

BEYOND  
STRANGER  
THINGS

Landon Kelley

# What are the experiments and lab in *Stranger Things* based on?

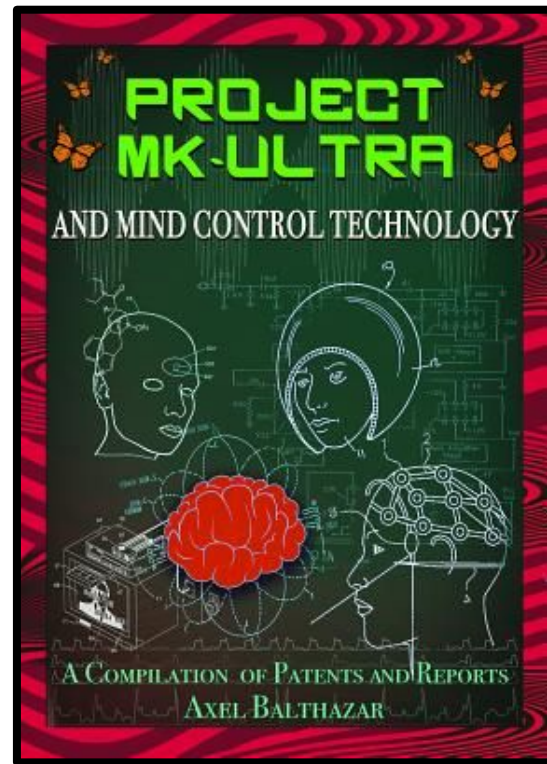
*Stranger Things* experiments and labs are primarily inspired by real-life, secret U.S government projects like Project MK Ultra, which explored mind control using psychedelic drugs, hypnosis and psychic phenomena.



# Who conducted these experiments

The United States government conducted these sick experiments on its own people. Facilitated through the Central Intelligence Agency, the government authorized top secret programs including human experiments and physical/mental torture that led to the destruction of thousands of unwilling American's lives.

Our government isn't the only one involved in this though, as they collaborated with 80 institutions, including 44 universities, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies.

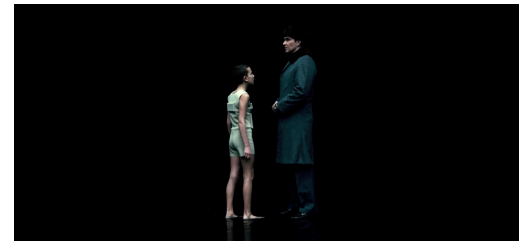
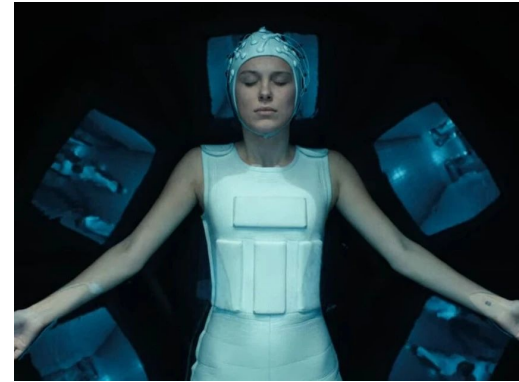


# Are these experiments real?

Yes. These experiments are very real, and were heavily documented throughout Project MK ULTRA, starting in 1953 and ending in 1973 as well as Project Stargate, starting in 1972 and ending in 1995.

For example, when you see Eleven floating in the water, this is portraying sensory deprivation. In Project Stargate, they used sensory deprivation to try and achieve “remote viewing”, which is portrayed throughout Stranger Things when Eleven sees and hears people who are not with her.

Remote viewing was a huge interest of the U.S government, as they attempted to perfect it and utilize it for military purposes(as seen in Stranger Things).



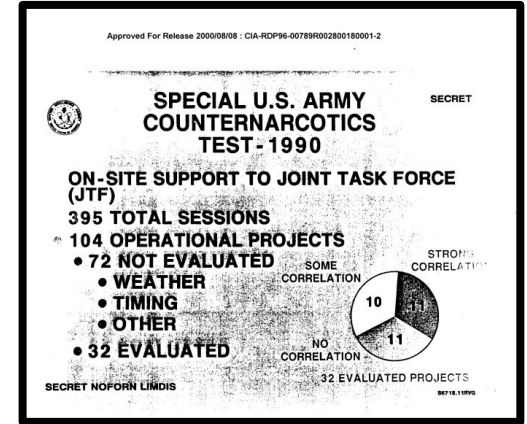
# For example

In the released CIA files, it states, “The successful long distance SRI remote viewing experiments from the 1970’s generated interest in operational pursuits with in-house government personnel. In the late 1970’s HQDA/INSCOM established a small unit for development of a community capability in RV”

“Overall, about one third of all projects were judged to have provided data of good quality. This was based on evaluation of 32 projects. Although 104 projects were conducted, weather/operational constraints prevented follow-up for ground truth on the majority of those projects”

These are just some examples of the experiments in Project MK ULTRA and STARGATE. Other confirmed experiments include:

- **Drugs:** Most commonly LSD, but also heroin, morphine, mescaline, psilocybin, scopolamine, and barbiturates.
- **Psychological Torture:** Hypnosis, sensory deprivation, isolation, and verbal or sexual abuse.
- **Physical Procedures:** Electroshock therapy (sometimes at 30-40 times normal power) and drug-induced comas lasting for weeks.
- **Operation Midnight Climax:** A specific subproject where the CIA set up safehouse brothels in San Francisco and New York to lure men who were then secretly dosed with LSD and observed through two-way mirrors.



# Why did they conduct these experiments?

The U.S government piloted Project MK ULTRA after the end of the Korean war, where there were reports of American soldiers being “brainwashed” by their Chinese/North Korean captors. The CIA was interested in if it was possible to erase someone’s memory, control their behavior, and program them to perform actions, including assassinations, without their knowledge or consent.



# Results of these experiments

The CIA reportedly failed to produce a reliable method for total mind control. Despite their failures, they made advancements in understanding the brain, mind, and the way it operates. They learned how to “mind destruct”, completely erasing someone's sense of being. Project MK ULTRA ended up ruining thousands of lives, and killing unknown amounts of people. We still don't know the full extent and severity of this Project because majority of the files were destroyed in 1973, and the ones that are released are heavily redacted. The most famous victim of Project MK ULTRA was the terrorist Ted Kaczynski, otherwise known as the **Unabomber**.



# Work Cited

Project MKULTRA, THE CIA'S PROGRAM OF RESEARCH IN BEHAVIORAL  
MODIFICATION JOINT HEARING | Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

STAR GATE PROJECT: AN OVERVIEW

[https://strangerthings.fandom.com/wiki/Stranger Things Wiki](https://strangerthings.fandom.com/wiki/Stranger_Things_Wiki)