazi human experimentation

Poison laboratory of the Soviet secret services

Unethical human experimentation in the United States

Unit 731

Category: Central Intelligence Agency operations

Project MKCHICKWIT

Project MKOFTEN

Harold Blauer

"One of the Most Shocking CIA Programs of All Time: Project MKUltra". 2013-09-23. Retrieved 2016-08-18.

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"Advisory on Human Radiation Experiments, July 5, 1994, National Security Archives, retrieved January 16, 2014". Archived from the original on July 13, 2013.

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Mind Control and MKULTRA by Richard G. Gall

The Most Dangerous Game Downloadable 8 minute documentary by independent filmmakers GNN

Results of the 1973 Church Committee Hearings, on CIA misdeeds, and the 1984 Iran/Contra Hearings

XXVII. Testing and Use of Chemical and Biological Agents by the Intelligence Community

List of MKULTRA Unclassified Documents including subprojects

MK Ultra Project

Hide

v

t

e

United States chemical weapons program

Units, formations, centres and institutes

2nd Chemical Battalion

U.S. Army Chemical Corps

U.S. Army Chemical Center

U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense

Industrial facilities

Operations and projects

Agents

(USAMRICD)
U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity
U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command
Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
Chemical mortar battalion
Anniston Army Depot
Anniston Chemical Activity
Blue Grass Army Depot
Deseret Chemical Depot
Edgewood Chemical Activity
Hawthorne Army Depot
Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System
Newport Chemical Depot
Pine Bluff Chemical Activity
Pueblo Chemical Depot
Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
Umatilla Chemical Depot

Edgewood Arsenal human experiments
Operation Top Hat
Research Project 112
Project SHAD
Operation LAC
Operational Operation Ranch Hand
Operation CHASE
Operation Davy Jones' Locker
Disposal Operation Geranium
Operation Steel Box
Operation Red Hat

3-Quinuclidinyl benzilate (BZ)
Chlorine

	Methylphosphonyl difluoride (DF)
	Phosgene
	QL
	Sarin (GB)
	Sulfur mustard (HD)
	VX
	Bigeye bomb
	M1 chemical mine
	M104 155mm Cartridge
	M110 155mm Cartridge
	M121 155mm Cartridge
	M125 bomblet
	M134 bomblet
	M138 bomblet
	M139 bomblet
	M2 mortar
	M23 chemical mine
Munitions	M34 cluster bomb
	M360 105mm Cartridge
	M426 8-inch shell
	M43 BZ cluster bomb
	M44 generator cluster
	M55 rocket
	M60 105mm Cartridge
	M687 155mm Cartridge
	XM736 8-inch projectile
	MC-1 bomb
	M47 bomb
	Weteye bomb
Protective equipment	CAIS
	M93 Fox

Related topics

MOPP

People sniffer

CB military symbol

Dugway sheep incident

Unethical human experimentation in the United States

MKULTRA

 United States portal

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Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Project_MKUltra&oldid=907814821

Categories:

1953 establishments in the United States

Central Intelligence Agency operations

Code names

Cover-ups

Devices to alter consciousness

History of the United States government

Human subject research in the United States

Investigations and hearings of the United States Congress

Lysergic acid diethylamide

American medical research

20th-century military history of the United States

Military psychiatry

Mind control

Psychedelic drug research

American secret government programs

Human rights abuses in the United States

Medical experimentation on prisoners

Project MKUltra

Academic scandals

Torture in the United States

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