

government has a plan known as COG, short for "continuity of government", that is a combination of escape plans, space age communication systems and cleverly concealed bunkers (30). According to the article, the Civil Defense Administration, created by President Harry Truman in 1951, drew up the first evacuation plan for Washington, D.C. One year later, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began constructing a huge bunker near Washington in the Virginia countryside, known as Mount Weather. As with so many government projects, there are now concerns about the use of flawed technologies and contract irregularities. Corrective measures are focusing more on high-tech communications than on hardened bunkers. At the same time, investigations are currently underway on the contract mismanagement concerns, many of which are serious and call into question the effectiveness and security of the entire program.

In addition to Mount Weather, there is a facility with the official name of the Alternate National Military Command Center, also known as Raven Rock or Site R, which is five miles north of Camp David. Because these sites are known to Soviet target planners, other secret military and civilian bunkers also exist around the country. According to reports, there may be up to fifty different fallout-resistant command bunkers, each linked by satellite and ground-based communication systems. Any one of these could serve as an emergency White House.

The Soviet Union has not been outclassed by the United States in its program to build underground bunkers. According to one time head of U.S. Air Force intelligence, Major General George J. Keegan, Jr., the Soviets have built at least seventy-five underground command posts, roughly the size of the Pentagon, near Moscow (31). Each contains a hundred feet of reinforced concrete and four hundred feet of earth fill. It is claimed that this provides a strength of two or three times that found in the Hoover Dam. Within the Soviet Union, each command, in every city and military district, has replications of the Moscow bunkers, but smaller. Food is stored in other shelters the size of three or four football fields, dug in at a minimum depth of sixty feet. The costs for these shelters were enormous. According to Keegan, *one* of the Moscow bunkers alone would cost five hundred billion dollars. Such is the cost of Soviet Civil Defense. It is no wonder they are currently in such poor economic shape.