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Chemical warfare tests made here

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — Army-CIA open-air tests were carried out with simulated bacteriological substances in many areas of the United States — including Hawaii — from 1949 until 1969, UPI learned yesterday.

The tests apparently were intended to test vulnerability to chemical warfare attack. All such testing was stopped in 1969.

A CIA-Army team using trick suitcases and a car with a dual muffler sprayed an unknown substance in New York City streets and the Holland and Lincoln tunnels in 1956, UPI said.

The scope of Operation Big City, as the operation was called, was uncovered in a four-month investigation by researchers of the Church of Scientology. UPI obtained an advance summary of the full report, which will be released today to pertinent Congressional committees, the Army and CIA.

A Senate investigation of intelligence activities in 1976

found "few written records were prepared" on the program and "most of the documents relating to it have been destroyed."

The details of "Operation Big City" were pieced together from meticulously kept expense vouchers which even listed turnpike and tunnel tolls.

In a 1950 test, Army and Navy personnel released *Serratia Marcescens* — described as a "harmless biological simulant" — from giant aerosol-type nozzles on a ship cruising off the Golden Gate and San Francisco Bay area.

The *Serratia Marcescens* was said to have caused a type of pneumonia in particularly susceptible San Francisco citizens.

"We feel the public has a right to know of every incident where U.S. citizens may have been the target of chemical and-or chemical warfare testing," said Church of Scientology spokesman Brian Anderson.