

*munity Development*; Rocco J. Gabriele, *Fire Marshal*; Elliott Robinson, *American Red Cross*; Thomas W. Schmidt, *Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services*; Thomas Tharp, *State Firemen's Association*; Col. Wilbert T. Travers, Jr., *Superintendent, Maryland State Police*; Paul E. Welsh, *Public Affairs Consultant*.

The State Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency's principal mission derives from the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (Public Law 920, 81st Congress) with its 1958, 1976, and 1980 amendments. The act outlines the intent of Congress to provide a system of civil defense for the protection of life and property in the United States from attack and to provide relief and assistance to people in areas of the United States struck by disaster other than disasters caused by enemy attack.

The Agency, known as the Maryland Civil Defense Agency from 1950 to 1970, was in its earliest years primarily concerned with statewide nuclear attack preparedness and related missions (Chapter 563, Acts of 1949).

With the passage of the Disaster Relief Acts of 1969 (Public Law 91-79), 1970 (Public Law 91-606), and 1974 (Public Law 93-288), increased emphasis was placed on natural disaster preparedness under the direction of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Changes in state law and the Agency name changes during this period are indicative of this change in focus: Maryland Civil Defense and Emergency Planning Agency (1970-74) and Maryland Civil Defense and Disaster Preparedness Agency (1975-80). The emphasis on non-nuclear attack preparedness was further enlarged by the creation of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1979. FEMA assumed responsibility for civil defense functions of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA), disaster relief functions of the FDAA, and emergency resources management functions of the FPA. At the same time FEMA absorbed the Federal Insurance Administration and the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration. By this consolidation, the Agency's responsibilities increased to include flood plain management, flood insurance initiatives, community preparedness programs for weather emergencies, earthquake hazard reduction, dam safety, emergency broadcast system, emergency warning, and terrorist incidents.

The 1970s also brought changes in the Agency's nuclear attack preparedness missions. In

1972 the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency was established in the U.S. Department of Defense. At this time, increased awareness of the U.S.S.R.'s impressive crisis evacuation capability contributed significantly to the development of the present Nuclear Civil Protection (NCP) program. NCP is intended to reduce vulnerability to a major attack. NCP offers two options: crisis relocation and in-place shelter protection. Crisis Relocation Planning (CRP) assumes that several days or more of deep international tension prior to an actual war would permit movement of people from high risk to low risk areas, provided pre-crisis plans had been developed. This planning could be adaptable to natural disaster and other peacetime emergencies. In-place shelter protection is to be used when time does not permit implementation of crisis relocation.

The Three Mile Island Incident of 1979 triggered additional Federal emphasis on radiological emergency planning. During 1980 and 1981 the Agency expended considerable effort in the production of radiological emergency plans to cope with accidents at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. These plans were tested in 1981 and will be maintained and tested in the future.

Effective July 1, 1981, Article 16A—Civil Defense—of the Annotated Code of Maryland was repealed and reenacted with amendments. It is now titled Article 16A—State Emergency Management and Civil Defense. Essentially, the new law expanded the emergency powers of the Governor, changed the Agency's name to the State Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency (MEMCDA), and established a new advisory council for emergency management. The law makes the Governor responsible for Emergency Management in the State. The Governor now has additional emergency powers to temporarily suspend State statutes, direct evacuations, control access, clear debris, and use private property when necessary. After the Governor has declared a State of Emergency, the Director of the State Emergency Management and Civil Defense Agency is responsible for coordinating the emergency activities of the offices of the State government and those of political subdivisions included in the declaration. The law also established the Emergency Management Advisory Council to advise the Governor on all matters pertaining to State emergency management and civil defense. The Council is appointed by the Governor and includes representatives from major State Departments, local government, and volunteer organizations, such as firefighters and rescue squads.