



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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February 24, 1997

Ms. Kay C. Goss
Associate Director for Preparedness,
Training and Exercises
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Room 622
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Ms. Goss:

This letter is in response to your request for review and comment on the proposed draft report entitled, *Preliminary Assessment of National Security Emergency Resources Preparedness (NSERP) Executive Orders and Related Documents* which was prepared in response to a memorandum dated June 30, 1995, from the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

The complexity and diversity of the policy issues underlying various operational NSERP Executive Orders require a policy statement. Although I am in agreement with the basic purpose and intent of the Preliminary Assessment, I also recommend the development of an entirely new National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) to address our current world emergency preparedness issues just as NSDD 47 addressed the NSERP issues of the early 1980s. A new NSDD will then be the foundation of a new Executive Order to delegate NSERP authorities and assign operational responsibilities to the Federal departments and agencies in light of current trends and threats. Executive Order 12656 was written through a very active interdepartmental process requiring approximately four years for completion. Its details describe statutory and mutually agreed interrelationships among all departments and agencies, which generally apply for all forms of major emergency, not just mobilization for global war. Therefore, I recommend retaining both NSDD 47 and Executive Order 12656 as standby authorities should old scenarios arise in the future.

Any final changes in Executive Order 12919, which implements the Defense Production Act, will be subject to the expected modernization of the DPA as mandated by Congress, and formal interagency coordination. We agree that Executive Order 12742, which implements the Selective Service Act and serves as a backup to the Defense Priorities and Allocation System, and Executive Order 12919 should be consistent.



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While the Department endorses the purposes of this Preliminary Assessment as a necessary first step, we believe that these far reaching NSERP issues will require further development and clarification by the National Security Council.

I appreciate the efforts and time spent by the staffs of FEMA, and the other Federal agencies to produce this Preliminary Assessment. I further encourage them to continue to meet the many challenges of this important work.

Sincerely,



John B. Goodman
Deputy Under Secretary
(Industrial Affairs & Installations)

cc:
Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology)



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