

ORD # 1408-73

SG11 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Requirements Relating to Paranormal Research

1. Phenomenology:

- A. I would recommend that research in this area be directed toward ascertaining for each mode or kind of phenomena the limits, or limiting factors, associated with operational range, sensitivity, and selectivity. Associated with the range question is the nature of impedance and whether range varies linearly, nonlinearly--or perhaps nonrationally.
- B. In addition to these basic characteristics, their relationships should be considered in terms of mode dependence. For example, sensitivity might have one kind of meaning with respect to telepathy and a different connotation in psychokinesis. In the case of selectivity, to what extent can the activities of an individual be differentiated from a group--at what range?
- C. A variety of factors would intuitively seem to be important in this research including: age, sex, other physiological characteristics, psychological characteristics, heredity, cultural background, etc. In addition, a variety of temporal relationships should be investigated, e.g. when performance in one mode is at a high level, is performance in other modes exceptional, unaffected, or downgraded? If learning is evident in some mode, are other modes also enhanced?
- D. All of the above are intended to illustrate only the wide spectrum of relationships which should be considered in the design of any experiments and in data gathering and processing.
- E. At present it would seem that many tests would have to be tailored to the particular subject and that the test for limits of capability in one individual might be different than for others.

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F. A particularly important consideration to be kept in mind in investigating the phenomena is that information is weightless. (?)

2. Application:

This area of research is strongly dependent, of course, on what can be learned about the phenomenology, especially the limiting factors in range, sensitivity, etc. Most of the potential applications are obvious. In some cases, however, it might be possible to do entirely new things, such as locating some kinds of mineral deposits, etc.

3. Elucidation:

A. To the extent possible it would seem advisable to employ the maximum possible instrumentation in any test. It would be important, of course, to determine whether this instrumentation had any effect on the performance of any of the several modes. Even with lots of time, lots of money, and lots of instrumentation, as well as a reasonable number of subjects, it should not be anticipated that anything approaching a comprehensive theory could be quickly developed. The most ambitious approach would be to associate the paranormal phenomena with physical phenomena in such a way as to lead to the development of a general field theory. Since this remains to be done in well-behaved areas such as physics, success along these lines would seem highly unlikely--but, on the other hand, experimental data from paranormal tests might provide new and helpful insights in older, well-established fields.

B. At most it might be possible to develop a few equations or rules over the next few years to relate the modes of performance and the observed performance limits.

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