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FEMA

September 21, 2017

SENT VIA E-MAIL TO: john@greenewald.com

John Greenewald
The Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Rd.
Castaic, CA 91384

Re: FEMA FOIA Case Number 2017-FEFO-01245

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), dated February 24, 2016. You are seeking a copy of all records pertaining to Operation Alert that were not given to you in FOIA Case 1342753-000.

The FBI referred your request and 10 pages of records to this office for processing under the FOIA. This request was received by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on February 10, 2017. We are granting your request under the FOIA, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and DHS' implementing regulations, 6 C.F.R. Chapter I and Part 5. After carefully reviewing the responsive documents, I determined that they are appropriate for public release. They are enclosed in their entirety; no deletions or exemptions have been claimed.

You have the right to appeal if you disagree with FEMA's response. The procedure for administrative appeals is outlined in the DHS regulations at 6 C.F.R. § 5.8. In the event you wish to submit an appeal, we encourage you to both state the reason(s) you believe FEMA's initial determination on your FOIA request was erroneous in your correspondence, and include a copy of this letter with your appeal. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal within 90 days from the date of this letter to fema-foia@fema.dhs.gov, or alternatively, via mail at the following address:

FEMA
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Information Management Division (FOIA Appeals)
500 C Street, SW, Seventh Floor, Mail Stop 3172
Washington, D.C. 20472-3172

As part of the 2007 amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road- OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770/Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
Facsimile: 202-741-5769

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$25 minimum, there is no charge.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, you may contact FEMA at (202) 646-3323, or you may contact FEMA's Public Liaison in the same manner. Please reference the subsequent case identifier: **FEMA 2017-FEFO-01245**.

Sincerely,

Eric Neuschaefer
Chief Disclosure Branch
Information Management Division
Mission Support

Enclosure(s): One document, 10 pages

Rec in mail
7-9-57
for Dept
[Signature]

EMERGENCY INFORMATION CENTER

CONELRAD



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FICKLEN

Public Information Guide for **OPERATION ALERT 1957** for State & Local Use

66-19009

NOT RECORDED

3 JUL 10 1957

(This Guide Is Intended As A Supplement To The Public Information Guide for 1956 & Does Not Duplicate Basic Suggestions for Local News, Feature & Photo Coverage contained therein.)

6
JUL 12 1957

~~OPERATION ALERT 1957 AND EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT PLANNING~~

Without preservation of representative government, no civilized nation could survive a massive nuclear attack. It is for this reason that civil defense planning is emphasizing the continuity of government at all levels. This concept of survival planning calls for the inclusion of civil defense preparedness in all layers of Federal, State, city, county and town governments.

Achieving an emergency government capability to insure the nation's survival would add the dimension of depth to the breadth of public awareness toward which civil defense has been striving. This capability is of primary importance in organizing the total non-military resources of the nation to meet a total emergency.

Operation Alert 1957 offers a nationwide opportunity to bring emergency government training into action, to speed the identification of the main problems so that solutions can be planned. The 7,500,000 persons employed in Federal, State and local government constitute the front-line of civilian forces. Their mission will be to develop plans to maintain and restore government if enemy attack were to destroy many of our target cities.

Governors of many States already have relocation centers established in the countryside and have evacuated their staffs to carry on emergency government in previous Operations Alert. Mayors of many cities have readied plans for city governments to relocate. Federal government relocation centers will be activated as in previous civil defense training exercises, to improve emergency government procedures.

State and Target City directors therefore are urged to devote particular attention to the personal participation of their Chief Executives where emergency government exercises are planned.

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(NOTE: See "Public Information Guide for Operation Alert 1956" for suggestions for local news, feature and picture coverage possibilities.)

Cover: Original drawing by Herb Ficklen of the Dallas News.

A NEW KEYNOTE FOR CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING

New to civil defense training is the exercise problem of a period of "Increased Readiness" which precedes Operation Alert, 1957. It occupies the four-day interval, commencing Monday, July 8, and also coincides with the period set aside primarily for State and local public participation.

Together these will provide a variety of activities for civil defense organizations at all levels. For public information officers, the home town participation phase has always been the most rewarding assignment of the annual training exercise, because local media always give it abundant space and air time. Yet the advance material and photograph planning require many hours of work and frequent contact with media editors. Each year more and more enterprise has been put into these local public participations. This has paid off in increased public awareness and greater community acceptance of civil defense.

This year it is hoped that this enterprise will be carried still further ahead and with special emphasis on radiological defense measures, because the fallout peril is uppermost in the anxious thoughts of most people.

To insure equal preparations for the "Increased Readiness" period from July 8 through July 11 and the local public events phase, it is recommended that Civil Defense Directors combine the two operations. In this way they can give the readiness mobilization keynote to all local public participations. Thus local events can be planned to carry out the local readiness actions which would logically precede a tactical warning such as the massive simulated attack of July 12 would bring to the United States.

If combined, the "Increased Readiness" and local demonstrations will carry a single message to the public. This would give you an attention-arousing theme for local training activities and outdoor demonstrations.

SURVIVAL PROJECTS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTION

Where Survival Projects are being developed for State or target areas, the public information officer would gain valuable training experience if invited to take part in some phases of Operation Alert 1957, particularly if he is responsible for putting together the staff, mechanics, and resources needed for the emergency information annex. Close attention could be given to areas such as coordination with other services, emergency broadcasting, use of information devices, other than media channels, and cooperation with media.

HOW "INCREASED READINESS" MIGHT INVOLVE YOUR LOCALITY

To anticipate the local public actions of a period of Increased Readiness, it is necessary to visualize a theoretical crisis abroad. From this we can deduce the probable assumptions and project the possible State and local actions.

WORLD TENSION INVOKES STEP-UP OF PLANS FOR CONTINUITY OF FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

1. Hypothetically, world tensions have increased over a period of weeks. Plan C. Mobilization is under way throughout the country. Diplomatic efforts to preserve peace have broken down. Intelligence reports indicate the enemy is concentrating his heavy bombers for a long-range strike. The President thereupon proclaims a state of national emergency and State governments are advised to prepare accordingly.

LOCAL ACTION

SELECTIVE EVACUATION TEST

2. Civil Defense Directors in all States and Target Cities promptly begin a strategic evacuation of certain classes of civilians, according to pre-arranged plans. These are defined as children and their mothers, infirm and aged people, hospital and sanatorium patients, non-wage-earners and non-essential wage-earners. They are moved out in an orderly manner to previously designated places in the countryside.

E. I. ACTION TO PREVENT PANIC

3. A spontaneous exodus of various types of civilians also develops, not only from target cities but also from some support communities. These civilians go by their own cars but also besiege train, plane and bus terminals for transportation to distant areas where relatives or friends reside. Emergency Information units meet this situation by loudspeaker radio amplification in terminals, advising the public to assemble at stated points for emergency transportation. Reassuring announcements prevent panic in most situations.

REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION OF EVACUEES

4. Half-emptied cities maintain only essential functions, with night and day shifts manned by workers who have been assigned billets in the suburbs, from which they commute to and from work. Emergency Information deals with the problem of separated families, combating the clamor to be reunited by reporting safe arrival of mothers and children in reception areas.

**CONTROL CENTER
ACTION**

5. Civil Defense activates its emergency control center, calls out its 24-hour staff, when Mayor and his staff shift to relocated center. P. I. staffs shift into Emergency Information operations, in city and support areas, reinforced by Information Specialists from CD Reserve Force. Public morale is being maintained despite the growing anxiety. By nightfall, the selective evacuation is complete in most target cities. Radio stations are authorized by FCC to remain on the air all night until further notice. Two days later the newspapers begin to reduce the number of pages. Retail business is almost at a standstill in midtown city areas. Shoppers in suburbs and country communities have made a run on food stores and gasoline filling stations. Anti-hoarding warnings are being broadcast.

**NIGHT-LONG RADIO
VIGILANCE**

**ANTI-HOARDING
MEASURES**

**COMBATING
FALSE LULL**

6. On the 3rd day, during an apparent lull in warlike developments abroad, a spontaneous flow back of people into the cities begins to develop. Relying on radio broadcasts to reach these people through their auto radios, Emergency Information bulletins are sent out, stressing the continued need for dispersing the dependent population. To further stress the gravity of the situation, doctors and nurses are next moved out to support area hospitals. Diplomatic relations with the enemy country are broken at midnight on July 11. Spontaneous evacuations are resumed and quicken during the pre-dawn hours.

**EMERGENCY
HOSPITAL
ACTION**

(This is an attempt in narrative form to indicate the local readiness actions which civil defense would be likely to take in the period of Increased Readiness. Emergency Information requirements for such an alert would be as critical as during a prolonged Tactical Alert. The battle for survival would hang in the balance if public morale could not be maintained for Evacuation and Shelter orders to be carried out promptly.)

LOCAL PUBLIC READINESS ACTIVITIES

Whether the Civil Defense Director decides to carry out public actions to train his organization for a period of Increased Readiness, he will not wish to pass up the opportunity to stress the readiness mobilization keynote in every local civil defense activity that precedes the simulated attack of July 12.

During the 4-day period from July 8, local and State CD Directors are encouraged by the "Standards of the Exercise" to plan for public rehearsal of evacuation plans, emergency service actions, and other public demonstrations such as radiological monitoring units and mobile support activities. The C. D. Director has the choice of staging these as actual demonstrations or he may simulate them.

If the strategic readiness theme is to be stressed, it is recommended that "Take Cover" actions be scheduled for the survival period which follows the Tactical Warning of July 12. (Saturday and Sunday are considered best for big public evacuations and mass feeding exercises.)

A cross-section summary of outstanding public participations of last year's Operation Alert given below may suggest events which are especially suitable for local readiness operations:

- Move by Governor or Mayor to relocation center.
- Use of helicopters or light planes for evacuation of local leaders.
- Activation of emergency control centers.
- Evacuation of hospital or residential block.
- Setting up of emergency field hospital with simulated casualties.
- Plotting of wind and weather charts for fallout forecast.
- Radiological trailers in public monitoring demonstration.
- Evacuation of children from a school building.
- Motorcycle emergency couriers in action.
- Mobile support units mobilize for emergency calls.
- Dispersal of city fire-fighting units to prearranged rendezvous points.
- Evacuation traffic control procedures.
- Demonstration of mobile and portable radio equipment.
- Reception and registration of arriving evacuees.
- Mass feeding preparations.
- Call to auxiliary police and firemen for readiness assignments.

THE "SURPRISE ATTACK" OF JULY 12, 1957.

A realistic element of surprise has been injected into the triggering of the massive "nuclear attack" to be simulated during Operation Alert 1957. Approximately 125 cities will be hit by one or more bombs with a megatonnage far in excess of any previous national training exercises. State and Target City Civil Defense Directors will not know in advance what cities are to be attacked or what the bomb yields and Ground Zeroes will be for their respective areas. Sealed envelopes will reach them a few hours before the Tactical Alert is to be simulated at 11:00 a. m. EST on July 12. Only then will they know what their survival problems will be for this year's training exercise. Likewise, realism is being injected into the radiological defense actions with actual weather of the forenoon of July 12 to be used in estimating the area to be evacuated or to receive "Take Cover" instructions because of the drift of radioactive fallout.

Public information officers will thus have a much more exciting local coverage situation for newspapers and radio and television news editors. Good photographic coverage should result when the Civil Defense Director is shown as he opens the sealed envelopes. Action at the control center when the evacuation order is simulated should attract media coverage. Local fallout monitoring will produce even greater opportunities for newsworthy actions.

"DISASTER" FRONT PAGES FOR NEWSPAPERS

While newsprint scarcity could prevent most daily newspapers from bringing out "Emergency Editions" or special supplements, Operation Alert 1957 creates a fine opportunity for simulated "Disaster Front Pages" which fit neatly into regular editions. Tactful, direct approach on your part could induce one of your local newspapers to simulate a "Disaster Front Page" to cover the local angles of the "Surprise Attack" of July 12, 1957.

Outstanding examples of "Disaster Front Pages" can be seen in FCDA's booklet, "Emergency Publishing in Time of Disaster," available on request from the Public Affairs Office, FCDA, Battle Creek, Michigan. One of these is a reproduction of the Philadelphia Inquirer's "Page One" carried as Page 3; the other shows how the Oklahoma City Times built its Disaster Front Page in a reduced format and made it Page One.

WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE PLAN

The nationwide wire services, (The Associated Press, United Press and International News Service) will give considerable attention to Operation Alert 1957 in order to train their bureau personnel for the actual attack. Many of their bureaus throughout the country will report each "bomb strike" for civil defense's emergency information requirements. To obtain this information the wire service bureaus will contact each State CD Director shortly after noontime EST of July 12 and request the following facts:

- (1) Names of cities "attacked"? At what time?
- (2) Size of "bombs" on each target area?
- (3) Location of each Ground Zero?
- (4) Groundburst or airburst?
- (5) Did you order an evacuation? When did it begin?
- (6) Did you order "Take Cover"? At what time?

It is important for State civil defense directors to be prepared for such press inquiries. Wire service bureaus will contact them in advance; if not, it is recommended that State directors give their emergency location telephone numbers to the wire service bureaus to facilitate quick contact.

Such information as the wire services will be gathering in this manner will be official in nature since it will be derived entirely from civil defense directors. Moreover, it will be gathered mainly for relay to Federal Civil Defense regional offices.

More detailed and faster coverage will be required of local bomb strikes by newspapers and radio and television editors of Target City areas. Public information officers should gear to furnish this with maximum speed direct to local media editors.

National coverage of the progress of Operation Alert by the wire services will originate only at the Emergency Information Center at Newpoint, but this will not contain nationwide or State-by-State tabulations of casualties and bomb damage.

If local casualty releases are to be provided, the Federal Civil Defense Administration recommends that Target City Directors emphasize the net saving of human lives through timely evacuation and "Take Cover" actions. To release the gross casualties and damage data from megaton-multipliers does not give a true picture of the effectiveness of survival actions.

TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY BROADCASTING

Emergency broadcasting for civil defense is a vital link in saving human life and in maintaining public morale when enemy attack is threatened. CONELRAD is but one phase of emergency civil defense broadcasting and is confined to the duration of the attack phase. This year no CONELRAD drill on a national basis is planned. However, State and local directors are urged to carry out simulated CONELRAD operations in order to keep everyone in a state of "standby" readiness for tactical alerts.

In Strategic and Tactical Alerts, emergency broadcasting would be the fastest channel for informing and instructing the people. In the post-attack and fallout crisis, emergency broadcasting would have a prolonged duty which requires planning and training now.

Major disasters also require emergency broadcasting at local levels. The approach of tornadoes is a time for civil defense units to be ready to give basic survival instruction to the public through radio broadcasts. In some States and metropolitan areas radio stations have developed "disaster network" operations which enable not only the total radio broadcasting resources but the sound track of television stations to be linked together to provide a valuable warning and emergency information system for the public.

In the absence of a CONELRAD drill for Operation Alert 1957, civil defense organizations may wish to carry forward the training of script writing for emergency broadcasting by simulating a local survival action. However, none of this should be "aired" to the listening public.

These local tests can be tape recorded and simulated within the Control Center without the risk of public misunderstanding which could create alarm or confusion. CONELRAD switch-over procedures also can be simulated by cluster station personnel.

Advance interviews with the civil defense director and other prominent leaders in local government who are assisting in the emergency government planning would appeal to many local radio stations.

Simulated proclamations of the Governor or Mayor can be developed from basic script materials in which the Increased Readiness theme is keynoted. No direct appeal for additional civil defense volunteers is recommended for any of the releases to local media.

Prepared by Public Affairs Office

FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION

Battle Creek, Michigan