

The Postal Service's Role in Civil Defense during the Cold War

As the largest civilian federal agency, the Postal Service played an important, but little-known role in preparing the nation for nuclear attack during the Cold War. In larger cities, Post Offices were stocked as fallout shelters and postal workers were trained to monitor radiation levels. All of the nation's Post Offices were supplied with emergency change of address and safety notification cards for use by displaced citizens. Large Post Offices were also designated as sites for the registration of enemy aliens in time of war or national emergency. And approximately 1,500 postal workers in 43 states formed a volunteer ham radio network, for use as a backup communications system in case regular channels broke down.

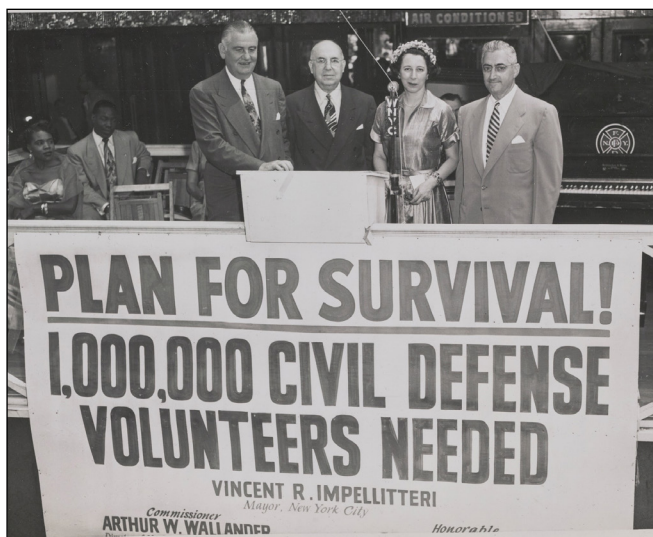
Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, plans, and drills

From the end of World War II until late 1991, the United States and its allies were pitted against the Soviet Union and its satellite states in a tense, geopolitical struggle known as the Cold War. On August 29, 1949, the Soviets successfully tested their first nuclear weapon. This led to a nuclear arms race, as each side worked to increase the number and destructive power of its weapons.

In response to this new threat, Congress passed *The Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950*. As he signed the bill, President Harry Truman remarked that it was “designed to protect life and property...in case of enemy assault.”¹ The act created a new agency, the Federal Civil Defense Administration, and authorized the President or Congress to proclaim a civil defense emergency.² During such an emergency, “any Federal department or agency” could be directed to provide “personnel, materials, and facilities” as needed.³

On April 17, 1952, Truman ordered each federal agency to plan for how it would provide resources during an emergency. He also ordered each agency to plan for “continuity of its essential functions.”⁴ The Post Office Department's plans were outlined in Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield's order of May 27, 1955. This order outlined a two-pronged civil defense plan.

The first goal of the plan was to ensure continuity of postal operations considered essential to national security. All postal facility heads — including Postmasters — were ordered to draw up succession plans “in the event the ranking official [was] incapacitated or cut off from communication by an emergency.”⁵ The second part of the plan concerned how the Post Office Department would support civil defense by providing personnel, materials, facilities and services. Oversight of the Department's civil defense activities was assigned to the Postal Inspection Service. This included responsibility for pre-emergency planning, testing and drills.



New York City Civil Defense volunteer drive, 1950

Postmaster Albert Goldman supported the city's mayor and civil defense officials during an appeal for volunteers in New York City.



Courtesy National Archives

New Hampshire Boy Scouts promote civil defense, 1955

Two members of the Boy Scouts of America promoted civil defense at the Peterborough State Fair in New Hampshire.



Postal vehicle used as an ambulance during a civil defense drill, Washington, DC, 1956

A Dodge C-3-C6 mail van was pressed into service as an emergency ambulance during a civil defense exercise. During the drill, a live "victim" was carried on the stretcher as part of the simulated emergency.

Postal vehicles designated as emergency Civil Defense vehicles, 1956

Each year from 1954 to 1961, civil defense authorities coordinated a drill called *Operation Alert*.⁶ Cities across the country conducted civil defense exercises on the same day. Postal participation in *Operation Alert* 1956 was described in a West Virginia newspaper:

A civil defense drill was held Tuesday afternoon in the Beckley Post Office. This drill was one of a series of simultaneous drills held in 38 key postal installations of the Washington Region....

These training drills are required by the government since keeping the mails moving plays an important part in the communications system that must be maintained during national emergencies. Four federal trucks operated by the Beckley Post Office have been designated Civil Defense units, and bear that insignia.⁷

Including the four vehicles at the Beckley Post Office, 25,000 postal trucks were designated as emergency civil defense vehicles and fitted with Civil Defense decals in 1956. It was believed that "postal trucks would be valuable as emergency ambulances, rescue vehicles, and for local emergency transportation in the event of an enemy attack."⁸

In December 1964, the Civil Defense Program was expanded to include even the smallest postal-owned motor vehicles, the three-wheeled Mailsters. Vehicle maintenance facilities provided Civil Defense decals so that each of these smaller delivery vehicles could be identified.⁹ Civil Defense decals were required on postal-owned vehicles until March 1971.¹⁰



Chevrolet 3/4-ton truck with Civil Defense decal, 1958

Starting in 1956, many postal vehicles bore decals indicating their potential use as ambulances, rescue vehicles, and for other transportation during emergencies.



Amateur Radio stamp, 1964

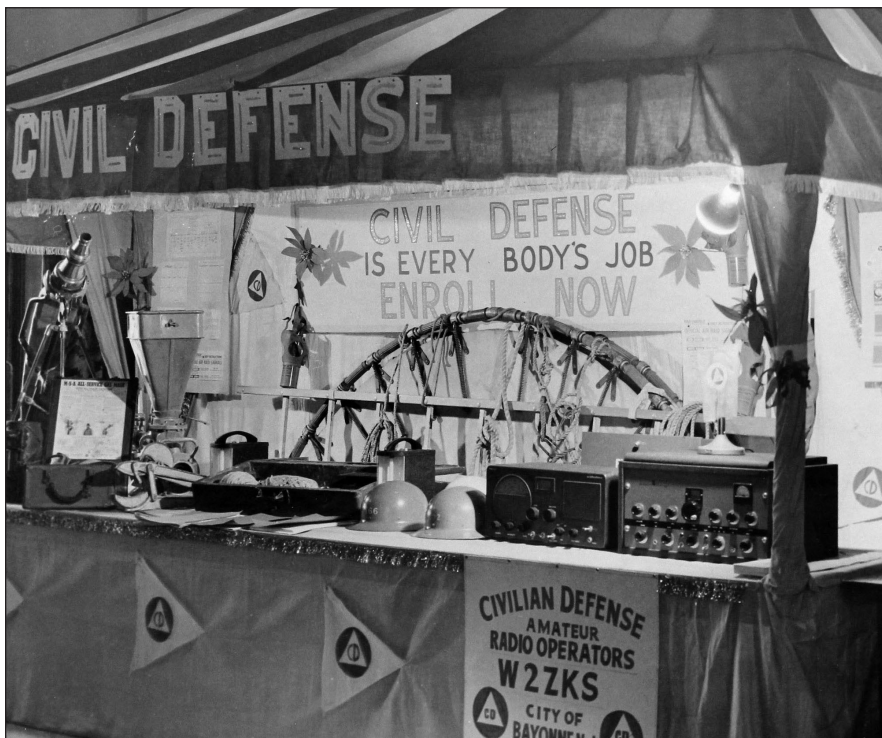
This 5-cent stamp honoring the nation's amateur radio operators was placed on sale in Anchorage, Alaska, on December 15, 1964. It was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the American Radio Relay League, the association of ham radio operators.

Post Office amateur radio network, 1959

Postal officials anticipated that a civil defense emergency could cause a breakdown in normal communications channels, like telephone, telegraph and commercial broadcasting. In the May 8, 1958, issue of the *Postal Bulletin*, Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield appealed to all postal employees who were amateur radio operators to volunteer for service in an emergency. By July 1959, postal employees who were licensed amateur radio operators were organized into a Post Office Net (PON). The mission of the network was to "provide communications for the Department in the event of emergency or natural disaster situations."¹¹

Participation by ham radio operators was voluntary. Interested employees were encouraged to fill out and submit a questionnaire, first published in the *Postal Bulletin* and later as POD Form 1858, *Amateur Radio Operator Membership Questionnaire*.¹² The Post Office Net became fully operational in 41 states during fiscal year 1960. Operating procedures and identification of each participant by address and call sign were incorporated into a directory.¹³ In 1962, approximately 1,500 postal employees, in 43 states, were part of the network.¹⁴

In 1964, when Assistant Postmaster General Frederick Belen testified before Congress about the Postal Service's civil defense readiness, he praised the network as a hidden gem: "One of the little-known things is our amateur radio network called PON which was established to provide emergency communications in event of disrupted land lines."¹⁵ Belen's assistant, James R. Thomason, added, "In the event of an emergency, this system becomes immediately available for any communication that we want. It is an informal but well organized group which can participate in any kind of emergency."¹⁶



Courtesy National Archives

Civil Defense tent, Bayonne, New Jersey, 1954

Amateur radios were displayed prominently at a Civil Defense recruitment fair. By 1962, approximately 1,500 postal employees, in 43 states, were part of the Post Office Net.

By 1962, PON was opened to licensed radio operators who were not postal workers.¹⁷ In 1968, *The Ludington Daily News* [Michigan] profiled Mrs. Willard Lake, reportedly the only PON member in Mason County, Michigan. She relayed as many as 184 messages in a single month, mostly from U.S. servicemen sending messages home. "The Post Office Net is the only network supported by a government agency," the article stated. "It originated among postal employees but has now branched out to include any amateur operator with the necessary license."¹⁸

Although POD Form 1858, *Amateur Radio Operator Membership Questionnaire*, was last listed in a March 1969 postal forms catalog, newspaper accounts indicate that PON operated in some areas until at least the early 1970s.¹⁹

Emergency change of address and safety notification cards, 1959

In 1959, the Postal Service issued two new forms for use only during a civil defense emergency — POD Form 809, *Emergency Change of Address Card*, and POD Form 810, *Safety Notification Card*. One carton of each was shipped to every Post Office in the United States for storage until needed.²⁰

According to an article in the July 2, 1959, issue of the *Postal Bulletin*, POD Form 809, *Emergency Change of Address Card*, was intended for use by persons who were “displaced or relocated because of emergency conditions relating to an attack on the United States, or evacuation necessitated thereby.”²¹ Form 809 was designed to serve a dual purpose — to authorize the forwarding of First-Class Mail to a different address, and to help postal employees redirect undeliverable mail.

POD Form 810, *Safety Notification Card*, was the companion to the *Emergency Change of Address Card*. It was intended to let family members, friends and others know of the safety and location of the sender.

On February 16, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed Executive Order 11002, “Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions to the Postmaster General.” The order reemphasized the Postal Service’s role in developing and — if need be — implementing a national emergency registration system in coordination with the Department of Defense. One of the main goals of the system was to reunite families in civil defense emergencies.²²

Emergency change of address and safety notification cards remained at Post Offices long after other aspects of civil defense were abandoned. Though never used, they were updated through the years and were kept in stock at the Postal Service’s supply center until 2018. Some could still be found in Post Offices in 2020.²³

PRINT ABOVE: (Last name) (First name) (Middle name or initial) (Date prepared)

YOUR PRE-EMERGENCY ADDRESS (Print below)

HOUSE NO. & STREET, OR BOX OR RURAL ROUTE NO.

CITY, ZONE NO., STATE

SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW

YOUR PRESENT ADDRESS (Print below)

If not definite; show "GENERAL DELIVERY"

POST OFFICE - STATE

TITLE, IF AUTHORIZED AGENT

READ-IMPORTANT NOTICE

Complete and mail this card at once in order that the Post Office can locate you and forward your letter mail.

A SEPARATE LOCATOR CARD IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PERSON OR ESTABLISHMENT RECEIVING MAIL. Submit a new card promptly every time you change your address. NO POSTAGE REQUIRED.

POD Form 809
Feb. 1959

MAIL FORWARDING ORDER
EMERGENCY CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Emergency Change of Address Card, 1959

Post Office Department Form 809 was designed to serve a dual purpose during a civil defense emergency — to authorize the forwarding of First-Class Mail to a different address, and to help postal employees redirect undeliverable mail.

SAFETY NOTIFICATION CARD—NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

DIRECTIONS.—Fill in this card and mail it immediately after evacuation or attack to any person who might be concerned about your safety. Cards may be obtained free at Civil Defense registration points and Post Offices.

I AM SAFE AND CAN BE REACHED AT THIS ADDRESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

(IF UNABLE TO GIVE DEFINITE MAIL ADDRESS SHOW "GENERAL DELIVERY")

(POST OFFICE) (STATE)

MEMBERS OF FAMILY INCLUDED IN THIS NOTIFICATION (IF NOT INDIVIDUAL SIGNER ONLY)

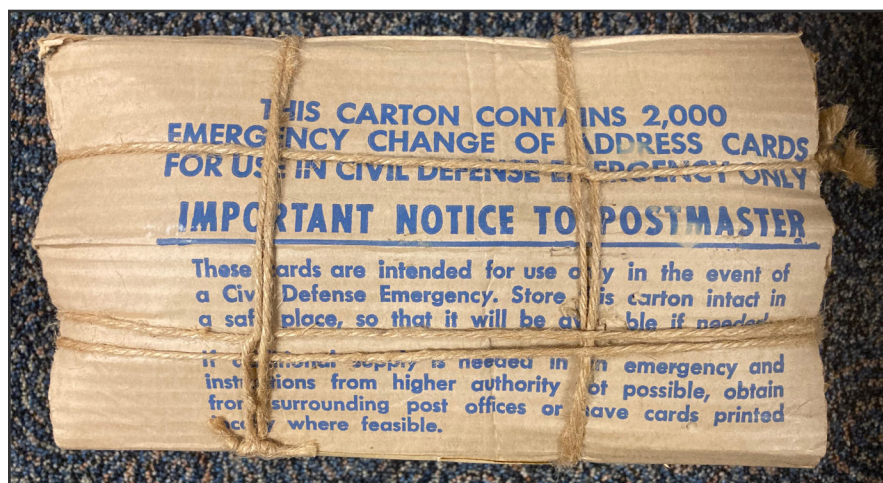
DATE SIGNATURE

POD Form 810 (Feb. 1959)

c60-10-74872-1 GPO

Safety Notification Card, 1959

Post Office Department Form 810, Safety Notification Card, was intended for use by citizens displaced by a civil defense emergency. Citizens could obtain the card for free at any Post Office and mail it postage-free to anyone who might have been concerned about their safety.



Carton of emergency change of address cards, 2020 photo

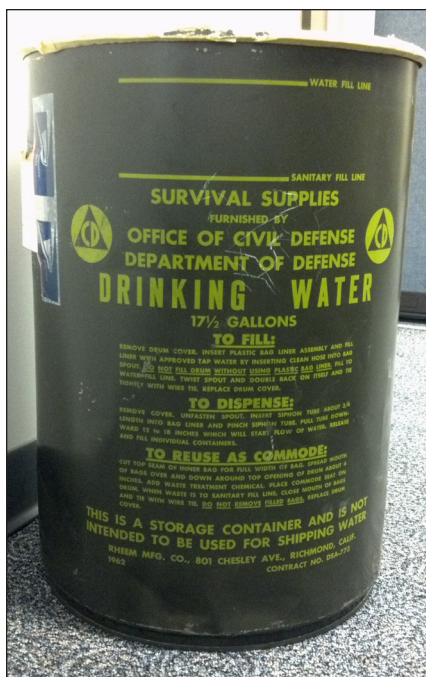
In 1959, every Post Office received a supply of emergency change of address cards, to be kept in storage in case a civil defense emergency was declared by Congress or the President.



Courtesy National Museum of Civil Defense

Fallout shelter sign, 2021 photo

In 1962, the Post Office Department and Department of Defense agreed to stock fallout shelters in designated Post Office buildings nationwide and to mark them with fallout shelter signs.



Civil defense water container, 2012 photo

In 1977, Civil Defense officials arranged for the disposal of shelter supplies that had been stockpiled in Post Offices. Some items were apparently overlooked, including this container of water discovered in the basement of a Nevada postal facility in 2012.

Post Offices as fallout shelters, 1962

One of the underlying assumptions of civil defense was that no matter how destructive a nuclear attack might be, there would be survivors. Government officials knew that atomic weapons would immediately kill millions of people if detonated in populated areas. But radioactive fallout, drifting hundreds of miles on the wind, would kill millions more in the days following a blast — it was these people the government hoped to protect in fallout shelters. To maximize the number of survivors, it was essential that everyone in the fallout zone seek protection.

In 1957, the Eisenhower Administration commissioned a study entitled *Deterrence & Survival in the Nuclear Age*. Better known as the Gaither Report, it called for “a nationwide fallout shelter program to protect the civil population.” The report authors were “convinced that with proper planning the post-attack environment can permit people to come out of the shelters and survive.”²⁴

Government publications like *The Family Fallout Shelter*, published in 1959, encouraged homeowners to construct shelters in their backyards or basements.²⁵ These booklets were geared mainly towards rural and suburban residents. Many city dwellers lacked the room or the resources to build their own shelters.

The administration of President John F. Kennedy shifted the emphasis from private to community shelters.²⁶ Speaking on July 25, 1961, Kennedy said, “In the event of an attack, the lives of those families which are not hit in the nuclear blast and fires can still be saved if they can be warned to take shelter and if that shelter is available. We owe that kind of insurance to our families and to our country.”²⁷

In late 1961, the Office of Civil Defense, through the Corps of Army Engineers, contracted with architects and engineers to survey existing public and private buildings, including Post Offices, to determine which were suitable as public shelters in the event of a nuclear attack.²⁸ Postmasters with basements capable of holding at least 50 persons were advised to have a current set of building blueprints on hand and readily available when the survey team arrived.²⁹ According to the 1962 *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, the goal of the survey was “to locate suitable shelter areas in existing public buildings to accommodate upwards of 50 million people.”³⁰ On May 18, 1962, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Post Office Department and Department of Defense to stock fallout shelters in designated Post Office buildings nationwide and to mark them with the black and yellow signs.

By the end of 1964, about 1,500 postal buildings had been designated as fallout shelters, providing potential space for 1.3 million persons.³¹ The shelters were stockpiled with emergency survival supplies, including food, water, medicines, and radiological survey instruments. The buildings were intended to shelter both postal personnel and members of the public.

In a civil defense emergency, the Postmaster was expected to take on the role of shelter manager.³² The Office of Civil Defense developed detailed plans for shelter managers. The *Handbook for Fallout Shelter Management*, published in 1967, included sections on atmosphere and temperature control, radiological defense, communications, safety, supply and maintenance, medical care and sanitation, food and water, sleeping arrangements, recreation and religious activities.³³ Anticipating that some occupants might die while in the shelter, another 1967 publication, the *Shelter Management Textbook*, included instructions for disposing of corpses.³⁴

The mission of the shelter manager, as stated in the *Shelter Management Textbook*, was “to return as many shelterees as possible to the post-attack world, physically and psychologically capable of assuming their roles in the recovery and reconstruction of the society.”³⁵ To accomplish this goal, the shelter manager was granted “complete authority for operating [the] shelter, including organizing the shelter layout and staff, and making and enforcing rules and procedures.”³⁶ Shelter managers could also decide who was admitted to the shelter and who was excluded.

Shelter occupants were expected to remain inside until radiation levels outside dropped to a safe level. In order to measure radiation levels, the largest shelters were stocked with radiological instruments, like Geiger counters and dosimeters.³⁷ The Post Office Department implemented a training program and by 1968 had trained 6,000 employees to use the radiological equipment.³⁸

The primary form of sustenance stockpiled in shelters was a cracker called a “survival biscuit.” Each person was allotted 700 calories per day, or about 24 biscuits, along with some hard candies called “carbohydrate supplements.”³⁹ Newspapers called the biscuits “nuclear age hardtack.”⁴⁰ Shelter managers were advised that “the palatability of the survival ration may be enhanced if individuals eat only a few biscuits at a time.”⁴¹

Every shelter was equipped with multiple 17.5-gallon steel drums, each of which was to supply two-weeks-worth of drinking water for five people, at the rate of one quart per person per day. As the water drums were emptied, they were to be converted into toilets.

In total, in the early 1960s the U.S. Government bought and distributed about 165,000 tons of food and supplies, worth about \$122 million, for use in fallout shelters throughout the country.⁴² By January 1969, 160 million fallout shelter spaces had been prepared, which the Department of Defense estimated might save 18 to 30 million people in the aftermath of a nuclear attack.⁴³



Cold War-era radiological survey instruments, 2020 photo

The largest fallout shelters were stocked with radiological instruments. The two devices at the top are CD V-720 radiological survey meters; in the center is a pen-shaped dosimeter, with its charger shown below.



Courtesy National Archives

Supplies for the well-stocked fallout shelter, circa 1961

Pictured is a display of the most common supplies stocked in U.S. Government fallout shelters: drinking water, sanitation kits, radiological instruments, medical kits, and survival biscuits.



Courtesy Library of Congress

Basement fallout shelter, Washington, DC, 1977

A worker inspects cartons of survival rations. By 1977, many of the stored rations had deteriorated and were no longer considered fit for human consumption.

Registration of alien enemies in time of war or national emergency, 1963

In 1963, the Post Office Department was given the additional task of registering and fingerprinting "alien enemies in time of war or national emergency."⁴⁴ Postmasters were advised to treat this new obligation "as part of the established Civil Defense Plan of the post office."⁴⁵

Six new forms, created by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice, were shipped to Post Offices across the nation. The forms were sent to only the largest Post Offices, and smaller offices located at county seats. They were to remain in standby storage in case a national emergency was declared. During such an emergency, public notice would have been given for aliens of 'specified nationalities' to appear in person at the nearest designated Post Office within 30 days.

In 1972, Postmasters at smaller Post Offices were instructed to send all of their alien enemy forms to their sectional center facility, while Postmasters at the largest offices were instructed to retain the forms for possible future use. The last reference to "alien enemy" forms found in postal records was in the April 19, 1990, issue of the *Postal Bulletin*, which instructed employees to cease ordering new forms, but to keep existing forms in storage for use in the event of a presidential order. Since they were introduced in 1963, there have been no national emergencies requiring their use.

Alien Enemy Fingerprint Chart, Form AE-6 (top right), and Alien Enemy Certificate of Identification, Form AE-3, 1963

In the event of a declared emergency, aliens of "specified nationalities" would have been ordered to appear at a Post Office to register and be fingerprinted. Such persons over 14 years of age would have been required to carry a certificate of identification at all times.

ALIEN ENEMY FINGERPRINT CHART
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INSTRUCTIONS

To obtain classifiable fingerprints:

1. Use printer's ink.
2. Distribute ink evenly on inking slab.
3. Wash and dry fingers thoroughly.
4. Roll fingers from nail to nail, and avoid allowing fingers to slip.
5. Be sure impressions are recorded in correct order.
6. If an amputation or deformity makes it impossible to print a finger, make a notation to that effect in the individual finger block.
7. If some physical condition makes it impossible to obtain perfect impressions, submit the best that can be obtained with a memo stapled to the card explaining the circumstances.
8. Examine the completed prints to see if they can be classified, bearing in mind the following:
Most fingerprints fall into the patterns shown below (other patterns occur infrequently and are not shown here):

1. LOOP **2. WHORL** **3. ARCH**

1. LOOP
CENTER OF LOOP
DELTA
THE LINES BETWEEN CENTER OF LOOP AND DELTA MUST SHOW

2. WHORL
DELTA
THESE LINES RUNNING BETWEEN DELTAS

3. ARCH
ARCHES HAVE NO DELTAS

(a) A delta (Δ) is the point at which the lines form a triangle. All loop prints have one delta. Whorl prints have two or more. Arch prints have no deltas.

(b) Loop prints cannot be classified unless the center of the loop is clear.

(c) Whorl prints cannot be classified unless the two deltas are clear.

(d) Arch fingerprints can be classified if a sufficient number of ridges are visible to permit identification of the pattern as being a plain, wavy, or imbedded arch.

9. If, upon examination, it appears that any of the prints should be made. If not more than three prints of these fingers may be taken and pasted on this chart, make a new chart.

Form AE-6 (1963 Edition)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ALIEN ENEMY
CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION

Nº 673641

This Certificate must be carried by the person to whom issued and must be produced if required by any police officer or other duly accredited official.

(See Notice Inside)

Form AE-3 (1963 Edition)

NOTICE TO HOLDER OF THIS CERTIFICATE

1. It is your duty to learn about and obey the regulations and instructions controlling the conduct of holders of these certificates. For a summary of them apply at the post office or at the office of the United States Attorney.
2. No alien enemy shall have in his possession any of the following articles: radio transmitters, cameras, short wave radio receiving sets, firearms, weapons, ammunition, bombs, explosives, signal devices, codes or ciphers, radio-active materials, atomic devices or parts thereof, means for promoting chemical or biological warfare, propaganda material of the enemy, or propaganda fostering the policies of the enemy, or records of any organization declared subversive by the Attorney General, or similar articles to the prohibited articles listed.
3. In addition to obtaining any advance permission required, you must immediately give written notices of any change of (a) name, (b) residence, or (c) place of employment. These notices must be sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

16-77325-1 (Continued on next page)

Alien Registration Number _____ Citizenship _____

First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Street Address or Rural Route _____

City _____ County _____

Born in or Near _____ (City-Province-Country)

Birthdate (Month-Day-Year) _____ Length of Residence in U.S. _____

Height _____ Weight _____ Hair _____ Eyes _____

Distinctive Marks _____

(Signature of Holder)

Right Index Fingerprint _____

(Photograph)

Defunding, de-emphasis, and dismantling of national Civil Defense program

Federal support for civil defense peaked in 1962, the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then fell through the remainder of the decade.⁴⁶ Civil defense preparations were last discussed in the *Annual Report of the Postmaster General* in 1969.⁴⁷ In the 1970s, as U.S. priorities shifted, fallout shelters faded from the public's mind.

Still, hundreds of Post Offices, with fully-stocked basements, stood ready for attacks that never came.

In 1977, the *Postal Bulletin* reported that "laboratory and other tests indicated a high probability that the food rations and medicines, previously stored in shelters, have deteriorated in quality to the point that they should no longer be considered safe for human consumption."⁴⁸ Postmasters with shelter supplies were advised that local Civil Defense officials would be contacting them to arrange for the disposal of stockpiled food and medicine.

In 1979, responsibility for civil defense was transferred to the newly-created Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which had a broad mission to help the nation prepare for and respond to disasters of all sorts. *The Federal Civil Defense Act of 1960*, as amended in 1981, provided that civil defense funds could be used for natural disaster preparedness, if it aligned with attack preparedness. By 1985, FEMA was using civil defense funding primarily for peacetime emergency preparedness.⁴⁹

The collapse of the Soviet Union and communist governments across Eastern Europe in the early 1990s marked the end of the Cold War. In 1992, President George H. Bush directed FEMA to de-emphasize attack preparedness in civil defense planning, and instead focus on an "all-hazards" approach.⁵⁰ The Civil Defense program officially ended in 1994 with the repeal of the *Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950*.⁵¹

U.S. Civil Defense Appropriations	
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Millions of Dollars</i>
1962	\$257
1963	\$128
1964	\$112
1965	\$105
1966	\$107
1967	\$102
1968	\$ 86
1969	\$ 61
1970	\$ 71

Source: "Activities and Status of Civil Defense in the United States," U.S. General Accounting Office report, October 26, 1971, 14.

Endnotes

- 1 Harry S. Truman, "Statement by the President upon Signing the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950," January 12, 1951, <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/10/statement-president-upon-signing-federal-civil-defense-act-1950>, accessed July 30, 2020.
- 2 "An Act to Authorize a Federal Civil Defense Program, and for Other Purposes," January 12, 1951, Public Law 920, 81st Congress (64 Stat. 1245). The organization and functions of federal civil defense agencies underwent several changes. By 1961, the civil defense function was placed under the Department of Defense, where it remained until the early 1970s.
- 3 Ibid, Sec 302 (64 Stat. 1245).
- 4 Harry S. Truman "Executive Order 10346," April 17, 1952, <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/executive-orders/10346/executive-order-10346>, accessed July 30, 2020.
- 5 Postmaster General's Order 55907, May 27, 1955, "Civil Defense Program of the Post Office Department Emergency Delegation of Authority," *Postal Bulletin* 19847 (May 31, 1955), 5.
- 6 "Operation Alert," American Experience, PBS, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/bomb-operation-alert>, accessed August 12, 2020.
- 7 "Postal Employees Hold Civil Defense Drill," *The Raleigh Register* (Beckley, WV), May 2, 1956, 5; www.newspapers.com, accessed August 12, 2020.
- 8 U.S. Federal Civil Defense Agency, "25,000 Postal Trucks Designated as Emergency Civil Defense Vehicles," For Your Information #324, May 8, 1956, 1.
- 9 *Postal Bulletin* 20452 (December 17, 1964), 10.
- 10 *Postal Bulletin* 20806 (March 18, 1971), 1. Although no longer required, Civil Defense decals were ordered and placed on some postal vehicles until supplies were exhausted, around February 1972 (*Postal Bulletin* 20856, February 17, 1972; 3).
- 11 *Postal Bulletin* 20148 (July 2, 1959), 4.
- 12 *Postal Bulletin* 20082 (May 8, 1958), 2.
- 13 *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, 1960, 66.
- 14 *Postal Bulletin* 20338 (November 29, 1962), 1.
- 15 U.S. House, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Treasury-Post Office Departments. 88th Congress, 2nd Session, 19 February 1964 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1964), 164; www.hathitrust.org, accessed September 17, 2020.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 *Postal Bulletin* 20338 (November 29, 1962), 7.
- 18 Jeanne Wood, "Local Radio Club Provides Service, Entertainment," *The Ludington Daily News* (Michigan), March 12, 1968; www.newspapers.com, accessed August 12, 2020.
- 19 "Radio operators aid in emergencies," *The Daily Journal* (Franklin, Indiana), December 23, 1971, 3; "Amateur Radios Answer Call," *The Waco Citizen*, November 8, 1972, 6; "FOC Meet," *The Post-Standard* (Syracuse, New York), October 14, 1973, 101; www.newspapers.com, accessed September 21, 2020.
- 20 In addition to the two cards for public use, there was also a card exclusively for federal employees. CSC Form 600, *Federal Employee Emergency Registration Card*, provided for post-attack registration of federal workers who were prevented from reporting to their normal workplace or to their pre-assigned emergency duty station. The purpose was to get employees back to work in their own or other agencies where their skills could best be utilized. Postmasters were told to destroy all copies of CSC Form 600 in 1979.
- 21 *Postal Bulletin* 20148 (July 2, 1959), 2–4.
- 22 John F. Kennedy, "Executive Order 11002 — Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions to the Postmaster General," February 16, 1962, The American Presidency Project, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/executive-order-11002-assigning-emergency-preparedness-functions-the-postmaster-general>, accessed September 21, 2020.
- 23 In August 2020, the Postal Service's supply center, the Material Distribution Center, reported that it still had 147 cartons of PS Form 809 in stock.
- 24 Security Resource Panel of the Science Advisory Committee, U.S. Office of Defense Mobilization, *Deterrence & Survival in the Nuclear Age*, November 7, 1957, <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB139/nitze02.pdf>, accessed August 12, 2020.
- 25 U.S. Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, *The Family Fallout Shelter*, MP-15 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1959), <https://archive.org/details/familyfalloutshe00unitrich>, accessed August 12, 2020.

- 26 Stuart L. Pittman, "Oral History Interview by William W. Moss – JFK #1," September 18, 1970, JFKOH-SLP-01, John F. Kennedy Oral History Collection. JFK Library, <https://www.jfklibrary.org/sites/default/files/archives/JFKOH/Pittman%2C%20Stuart%20L/JFKOH-SLP-01/JFKOH-SLP-01-TR.pdf>, accessed August 14, 2020.
- 27 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense, *Fallout Protection: What to Know and Do about Nuclear Attack*, H-6 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961), 6, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003192127>, accessed September 2, 2020.
- 28 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense, *Annual Report of the Office of Civil Defense for Fiscal Year 1962* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962), 17-18, <https://training.fema.gov/hiedu/docs/historicalinterest/office%20of%20civil%20defense%20-%201962%20-%20annual%20report.%20department%20o.pdf>, accessed September 2, 2020.
- 29 *Postal Bulletin* 20286 (December 28, 1961), 1.
- 30 *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, 1962, 115-116.
- 31 *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, 1964, 121.
- 32 Ibid. "Postmasters have, for the most part, assumed the responsibilities of shelter management in these buildings, which will be used in an emergency by the public, as well as by postal personnel."
- 33 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense, *Handbook for Fallout Shelter Management*, H-16, December 1966 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967), <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015043126864>, accessed August 31, 2020.
- 34 U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense, *Shelter Management Textbook* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1967), 82, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31822021755152>, accessed August 31, 2020.
- 35 Ibid, 1.
- 36 United States Civil Defense Preparedness Agency, *Shelter Management Handbook*, H-16 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978), 1.
- 37 Unlike true Geiger counters, most of these survey meters were designed to measure only gamma radiation from a nuclear explosion. Dosimeters were about the size and shape of a ballpoint pen, and could be carried in a shirt pocket to measure a person's cumulative exposure to radiation.
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- 40 "Nuclear Age Hardtack," *Port Angeles (Washington) Evening News*, February 17, 1962, 3.
- 41 *Shelter Management Textbook*, 55.
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- 45 Ibid.
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