



FACT SHEET

Office of the
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)
Deployment Health Support Directorate

For more information
(703) 578 - 8500
(800) 497 - 6261

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Deseret Test Center

DTC Test 69-75

Shortly after President Kennedy's inauguration in 1961, the Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara, directed that a total review of the U.S. military be undertaken. The study consisted of 150 separate projects. The chemical and biological warfare review was known as Project 112. As part of the Project 112 review, the Joint Chiefs of Staff convened a working committee that recommended a research, testing, and development program for chemical and biological weapons. To oversee this program, the Deseret Test Center was established at Fort Douglas, Utah, in 1962. Both land-based and ship-based tests were conducted during the period 1962 – 1973. The Deseret Test Center closed in 1973.

The objective of Deseret Test Center (DTC) Test 69-75 was to investigate the effectiveness of the F-4/A/B 45Y-2/TX weapon system to reduce wheat crop yields in selected geographic areas. The objective was subdivided into other tasks: determine the downwind travel of agent TX released from the A/B 45Y-2 spray tank; estimate the yield reduction and loss of wheat crops attacked by this weapon system; study the effectiveness of killed TX as a simulant for agent TX; and, evaluate the adequacy to predict downwind dosages of TX.

TX is the agent symbol for the fungus *Puccinia graminis var. tritici*, commonly known as stem rust of wheat. Killed TX is defined as spores killed by a gaseous mixture of ethylene oxide. Dead spores are those that have died as a result of causes other than intentional killing.

Four killed TX trials and seven live agent trials were conducted. All trials were conducted in the vicinity of Yeehaw Junction, Florida, from October 31 to December 1, 1968.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is providing this information, at the request of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), to assist the VA in providing healthcare services to qualified veterans and to assist veterans in establishing service connection for disability claims. The Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD) collected this information from multiple sources and requested that the military services declassify it to allow its public distribution. The VA accepts this information provided on location, dates, units and/or ships, and substances involved in this exercise, which DHSD extracted from classified DoD records, and will provide it to individual veterans as necessary, but the VA cannot verify its accuracy.

Test Name	DTC Test 69-75
Testing Organization	US Army Deseret Test Center
Test Dates	October 31 – December 1, 1968
Test Location	In the vicinity of Yeehaw Junction, Florida
Test Operations	To investigate the effectiveness of the F-4/A/B 45Y-2/TX weapon system to reduce wheat crop yields in selected geographic areas.
Participating Services	US Air Force, Deseret Test Center personnel
Units and Ships Involved	Not identified
Dissemination Procedures	TX was sprayed from an A/B 45Y-2 spray tank mounted on an F-4 aircraft.
Agents, Simulants, Tracers	<i>Puccinia graminis var. tritici</i> (TX)
Ancillary Testing	Not identified
Decontamination	Not identified
Potential Health Risks Associated with Agents, Simulants, Tracers	<p><i>Puccinia graminis tritici</i> (TX) This fungal species is toxic to plants, and therefore was considered a potential biological warfare agent directed against agricultural crops. It is not ordinarily considered to have either short-term or long-term human health effects.</p> <p>(Sources: Zajtchuk R., ed., Textbook of Military Medicine (part 1, Medical Aspects of Chemical and Biological Warfare, 1997), Office of the Army Surgeon General, Washington DC, 1997, p. 60, 460. Also http://www.cbwinfo.com/Biological/PlantPath/PG.html as of October 4, 2002.)</p>

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