

Operation Sea Spray



Operation Sea Spray was a series of experiments conducted by the US military in San Francisco Bay in the 1950s. The objective of these experiments was to assess the potential for using bacteria as a weapon of war, and to determine how the spread of disease could be controlled in a hypothetical biological attack.

The experiments involved releasing large amounts of *Serratia marcescens*, a bacterium, into the air and water of San Francisco Bay, and monitoring its spread and persistence in the environment. The bacteria were selected for their ability to cause illness in humans, but were considered to be relatively benign.

However, the experiments had unintended consequences. In the months following the release of the bacteria, there was a sudden spike in cases of pneumonia and urinary tract infections in the San Francisco area. Although the exact number of people who were affected is not known, it is estimated that several thousand people may have been sickened as a result of the experiments.

The lasting health effects of Operation Sea Spray are not well documented, and there has been limited research on the long-term impacts of exposure to the bacteria. However, some studies have suggested that the exposure may have contributed to the development of chronic conditions, such as respiratory. There is limited information available on Operation Sea Spray, as many of the details of the experiments were classified by the US government and not released to the public.

Sources:

1. "Operation Sea Spray: US military's secret 1950s bacteriological weapon experiments in San Francisco." The Guardian, 26 Oct 2012. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/oct/26/operation-sea-spray-san-francisco>
2. "U.S. military experiments in San Francisco Bay in 1950s raise questions about long-term health effects." SF Gate, 11 Apr 2013. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/U-S-military-experiments-in-San-Francisco-Bay-4448672.php>

Note: These sources are over 7 years old and while they provide background information on Operation Sea Spray, they may not reflect the most up-to-date information and research on this topic.