Hitler’s Mind Control Experiments and How They Influenced Modern Propaganda

Fig. 1: Nazi rocket scientist Wernher von Braun (center, dressed in civilian clothes) with other Nazi scientists recruited by the C.I.A. ca. 1945 in Operation Paperclip.

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http://subversify.com/2011/05/13/hitler%E2%80%99s-mind-control-experiments-and-how-they-influenced-modern-propaganda/
The CIA’s Secret Agreement with Third Reich Scientists

A new age has dawned on all of us; an age of remarkable technology. We have the ability to scan the heavens and put humans in space. We can divide cells at the sub-atomic level and unravel DNA. We know intimately many of the ways the brain functions; how to shape it, recondition it, influence it, reinforce response mechanisms for a desirable outcome. This knowledge is immediately recognized and utilized in advertising. Study of human response, which includes how wide the eyes open in the reception of colors and design, facial expressions when introduced to new concepts in packaging, words that denote positive or negative reactions, is utilized to introduce new products or to stimulate interest in old ones. It is used by medical and psychiatric hospitals to put patients at ease and by hotels and restaurants to give a pleasurable atmosphere to their customers. This knowledge is also used by the media for publicizing public figures. They choose the camera angles, edit the script, package the figure they wish to promote or invalidate. This knowledge owes much of its groundwork to a team of scientists brought to the United States from Hitler’s Nazi Germany, and protected, while they conducted mental experiments on the US enlisted military force.

According to the “Want to Know” information site, “After the end of World War II, German scientists were being held in a variety of detainment camps by the allies. In 1946, President Truman authorized Project Paperclip to exploit German scientists for American research, and to deny these intellectual resources to the Soviet Union. Some reports bluntly pointed out that they were “ardent Nazis.” They were considered so vital to the “Cold War” effort, that they would be brought into the US and Canada. Some of these experts had participated in murderous medical experiments on human subjects at concentration camps. A 1999 report to the Senate and the House said “between 1945 and 1955; 765 scientists, engineers, and technicians were brought to the US under Paperclip and similar programs.” (Bluebird Report)

The Central Intelligence Agency’s Fact Book states the NSC (National Security Council) and the CIA were established under the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947. In December 1947, the NSC held its first meeting. James Forrestal, the Secretary of Defense, pushed for the CIA to begin a ‘secret war’ against the Soviets. Forrestal’s initiative led to the execution of psychological warfare operations (psy-ops) in Europe. CIA personnel were not opposed to working with Nazi doctors who had proven to be proficient in breaking the mind and rebuilding it. In some cases military bases were used to hide these covert activities. It was decided that the communist threat was an issue that took priority over constitutional rights.

One of the areas to be investigated by the CIA was mind control. The CIA’s human behavior control program was chiefly motivated by perceived Soviet, Chinese, and North Korean use of mind control techniques. Under the protection of ‘national security,’ many other branches of the government also took part in the study of this area. The CIA originated its first program in 1950 under the name BLUEBIRD, which in 1951, after Canada and Britain had been included, was changed to ARTICHOKE. MKULTRA
officially began in 1953. Technically it was closed in 1964, but some of its programs remained active under MKSEARCH well into the 1970s. In 1973, tipped off about forthcoming investigations, CIA Director Richard Helms ordered the destruction of any MKULTRA records. (MC 10, 17)

Project BLUEBIRD was approved by the director of the CIA on April 20, 1950. In a 1951 memo, [11] Bluebird states that practical research was to be conducted to include these specific problems:

- Can we create by post-H [hypnotic] control an action contrary to an individual’s basic moral princi
- Can we in a matter of an hour, two hours, one day, etc., induce an H condition in an unwilling subject to such an extent that he will perform an act for our benefit?
- Could we seize a subject and in the space of an hour or two by post-H control have him crash an airplane, wreck a train, etc.?
- Can we by H and SI [sleep inducing] techniques force a subject to travel long distances, commit specified acts and return to us or bring documents or materials?
- Can we guarantee total amnesia under any and all conditions?
- Can we “alter” a person’s personality?
- Can we devise a system for making unwilling subjects into willing agents and then transfer that control to untrained agency agents in the field by use of codes or identifying signs?
- How can sodium A or P or any other sleep inducing agent be best concealed in a normal item, such as candy, cigarettes, coffee, tea, beer, medicines? [12] NB 13, 14, BB 23

The Psychedelic Experiment

According to Richard Willing, of USA Today, in a 4/6/2010 article, “Army doctors gave soldier volunteers synthetic marijuana, LSD and two dozen other psychoactive drugs during experiments aimed at developing chemical weapons that could incapacitate enemy soldiers, a psychiatrist who performed the research says in a new memoir.

The program, which ran at the Army’s Edgewood, Md., arsenal from 1955 until about 1972, concluded that counterculture staples such as acid and pot were either too unpredictable or too mellow to be useful as weapons, psychiatrist James Ketchum said in an interview.

The program did yield one hallucinogenic weapon: softball-size artillery rounds that were filled with powdered quinulclidinyl benzilate or BZ, a deliriant of the belladonnoid family that had placed some research subjects in a sleeplike state and left them impaired for days.
Ketchum says the BZ bombs were stockpiled at an Army arsenal in Arkansas but never deployed. They were later destroyed.

Ketchum defends the experimentation with psychoactive drugs on military personnel by stating that the follow-up studies by the Army in 1978 and the National Academy of Sciences in 1981 found that volunteers suffered no long-term effects. Ketchum felt the experiments, conducted on approximately two thousand soldier volunteers, were justified. The debate, he argues, is about the potential uses of non-lethal chemicals to incapacitate terrorists who take hostages or use human shields. “Incapacitating agents are designed to save lives,” he said. “Isn’t it at least something we should be thinking about?”

Ketchum’s book, Chemical Warfare: Secrets Almost Forgotten, draws upon recently classified material including filmed experiments, and notes of tests given subjects before, during and after they were fed, sprayed or injected with mind-altering chemicals.

He says:

LSD was rejected for weapons use because even soldiers on prolonged trips could carry out violent acts.

Even especially powerful marijuana lacked “knockdown effect.” It was rejected because its effects could be overcome simply by lying down and resting.

Soldier volunteers were willing participants who knew the program’s potential risks. Drugs given to soldiers were described in general terms but not named though “many seemed to find out through the grapevine.”

Intelligence reports of the time showed that Soviet researchers were planning a large-scale LSD program.

The CIA ran a parallel program that sometimes gave hallucinogens secretly to unwitting citizens. The agency persuaded two Army doctors to carry out experiments for the CIA that the Army would not have authorized.

Ketchum says the Army phased out the hallucinogen project in about 1972, in part because disclosure of such research would have caused a “public relations problem.”

November 17th, 2010, A federal magistrate judge in San Francisco ordered the CIA to produce specific records and testimony about the human experiments the government allegedly conducted on thousands of soldiers from 1950 through 1975.
Three veterans groups and six individual veterans sued the CIA and other government agencies, claiming they used about 7,800 soldiers as human guinea pigs to research biological, chemical and psychological weapons.

The experiments, many of which took place at Edgewood Arsenal and Fort Detrick in Maryland, allegedly exposed test subjects to chemicals, drugs and electronic implants. Though the soldiers volunteered, they never gave informed consent, because the government didn’t fully disclose the risks, the veterans claimed. They were also required to sign an oath of secrecy, according to the complaint.

The CIA argued that much of the information requested was protected under the Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

U.S. Magistrate Judge James Larson acknowledged that some of the requests were too broad and ordered the veterans to be more specific and to reduce the total number of requests.

For example, Larson said the plaintiffs’ definition of “test program” is “overbroad,” as it not only named experimental programs like “Bluebird,” “Artichoke” and “MKUltra,” but also included “any other program of experimentation involving human testing of any substance, including but not limited to ‘MATERIAL TESTING PROGRAM EA 1729.’”

In addressing specific documentation for deposition, the judge ruled the government must produce witnesses to testify about the following: communication between the VA and test subjects on their health care claims; a 1963 CIA Inspector General report on an experiment called MKUltra, and the basis for each redaction on that report; the scope and conduct of document searches; the doses and effects of substances administered to test subjects; any contract or research proposals concerning the experiments; a confidential Army memo about the use of volunteers in research; all government-led human experiments from 1975 to date, but only those that involve specific drugs; and whether the government secretly administered MKUltra materials to “the patrons of prostitutes” in safe houses in New York and San Francisco, as the veterans claimed.

In favor of the CIA, however, Judge Larson ruled the agency was not required to testify about test subjects who withdrew their consent or refused to participate; devices allegedly implanted into certain test subjects; the alleged use of patients at VA hospitals as guinea pigs in chemical and biological weapons experiments; or the drug research studies conducted by Dr. Paul Hoch, who was purportedly funded by the government and caused the death of a patient named Harold Blauer.
The Super Soldier

Experimentation with mind altering drugs have both aided the psychiatric profession, and has left behind its victims. A March 06, 2006 report in *Natural News* states that, “Today, the medical experiments continue on the U.S. population and its children. From the mass drugging of children diagnosed with fictitious behavioral disorders invented by psychiatry to the FDA’s approval of mass-marketed drugs that have undergone no legitimate clinical trials, our population is right now being subjected to medical experiments on a staggering scale. Today, nearly 50% of Americans are on at least one prescription drug, and nearly 20% of schoolchildren are on mind-altering amphetamines like Ritalin or antidepressants like Prozac. This mass medication of our nation is, in every way, a grand medical experiment taking place right now.”

The investigation into the military use of enlisted personnel in chemical/biological experiments is ongoing, and experimentation has not stopped. Working under a grant from DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Project Agency) a researcher at Arizona State is developing transcranial pulsed ultrasound technology that could be implanted in troops’ battle helmets, allowing soldiers to manipulate brain functions to boost alertness, relieve stress, or even reduce the effects of traumatic brain injury.

Efforts to manipulate the brain to enhance war fighting capabilities and maintain mental acuity has remained a major goal of various military research programs for a long time, but the technology has remained limited. Deep brain stimulation (DBS), for instance, requires surgically implanted electrodes to stimulate neural tissues, while less-invasive methods like transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) possess limited reach and low spatial resolution.
However, Dr. William J. Tyler, associate professor with the life sciences of ASU, remains optimistic. He claims the pulses of Ultrasound would remotely and directly stimulate brain circuits without expensive surgery. “We have shown,” said Tyler, “this ultrasonic neuromodulation approach confers a spatial resolution approximately five times greater than TMS and can exert its effects upon subcortical brain circuits deep within the brain.”

According to Tyler, this technology, packaged in a warfighter’s helmet, would allow soldiers to flip a switch to stimulate different regions of their brains, helping them relieve battle stress when it’s time to get some rest, or to boost alertness during long periods without sleep. Grunts could even relieve pain from injuries or wounds without resorting to pharmaceutical drugs. More importantly, in the periods after brain trauma ultrasound technology could reduce swelling and metabolic damage that is often the root cause of lasting brain damage.

Ultrasound has been successfully used as a diagnostic tool for examining the soft tissues of the human body and for monitoring fetal growth, with no known harmful effects. Conceivably, it could be used as a tool for a variety of mental conditions, although as the basis for creating a Super Soldier, it is a weapon. Veterans returning from Vietnam reported that heroin was often used by soldiers on both sides before going into a battle. The heroin helped relieve feelings of stress, reduced pain, and made them tireless. Said one veteran: “A man could be shot five or six times before he would finally drop to the ground.” He would be dead, but the heroin kept him pumping several long seconds after his brain had shut down.” Pain and fatigue are the body’s way of communicating that the threshold for endurance had been reached, and that further exertions could jeopardize survival, or the physical ability to recover fully. While Tyler’s research sounds appealing in its practical applications, there is always the question as to whether the Super Soldier would be turned into a Super Martyr.

**Civilians at Risk**

What has been learned about the inner workings of the brain is indeed marvelous. When STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) researchers discovered that higher mathematics improved all brain functions, the institute began working closely with the educational field to improve higher learning in students. Stroke victims can learn to use new areas of the brain, circumventing damaged areas so they can live normal lives once more. Downs Syndrome and Autistic Children are much higher functioning than they were fifty years ago.

However, neither the US Government, nor private researchers have shown a great deal of responsibility in handling this knowledge. The concentration has been on the uses of mind altering drugs, addictive chemicals and subliminal messages for mind control. What has been learned through the victimization of countless individuals is not used by the government or the media to maintain healthier mental attitudes, social well-being and higher functioning brains. It is used to coerce, addict and misinform the public.
Joseph Goebbels; Hitler’s propaganda machine; understood well how to control the public through misinformation and a biased press. The techniques used have been liberally and secretly practiced by a government that doesn’t want its citizens to know all the facts. As Julian Assange receives a rare peace prize from Australia for conscientious journalism, the US Government wants to put him behind bars for publicizing classified information.

The Smith-Mundt Act of 1948 prohibits the U.S. government from funding activities to influence and propagandize domestic public opinion, yet the ongoing investigation into a group called “The Cuban Five” whose mission was to keep watch on Miami’s ultra-right extremists to prevent terrorist attacks on Cubans, reveals that the U.S. government has funneled nearly half a billion dollars into the Office of Cuba Broadcasting in Miami.

More than 2,200 pages of contracts between Miami journalists and Radio and TV Martí have been released thus far to Liberation newspaper through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) petition. The Broadcasting Board of Governors—an official U.S. government agency—and its Office of Cuba Broadcasting have operated Radio Martí since 1985 and TV Martí since 1990. With an annual budget nearing $35 million, the OCB and BBG put on their payroll domestic journalists to broadcast the same message inside and outside the United States on Cuba-related issues, effectively violating the law against domestic dissemination of U.S. propaganda.

Nobody wants to feel their minds are being controlled, but it happens all around us, all the time. The world we see is highly illusionary and filled with intent to sell us on products, services, public figures and political agendas. Emotive language is carefully measured to give us emotional responses. Our vision is saturated with stimulating images, while our minds are chemically suppressed with addictive drugs, from over the counter medicines to our favorite soda pop. The goal of these mind control mechanisms is an automated society that consumes and responds favorably to commercialized propaganda, without question, without analysis, without receiving all the correct information. It is time for these propagators of guinea pig experiments to pay back the damage they have caused its victims, and it’s time for the public to take off its blinders and begin a serious evaluation of its own responses. The data is out there, along with the propaganda. It is time to exercise our faculties for informed decision making before decision making is no longer one of our options. It is time to take control over our own minds.

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