



INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICE
DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY
Washington, D.C. 20301

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN UNITED STATES CIVIL DEFENSE HISTORY
LISTED CHRONOLOGICALLY, 1916-1974

- August 29, 1916 Council of National Defense created by act of Congress (39 Stat. 649; 50 U.S.C. ch.1). Composed of the Secretaries of War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor, Council was charged with coordination of industries and resources for the national security and welfare, and with creation of relations rendering possible in time of need immediate concentration and utilization of resources of the Nation.
- October 11, 1916 Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense appointed by the President; composed of seven members, each chosen for special knowledge in one of the following fields: transportation and communications, manufacturing and industrial relations, supplies, raw materials, minerals and metals, engineering and education, labor, medicine and sanitation.
- April 6, 1917 Council of National Defense established State Council Section to guide growth and work of State defense councils.
- April 9, 1917 Council Chairman requested all State Governors to establish councils of defense. Such councils were organized in every State, and by November 11, 1918, local units numbered 182,000.
- April 21, 1917 Council appointed a Women's Committee to coordinate and stimulate war activities of Nation's women.
- November 11, 1918 Armistice resulted in rapid dissolution of State and local defense councils.
- December 2, 1918 In response to the United States Employment Service, Council of National Defense adopted resolution asking State and local defense councils to keep organizations intact to assist Federal agencies in meeting postwar adjustments.
- May 25, 1940 Office for Emergency Management established within Executive Office of the President by administrative order, in accordance with EO 8248 of Sept. 8, 1939. OEM had certain stated functions performed under direction of the Liaison Officer for Emergency Management. (OEM, primarily a framework within which various civilian war agencies were established, is now inactive.)

Page 1 of 21

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May 29, 1940

President approved regulation of Council of National Defense that Advisory Commission provided for in sec. 2 of act of Aug. 29, 1916 (39 Stat 649) shall be composed of an Adviser on Industrial Production; an Adviser on Industrial Materials; an Adviser on Employment; an Adviser on Farm Products; an Adviser on Price Stabilization; and an Adviser on Consumer Protection. This was the beginning of the National Defense Program of WW II. Realignment of relationships necessitated by expansion of the program decentralized the Advisory Commission by merging its divisions with other newly created national defense units. Agencies which evolved from the Advisory Commission, with the exception of Office for Agricultural War Relations and Office of Price Administration, became units of Office for Emergency Management.

August 2, 1940

Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense appointed by the President, and State Governors advised to reestablish defense councils.

August 5, 1940

Establishment of Division of State and Local Cooperation by Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense announced.

November 1, 1940

First regional conference on civil defense held in New York City; followed by conferences in New Orleans, Salt Lake City, Chicago, and Memphis.

December 1940

Drafts of model law sent to States for consideration of legislature with a view to securing uniformity of civil defense organization on the State level.

February 24, 1941

President asked Congress to appropriate \$150,000,000 "for the purpose of providing community facilities made necessary by defense activities." Division of State and Local Cooperation helped to sponsor the community facilities bill, which became known as the Lanham Act.

May 20, 1941

Office of Civilian Defense established within Office for Emergency Management by EO 8757, to assure effective coordination of Federal relations with State and local governments engaged in furtherance of war programs; to provide for necessary cooperation with State and local governments with respect to measures for adequate protection of civilian population in war emergencies; and to facilitate participation by all persons in war programs. . . . Mayor Fiorello La Guardia of New York City named as Director, serving on volunteer basis without compensation.

June 20, 1941

Executive Order 8799 amended EO 8757 to provide for a wider and more effective functioning of the Volunteer Participation Committee by increasing its membership from 20 to 45.



- June 28, 1941 Lanham Act approved by Congress (five weeks after Division of State and Local Cooperation was supplanted by OCD).
- June 30, 1941 First training course given at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. (These courses continued weekly thereafter.)
- July 5, 1941 Emergency Medical Services established with representative of U.S. Public Health Service as Chief Medical Officer. EMS was responsible for establishment of necessary emergency medical facilities in communities throughout the country, including organization of emergency field units and casualty stations.
- July 10, 1941 OCD established nine regional offices: Boston, New York City, Baltimore, Atlanta, Cleveland, Chicago, Omaha, San Antonio (later Dallas), and San Francisco.
- July 16, 1941 Executive Order 8822 amended EO 8757 to include American Red Cross among organizations invited to designate representatives to serve as members of the Board for Civilian Protection in OCD.
- July 24, 1941 Official CD insignia adopted by OCD; included the basic CD insigne and 15 distinctive identification symbols for volunteer workers: Air Raid Warden, Auxiliary Police, Bomb Squad, Auxiliary Firemen, Fire Watcher, Road Repair Crew, Decontamination Corps, Staff Corps, Rescue Party, Medical Corps, Nurses Aides Corps, Messenger, Drivers Corps, Emergency Food and Housing, Demolition and Clearance Crew. The insignia were developed by Charles T. Coiner, consultant on design to Division of Information, Office for Emergency Management, in collaboration with Col. Walter B. Burn, an OCD staff member.
- August 1941 During that month "The United States Citizens Defense Corps" was published. It gave the first complete and coordinated plan for local organization of civilian defense, and was the prototype of all following CD organizations.
- September 22, 1941 Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt appointed Assistant Director, OCD, heading Volunteer Participation activities, to administer the nonprotective aspects of civilian defense. She reported November 1, 1941, and resigned February 20, 1942.
- October 7, 1941 Official CD insigne patented (U.S. Letters Patent No. D-129,797) by Col. Walter P. Burn, who assigned rights to Government. (CD insigne continued by Federal Civil Defense Administration under Public Law 920, the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950.)
- October 15, 1941 Physical Fitness Division established under direction of John B. Kelly, with headquarters in Philadelphia. Also during October, OCD initiated active program of training Citizens Defense Corps personnel in every State and city.



November 1941 During that month first consolidated reports from States showed over one million volunteers trained, or in training; first regionwide test blackout was held in OCD Region 1 (New England); final definitive test of warning devices was held at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and selection of approved type was made.

December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

December 8, 1941 Director La Guardia announced establishment of Civil Air Patrol (CAP) under OCD. (In April 1943, CAP was transferred from OCD to War Department and operated as an auxiliary of the Army Air Force.)

January 3, 1942 Boy Scouts of America accepted assignment of messenger training; over one million messengers were trained for CD. American Water Works, American Hotel, and National Retail Dry Goods Association accepted assignments from OCD to recommend protection programs for their member institutions.

January 6, 1942 Special 10-day course for 150 Reserve and National Guard officers, assigned to regional and State offices, began at Edgewood Arsenal, Md.; conducted by Chemical Warfare and OCD officers.

January 12, 1942 James M. Landis, Dean of Harvard Law School, appointed Special Assistant to the President to devote full time to executive work of OCD.

January 27, 1942 Congress approved act to "provide protection of persons and property from bombing attacks in the United States," which authorized an appropriation not to exceed \$100,000,000 to enable the Director of OCD to provide such protection.

January 28, 1942 First schools in emergency CD duties of regular police and duties of auxiliary police opened in 46 cities by FBI in cooperation with OCD.

January 31, 1942 Melvyn Douglas (Hesselberg), actor, named Director of OCD Art Council, to mobilize volunteer activities of Nation's writers, artists, musicians, and actors for Division of Civilian Participation program; served without compensation; resigned December 5, 1942, to enter Army.

February 4, 1942 Joint Committee on Evacuation (interdepartmental) created. (Apparently abolished prior to July 1, 1944. No reference to it after that date.)

February 10, 1942 La Guardia resigned as Director of OCD. (His last day in office was February 11, 1942.)

February 12, 1942 James M. Landis took over as Director of OCD.



- February 21, 1942 Congress approved act appropriating \$100,000,000 to OCD, specifying that no part of the money be used for "the employment of persons, the rent of facilities or the purchase of equipment and supplies to promote, produce or carry on instruction or direct instruction in physical fitness by dancers, fan dancing, street shows, theatrical performances or other public entertainment."
- April 15, 1942 Executive Order 9134 expanded functions of OCD Director by authorizing him to maintain a clearinghouse of information on State and local defense activities in cooperation with appropriate Federal departments and agencies; and replaced both the Board of Civilian Protection and the Volunteer Participation Committee by a single Civilian Defense Board to advise and assist the Director. . . . James M. Landis received official appointment as Director of OCD at a salary of \$10,000 a year.
- May 19, 1942 Executive Order 9165 established Facility Security Division for protection of essential facilities from sabotage and other destructive acts, and placed responsibility for facility security program upon OCD.
- May 28, 1942 War Emergency Radio Service (WERS) authorized by Defense Communications Board (name changed to Board of War Communications by EO 9183, June 15, 1942) for civilian defense, Civil Air Patrol, and State guard systems, to permit licensing for defense purposes limited number of amateur shortwave stations, all of which had been closed the first of the year for security reasons. By end of 1944, 250 licenses (covering 5,213 radio transmitters) were issued to civilian defense stations.
- June 17, 1942 Conference on emergency CD Driver Training at Yale University launched program in which American Automobile Assn. trained 800,000 drivers for CD.
- August 25, 1942 Landis named Liaison Officer to Civil Defense of Canada for coordination of policies, air raid signals, equipment, etc.
- * September 8, 1943 Director Landis resigned and recommended abolition of OCD. John B. Martin, deputy, became Acting Director.
- October 4, 1943 War Department announced that Aircraft Warning Service would be placed on standby basis.
- October 18, 1943 Executive Order 9389 expanded authority of OCD Director to permit him to provide for the internal organization and management of OCD, and to delegate authority to carry out his powers and duties to such agencies and officials as he might designate.



December 30, 1943 Six Army officers who had been section or unit chiefs in Protection Branch relieved to go overseas to organize Passive Air Defense for the invasion of Normandy, under SHAEF. (Left in February 1944.)

February 1944 Lt. Gen. William N. Haskell (Retired) assumed duties as Director of OCD.

April 1944 Gradual liquidation of OCD began.

April 18, 1944 Executive Order 9437 abolished Facility Security Program assigned to OCD by EO 9165.

July 1, 1944 OCD regional offices abolished.

May 4, 1945 President Truman signed Executive Order 9562 calling for termination of OCD on June 30, 1945.

A June 30, 1945 OCD abolished. This action was followed by the disbanding of most State and local civil defense organizations. All protective property acquired under act of January 27, 1942, and act of February 21, 1942, was transferred to Department of Commerce; liquidation of OCD fiscal affairs assigned to Treasury Department.

August 6, 1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

August 9, 1945 Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

November 25, 1946 War Department Memorandum 400-5-5 established WD Civil Defense Board (Bull Board, headed by Maj. Gen. Harold R. Bull) to study problem of civil defense.

July 26, 1947 Public Law 253 (Unification Act) approved; law established National Security Resources Board (NSRB)

August 29, 1947 National Convention of American Legion at New York City adopted report of Legion's Civil Defense Commission, urging the President to establish a civil defense planning agency under direction of a civilian, and outlining minimum requirements for civil defense. This report, when presented to the President, became the basis for establishment of the Office of Civil Defense Planning.

February 15, 1948 War Department Civil Defense Board (Bull Board) submitted its report. "A Study of Civil Defense," a pamphlet presenting conclusions and recommendations of the Board, was released that month. It was the first report on a civil defense program for the United States.

March 27, 1948 The Office of Civil Defense Planning established by the Secretary of National Defense.

October 1, 1948 Office of Civil Defense Planning submitted Hopley (Maj. Gen. Russell J. Hopley) Report, "Civil Defense for National Security," to the Secretary of National Defense; released publicly at the same time.

March 3, 1949 President assigned to National Security Resources Board primary responsibility for civil defense planning.

March 29, 1949 Acting Chairman of NSRB (W. Stuart Symington) requested Director, Office of Mobilization Procedures and Organization, to initiate a study of problems and submit a report.

June 3, 1949 Acting Chairman, NSRB, requested:
 (a) Administrator, Federal Works Agency (which later became General Services Administration), to assume responsibility for "wartime civil disaster relief planning," including activities and supplies, rescue, evacuation, demolition, regulation of transportation, communications, and restoration of order;
 (b) Secretary of National Defense to assume responsibility for planning civilian participation in active defense, including detection, observation, and identification of aircraft, air-raid-warning systems, border patrol, anti-aircraft defense, civil air patrol, camouflage, and protective construction.

June 6, 1949 Report requested by NSRB on March 29 submitted. (Known as NSRB Document 112.)

August 1, 1949 Department of Defense established position of Assistant for Civil Defense Liaison.

August 23, 1949 General Services Administration submitted planning prospectus to Acting Chairman, NSRB.

September 1949 Department of Defense held "Operation Lookout" in 10 northeastern States to test air defenses.

September 23, 1949 President Truman announced that Russians had exploded their own atomic bomb in the Soviet Union.

October 5, 1949 A statement of policy for relations with State and local governments, the first in a series of Civil Defense Planning Advisory Bulletins (Doc. 121), sent from NSRB to all State Governors.

October 24, 1949 Senator Brian McMahon, Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, announced that public hearings on problem of civil defense would be held early during next session of Congress

December 1, 1949 The second of NSRB Civil Defense Planning Bulletins (Doc. 121/1) sent to all State Governors. Bulletin outlined Federal Government's objectives in planning, set forth information on planning activities in progress, made recommendations for State and local action, and requested information on specific questions relating to State civil defense programs.

January 13, 1950 NSRB Doc. 121/2, "Medical Aspects of Atomic Weapons," sent to all State Governors.

January 31, 1950 President directed Atomic Energy Commission to study possibilities of building thermonuclear (hydrogen) bombs.

February 3, 1950 NSRB Doc. 121/3, announcing training courses in radiological monitoring and medical aspects of civil defense against atomic attack, sent to all State Governors.

March 1, 1950 Paul J. Larsen appointed Director, Civilian Mobilization Office, NSRB.

March 3, 1950 Hearings on civil defense were begun by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and the Senate Armed Services Committee.

March 17, 20, 23, 30, Apr. 3, 1950 Hearings on civil defense continued by Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

March 23, 1950 Start of testimony on civil defense before Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy and Senate Armed Services Committee.

March 27, 1950 Radiological monitoring and medical and health courses sponsored by NSRB began; continued through July 1950.

April 10, 1950 Nomination of W. Stuart Symington as Chairman of NSRB confirmed by the Senate. (Took oath of office on Apr. 26.)

May 1, 1950 NSRB Doc. 121/4 transmitted to State Governors. Suggested course of action for States, described radiological and medical training activities, suggested approach to civil defense, and defined responsibility for civil defense planning.

May 18, 1950 NSRB Doc. 121/5, defining role of American Red Cross in civil defense, transmitted to all State Governors.

June 29, 1950 Atomic Energy Commission disclosed that "great steps" had been achieved in developing the hydrogen bomb.



August 8, 1950 AEC issued "The Effects of Atomic Weapons," predecessor to "The Effects of Nuclear Weapons," which was issued in 1957 and revised in April 1962. (Book was prepared by Defense Atomic Support Agency of the Department of Defense in coordination with other cognizant governmental agencies and published by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.)

September 8, 1950 NSRB Doc. 128, "United States Civil Defense" (Symington Report), proposing a national civil defense plan, transmitted to the President. (Exhibit C of Doc. 128 is proposed bill "To authorize a Federal Civil Defense Program and for other purposes.") . . . Paul J. Larsen resigned NSRB office; succeeded by James J. Wadsworth.

September 18, 1950 President Truman sent Symington Report to Congress for consideration; H.R. 9686 introduced in the House of Representatives.

September 30, 1950 Public Law 875 (81st Congress), "To authorize Federal assistance to States and local governments in major disasters, and for other purposes," vested in President authority to coordinate activities of Federal agencies in providing disaster assistance.

September 30, 1950 NSRB Doc. 128/1 transmitted to all State Governors. Discussed Mutual Aid and Mobile Support Systems with Critical Area Map of hypothetical State of Columbia.

October 18, 1950 NSRB Doc. 121/6 announced training courses for professional nurses.

October 29, 1950 NSRB Doc. 130, "Survival Under Atomic Attack," published: first of a series designed to instruct the public in individual protection against special weapons.

December 1, 1950 Executive Order 10186 created Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA) within Office for Emergency Management, Executive Office of the President. On same day President Truman appointed Millard F. Caldwell, Jr., former Governor of Florida, as Administrator, succeeding James J. Wadsworth, Acting Director, Civil Defense Office, NSRB. (Mr. Wadsworth was named Deputy Administrator.)

December 4, 1950 Hearings on proposed civil defense legislation were begun by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the House Armed Services Committee.

December 12, 1950 FCDA announced that model interstate civil defense and disaster compact had been submitted to all State Governors and civil defense directors as a legal basis for mutual aid and mobile support among the States in the event of enemy attack. It applied particularly to use of fire, police, medical, and rescue personnel and equipment.

- December 13, 1950 NSRB Doc. 132, "Fire Effects of Bombing Attacks," released. Prepared for NSRB by the Civil Defense Liaison Office and Office of the Secretary of Defense, booklet sent to all State Governors as background information on fire problem.
- December 15, 1950 A basic code of public air raid warning signals, to be used by all States and cities in event of attack, announced by FCDA. Code was developed by a panel consisting of representatives of FCDA, the Department of Defense, State and city civil defense authorities, and sound engineers. (The two-stage warning code, "Red Alert" and "All Clear," is still in use.)
- December 16, 1950 Executive Order 10193 established Office of Defense Mobilization within Executive Office of the President to direct, control, and coordinate all mobilization activities of the Government, including production, procurement, manpower, stabilization, and transport activities.
- December 28, 1950 FCDA released a 248-page volume on "Civil Defense Health Services and Special Weapons Defense." Prepared for FCDA by Health Resources Office of NSRB with assistance and technical advice of number of Federal and private agencies, booklet gave detailed information required by State and local planners for civil defense health services against atomic, biological, and chemical warfare.
- ★ January 12, 1951 President Truman signed the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (Public Law 920, 81st Congress), establishing FCDA as an independent agency in the executive branch of the Government.
- January 17, 1951 Designation of certain amateur frequencies for civil defense use by licensed amateur radio operators, after any suspension of normal amateur activity, announced jointly by FCDA and Federal Communications Commission; made possible for State and local civil defense authorities to plan for utilization of Nation's amateur operators for civil defense purposes.
- February 12, 1951 FCDA announced at a national meeting of State civil defense directors that matching Federal funds would be made available for construction of individual or family-type shelters, but that no contributions would be made for shelters outside critical target areas.
- February 21, 1951 Meeting of United States and Canadian civil defense officials in Ottawa for further informal exploration of possible agreements on mutual civil defense problems. Discussions covered interstate-provincial and international mutual aid agreements, exchange of medical services, and standardization of civil defense supplies and equipment; also possible exchange of civil defense personnel between United States and Canada.

- March 2, 1951 Executive Order 10221 authorized Housing and Home Finance Administrator to act for President in carrying out provisions of P.L. 875, to assist States and local governments in major disasters.
- March 27, 1951 Canada and United States effected a civil defense mutual aid agreement.
- April 5, 1951 First issue of THE CIVIL DEFENSE ALERT, official monthly publication of FCDA, distributed to all FCDA personnel and all CD staff members in States, cities, and territories to keep them currently and uniformly informed on civil defense activities, plans, and programs; and to help maintain the teamwork and morale essential to the FCDA program.
- April 15, 1951 First FCDA motion picture, "Survival Under Atomic Attack," released: 16mm, one-reel, sound, black and white; produced by United World Films, Inc., and distributed by Castle Films.
- April 28, 1951 First meeting of Joint United States-Canadian Civil Defense Committee held in Washington, D.C. Eight Canadian representatives, headed by Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and six U.S. officials took part in conference.
- April 30, 1951 National Civil Defense Training Center established at Olney, Md., consisting of Staff College for training in civil defense administration and operations, and the Rescue School for training in rescue operations and related skills.
- May 5, 1951 First FCDA Advisory Council (12 members) appointed by the President. Appointment of Council members was in accordance with section 102 of the Federal Civil Defense Act.
- May 7-8, 1951 Civil Defense Conference, Washington, D.C.; called to mobilize organizational leadership of Nation to survival; attended by some 1,200 leaders of State and local civil defense organizations and representatives of about 300 national associations whose membership numbered over 50 million. A series of forums on civil defense organization, volunteer technical services, public education, health and welfare services, shelters, attack warning and communications, training, and other program activities were held during the conference.
- May 24-25, 1951 First meeting of FCDA Technical Committee on Street and Highway Traffic held at Evanston, Ill., since FCDA had selected the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University in that city to develop the traffic training program. Matters concerning regulation and control of traffic in relation to CD were considered.



- June 6, 1951 FCDA Eastern Training Center established at Olney, Md. This was in addition to Staff College and Rescue School established April 30, 1951
- June 14, 1951 FCDA released summary of system to be used for determining amount of shelter from atomic attack needed in a given area and amount of suitable shelter space available in existing buildings in that area. A conference to discuss system was held at FCDA Staff College, June 14-15, 1951. Among conferees were State engineers, Staff College technicians, and representatives of the Bureau of the Census and Lehigh University Institute of Research. Release of system for determining shelter in existing buildings marked the first phase of the shelter program.
- June 22, 1951 FCDA announced distribution to State and local directors of an illustrated bulletin containing a suggested organizational pattern for the communications section of municipal control centers, to be used as official guide.
- July 2, 1951 Second meeting of FCDA Technical Committee on Street and Highway Traffic held at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Committee reached agreement on overall objectives of traffic handling during CD emergencies.
- July 3, 1951 FCDA announced distribution to State and local directors of bulletin covering plans and specifications for civil defense attack warning systems. Bulletin set forth specifications and methods for installing well-engineered and economical attack warning systems, and included tables and charts for determining area coverage of sound devices, with map showing layout of a public sound warning system for a typical city.
- July 13, 1951 First course for local civil defense instructors in mid-western States opened at Oklahoma A&M College, Stillwater, Okla. This was first training center for local instructors in the country, and continued operating for about one year. (Closed August 15, 1952.)
- July 27, 1951 Manual on "Shelter from Atomic Attack in Existing Buildings," sent to State and local civil defense directors; provided method for determining census of persons in given locations and uniform evaluation of shelter space in existing buildings.
- August 2, 1951 James J. Wadsworth, Deputy Administrator, announced that St. Mary's College of California, strategically located about 20 miles east of the San Francisco Bay area, had been selected as the Western Training Center of FCDA. (Center opened Sept. 4, 1951; discontinued Sept. 1953.)

- September 9, 1951 FCDA Emergency Welfare Services Advisory Committee concluded its first meeting, a 2-day session. During meeting Committee reviewed welfare problems before and after an attack, including emergency shelters, food supply, emergency mass feeding, personal identification, notification of next-of-kin, and post-disaster legislation.
- September 13, 1951 FCDA announced that five States (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New York) would share in the initial allocation of funds from a \$20,000,000 Congressional appropriation for civil defense first aid stations and stockpiling of medical supplies and equipment.
- September 20, 1951 FCDA released Advisory Bulletin No. 69 to furnish advice and guidance to States regarding a uniform method of issuing identification tags for civilians.
- October 26, 1951 Initial meeting of new group, Advisory Council for Women's Participation, held at FCDA building (Gelmarc Towers), 1930 Columbia Road, N.W., Washington. Its mission was to assist Mrs. John L. Whitehurst, Assistant Administrator, in alerting and organizing American women for civil defense.
- November 2, 1951 Beginning of Massachusetts Regional Project, a laboratory study of urban area target analysis and State and regional plan, cooperatively undertaken by FCDA, City of Boston, State of Massachusetts, and the Armed Forces.
- November 9, 1951 FCDA published Advisory Bulletin No. 79, informing State directors of geographic boundaries of nine regional offices:
Region 1, Boston, Mass. (New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Mass., Conn., Rhode Island);
Region 2, Richmond, Va. (Pa., W.Va., Va., Del., Md., N.C.);
Region 3, Atlanta, Ga. (Tenn., Miss., Ala., Ga., S.C., Fla.);
Region 4, Cleveland, Ohio (Mich., Ohio, Ky.);
Region 5, Chicago, Ill. (Ind., Ill., Wis., Iowa, N.D., S.D.);
Region 6, Dallas, Tex. (Tex., Okla., Ark., La.);
Region 7, Denver, Col. (Wyo., Col., N.Mex., Neb., Kansas, Mo.)
Region 8, Berkeley, Cal. (Cal., Nev., Utah, Ariz.);
Region 9, Seattle, Wash. (Wash., Mont., Oregon, Idaho).
- November 15, 1951 FCDA announced the original cartoon character "Bert the Turtle" as the "star" of "Duck and Cover," an FCDA cartoon film produced by Archer Productions, Inc., New York City, in cooperation with the National Education Association and FCDA. A turtle was chosen as the star of a children's civil defense campaign because his ability to duck and cover into his ~~shell~~ illustrates the basic principle of self-protection. *Shell*



- November 29, 1951 America's butchers, bakers, grocers, and milkmen called upon by FCDA and the Department of Agriculture to help set up immediate plans for nationwide emergency civil defense feeding in event of attack. Call for help was in form of an announcement that FCDA and USDA had reached agreement on detailed plans to provide adequate food for the Nation under emergency attack conditions.
- December 2, 1951 A 16-page illustrated booklet, "Duck and Cover," issued by FCDA for distribution by the States and territories. Three million copies were sent out.
- December 9, 1951 FCD Administrator Millard Caldwell, on completion of his first year in office (appointed Dec. 1, 1950), announced that over a million and a half volunteers were on guard as part of the growing homefront army for civil defense.
- December 10, 1951 Communications experts from throughout the Nation joined FCDA officials in a 6-day session to discuss technical details of a communications system for civil defense in a national emergency. The meeting, devoted chiefly to use of radio facilities, was held at FCDA Staff College, Olney, Md. Among the 120 delegates were representatives of 19 associations and such organizations as the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Western Union, Motorola, General Electric, and Radio Corporation of America.
- December 16, 1951 FCDA established new office of volunteer manpower for recruiting. Mrs. John L. Whitehurst of Baltimore, Md., appointed Assistant Administrator in charge of its activities. Previously, Mrs. Whitehurst had served as Assistant Administrator in charge of Women's Participation. Purpose of new office was to "afford the necessary impetus and coordination essential to increased public participation in recruitment of additional volunteers for the growing U.S. Civil Defense Corps."
- January 5, 1952 FCDA launched series of nationwide radio programs to promote civil defense organizations in the country, featuring officials of FCDA, Atomic Energy Commission, and top senatorial and military leaders.
- January 7, 1952 "Alert America" Convoy Exhibit opened to public at Interdepartmental Auditorium, Constitution Ave., Washington. Exhibit presented various aspects of civil defense and reasons why America needed a well-trained civil defense organization. After Washington showing, "Alert America" toured major U.S. cities to encourage public support and participation in civil defense. . . . National Civil Defense Advisory Council, created by President Truman, met in Washington to attend exhibit, to review first year's progress of FCDA, and to discuss plans for 1952.

January 9, 1952 State, territorial, and FCDA regional civil defense directors held 3-day conference at Wardman Park Hotel (now Sheraton Park) to map 1952 program. About 65 State representatives, seven State deputies, three territorial, and nine regional directors participated in discussions designed to present current policies of Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Defense, and FCDA. The three territorial directors represented Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico; Guam and Virgin Islands did not send representatives. Foremost on agenda were discussions on civil defense volunteer recruiting programs, which called for 17.5 million workers, or one out of every 12 Americans, to meet minimum manpower requirements throughout country. Top consideration also was given to grants-in-aid, fiscal relations between Federal and State governments, public information, and training and education of civil defense volunteers. Conference was open to members of press and radio.

February 4, 1952 FCDA Technical Training School opened at Ogontz, Pa.; reduced funds forced closing and move to Olney, Md., July 28, 1952.

April 17, 1952 Executive Order 10346 enjoined Federal departments and agencies to develop, in coordination with FCDA, civil defense emergency plans pursuant to sec. 302 of Public Law 920, the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950.

October 1952 Mr. Caldwell resigned and Mr. James J. Wadsworth, formerly Deputy Administrator, designated Acting Administrator.

January 16, 1953 Executive Order 10427 gave FCDA responsibility for providing assistance to localities stricken by major disasters under Public Law 875, and revoked Executive Order 10221, which had assigned responsibility to Housing and Home Finance Administrator.

March 1953 Mr. Val Peterson, former Governor of Nebraska, appointed Administrator, FCDA.

June 12, 1953 Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1953 established a new Office of Defense Mobilization which assumed functions of former ODM, the National Security Resources Board, and critical materials stockpiling functions formerly vested in the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Interior, and of the Army and Navy Munitions Board.

June 18, 1953 Executive Order 10461 redefined functions of ODM, as provided in Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1953, including functions of original ODM and those under Defense Production Act of 1950.



- August 5, 1953 FCDA Advisory Bulletin No. 146 announced revision of regional areas. For economic reasons, number of regions was reduced to seven: Region 1, Boston, Mass. (No change.) Region 2, Philadelphia, Pa. (Pa., Del., Md., Va., W.Va., Ky., Ohio); Region 3, Atlanta, Ga. (N.C., S.C., Ga., Fla., Tenn., Ala., Miss.); Region 4, Chicago, Ill. (Ill., Ind., Wis., Minn., Iowa, N.D., S.D.); Region 5, Dallas, Tex. (N.Mex., Tex., Okla., Ark., La.); Region 6, Denver, Col. (Wyo., Col., Neb., Kansas, Mo.); Region 7, San Francisco, Cal. (Cal., Nev., Mont., Idaho, Utah, Ariz., Wash., Oregon).
- April 22, 1954 Executive Order 10529 authorized FCDA to coordinate participation by Federal employees in State and local civil defense preemergency training programs.
- September 1, 1954 FCDA moved to Battle Creek, Mich., leaving only a small liaison staff, including the Administrator, in Washington, D.C. Move included Staff College from Olney, Md., except Rescue School, which continued at Olney until its closing in 1957.
- October 1, 1954 Except for Region 6, which remained near Denver, Col., FCDA regional offices moved to safer locations in keeping with national policy of locating civil defense headquarters outside areas of expected heavy damage: Region 1, Newton Center, Mass.; Region 2, West Chester, Pa.; Region 3, Thomasville, Ga.; Region 4, Joliet, Ill.; Region 5, Denton, Tex.; Region 6, Denver, Col.; Region 7, Santa Rosa, Cal. There were no changes in regional boundaries. (During 1955 Region 2 was moved to Olney, Md., and Region 4 to Battle Creek, Mich.)
- May 11, 1955 Executive Order 10611 established Civil Defense Coordinating Board, to assist in the development of an orderly, integrated plan for participation of all Federal departments and agencies in the civil defense of the Nation, and to report to President on progress of such plan.
- June 14, 1957 Mr. Val Peterson resigned and Mr. Lewis E. Berry designated Acting Administrator.
- June 19, 1957 Mr. Leo A. Hoegh, former Governor of Iowa, appointed Administrator, serving in that capacity until July 1, 1958, when he was named Director of Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization, later redesignated Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization (OCDM).
- October 29, 1957 Executive Order 10737 expanded functions of FCDA in administering disaster relief under Public Law 875.

April 24, 1958 President Eisenhower transmitted to the Congress Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1958. Under this plan all nonmilitary defense functions of the Federal Government were transferred to the President. These included coordinating and conducting the Nation's interrelated defense mobilization and civil defense functions. The plan also consolidated the Office of Defense Mobilization and the Federal Civil Defense Administration in the Executive Office of the President. This new office (Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization) was made responsible for directing and coordinating the preparedness activities of the Federal departments and agencies and for providing unified nonmilitary defense guidance and assistance to State and local governments.

June 9, 1958 FCDA Eastern Instructor Training Center opened at Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, New York.

July 1, 1958 Executive Order 10773 delegated to the Director, Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization, all functions transferred to the President by Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1958. (EO 10773 had the effect of transferring to the Director of new agency certain authorities delegated by Executive Orders 10219, 10242, 10260, 10296, 10312, 10346, 10421, 10427, 10460, 10480, 10494, 10524, 10529, 10560, 10590, 10601, 10634, 10638, 10655, 10660, 10700, 10705, and 10737. EO 10773 revoked Executive Orders 10224, 10276, 10293, 10350, 10475, 10611, and sec. 102 of 10480.)

August 8, 1958 Public Law 85-606 amended Public Law 920 to vest responsibility for civil defense jointly in Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions, and to authorize: (1) financial contributions to States and their political subdivisions for necessary and essential personnel and administrative expenses, commonly referred to as the P&A program; (2) reimbursement toward expenses of students attending civil defense schools, known as the Student Expense Program.

August 26, 1958 Public 85-763 redesignated the new organization as the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization (OCDM). (Note: This was done to restore the "CD" identity.)

September 6, 1958 Executive Order 10782 amended Executive Order 10773 by deleting the words "Defense and Civilian Mobilization" and inserting therefor the words "Civil and Defense Mobilization," as authorized by Public Law 85-763.

March 1, 1959 By Interim Directive No. 45, dated February 27, 1959, OCDM established Region 8, Everett, Wash., with jurisdiction over Alaska, Wash., Oregon, Montana, Idaho. (Region 8 was moved to Bothell, Wash., in December 1968, upon completion of underground facility.)



November 1959 OCDM Western Instructor Training Center established at Alameda, Cal.

January 20, 1961 Mr. Leo A. Hoegh resigned as Director of OCDM. (For about one week after resignation, Mr. John S. Patterson, former Deputy Director, served as Acting Director; then Mr. Lewis E. Berry was designated Acting Director and served as such until appointment of new Director.)

March 9, 1961 Frank B. Ellis, former Governor of Louisiana, took oath of office as Director, OCDM.

March 25, 1961 President Kennedy, in a special message to the Congress, announced that under authority of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1958 he was assigning responsibility for civil defense to the top civilian authority already responsible for continental defense, the Secretary of Defense; and that the OCDM would be reconstituted as a small staff agency to assist in the coordination of these functions, under the name of Office of Emergency Planning.

July 20, 1961 Executive Order 10952, effective August 1, 1961, transferred to the Secretary of Defense certain civil defense functions under the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended, and retained in the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization functions which had formerly been assigned to the Office of Defense Mobilization, and natural disaster functions under Public Law 875. (Name of OCDM was changed by Public Law 87-296, approved September 22, 1961, to Office of Emergency Planning.)

August 14, 1961 Executive Order 10958 delegated responsibility for civil defense food stockpiles to the Secretary of Agriculture, and for civil defense medical stockpiles to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

August 30, 1961 Mr. Steuart L. Pittman named by President Kennedy to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Civil Defense). (DoD Directive 5140.1 covered functions of ASD(CD).)

February 16, 1962 President Kennedy signed various Executive orders assigning to other departments and agencies certain emergency preparedness functions in fields related to their activities:
 EO 10997, Secretary of the Interior
 EO 10998, Secretary of Agriculture
 EO 10999, Secretary of Commerce
 EO 11000, Secretary of Labor
 EO 11001, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare
 EO 11002, Postmaster General
 EO 11003, Federal Aviation Agency
 EO 11004, Housing and Home Finance Administrator
 EO 11005, Interstate Commerce Commission



September 27, 1962 Executive Order 11051, prescribing responsibilities of the Office of Emergency Planning in the Executive Office of the President.

April 1, 1964 (a) Effective April 1, 1964, Secretary of Defense transferred all functions assigned to him by EO 10952 to the Secretary of the Army, with authority to redelegate. (DoD Directive 5160.50, March 31, 1964, and Federal Register notice published April 10, 1964 (29 F.R. 5017).)

(b) Concurrently, Secretary of the Army established in his immediate office an Office of Civil Defense, headed by a Director of Civil Defense, re delegating to the Director of Civil Defense all functions assigned to the Secretary of the Army by the Secretary of Defense. (Also published in the Federal Register April 10, 1964, 29 F.R. 5017.)

(c) Mr. William P. Durkee named to serve as Director of Civil Defense.

November 1, 1965 Eastern and Western Instructor Training Centers closed; activities combined with Staff College, Battle Creek, Mich.

October 11, 1966 Executive Order 11310 (sponsored by Office of Emergency Planning) assigned emergency preparedness functions to the Attorney General.

December 31, 1966 Mr. William P. Durkee resigned; Mr. Joseph Romm designated Acting Director of Civil Defense, effective January 1, 1967.

May 22, 1968 Mr. Romm sworn in as Director of Civil Defense.

October 21, 1968 Office of Emergency Planning redesignated by sec. 402 of Public Law 90-608 (82 Stat. 1194) as Office of Emergency Preparedness.

May 20, 1969 Mr. John E. Davis, former Governor of North Dakota, sworn in as Director of Civil Defense by Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird.

October 28, 1969 President Nixon signed Executive Order 11490 (sponsored by Office of Emergency Preparedness) assigning emergency preparedness functions to Federal departments and agencies and superseding previous Executive orders on subject.

May 5, 1972 Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird established independent DoD agency, Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, headed by a Director reporting directly to the Secretary of Defense. John E. Davis continued as Director. Office of Civil Defense abolished. (DCPA charter covered in DoD Directive 5105.43, "Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA).")

January 1973

Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1973 proposed abolishment of Office of Emergency Preparedness as of June 30, 1973, with transfer of responsibilities to HUD (disaster functions), GSA (certain functions under Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 and Defense Production Act of 1950), and Treasury (import investigations under Trade Expansion Act of 1962).

February 1, 1973

DCPA established two regional suboffices:

DCPA Region One Suboffice: New York City; responsible for New York, New Jersey.

DCPA Region Six Suboffice: Kansas City, Mo.; responsible for Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska.

Kentucky transferred from Region 4 to Region 3

Ohio transferred from Region 2 to Region 4

Utah transferred from Region 7 to Region 6

June 27, 1973

Executive Order 11725, "Transfer of Certain Functions of the Office of Emergency Preparedness," effective July 1, 1973, transferred to HUD, Treasury, and GSA functions of OEP as of July 1, 1973. All delegations previously issued by President to OEP were to remain in effect until superseded or canceled by succeeding agencies.

July 1973

As authorized by Executive Order 11725:

(a) Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) established by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to administer natural disaster functions.

(b) Office of Preparedness (OP) established by Administrator, General Services Administration, to develop and coordinate civil preparedness policies and plans.

December 10, 1973

Executive Order 11749, "Consolidating Disaster Relief Functions Assigned to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development." Sec. 3 established National Council on Federal Disaster Assistance, composed of HUD (Chairman) and representatives from DoD (Army and DCPA), Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, HEW, Transportation, Small Business Administration, and Office of Economic Opportunity. Superseded Council established by EO 11526; also superseded EO 11526, 11575, 11662, 11678, and sec. 1 of EO 11725.

May 22, 1974

Congress enacted Public Law 93-288, entitled "Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1974" (short title: "Disaster Relief Act of 1974"), repealing the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-606 as amended by P.L. 92-385), except sections 231, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 301, 302, 303, and 304. The provisions of this Act (P.L. 93-288) were retroactive to April 1, 1974.

page 20 of 21



July 11, 1974

Executive Order 11795, "Delegating Disaster Relief Functions Pursuant to the Disaster Relief Act of 1974," effective May 22, 1974, to:

- (1) Secretary, Housing and Urban Development, with authority to redelegate to head of any agency of executive branch all powers vested in President, except sections 202c, 301, 313, 401, 409, and 412;
- (2) Secretary of Defense, provisions of section 202c concerning utilization of Federal civil defense communications system for disaster warnings; and
- (3) Secretary of Agriculture, all authority under section 409 concerning food coupons and distribution.

Compiled by Mary U. Harris, Information Services, DCPA, February 7, 1975, with the help of Carol Wanner, White House Office Library, formerly the library of Office of Emergency Preparedness and predecessor agencies, including the National Security Resources Board and the Office for Emergency Management, Executive Office of the President, within which the World War II Office of Civilian Defense was established.



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