

Civil Defense

Selected sources (not comprehensive)

NSC Staff Papers, Executive Secretary, Subject Series, Boxes 15-16- Security Resources Panel (Gaither Panel) with lengthy documents on active defense, passive defense, and economic aspects of civil defense.

NSC Staff Papers, Disaster File Series, Box 35- 37 Mobilization (1) – (20) These boxes contain copies of NSC policy papers NSC 131/1, - Evacuation of Civilian Population , NSC 5709- A Federal Shelter Program, NSC 5807- Measures to Carry out Concept of Shelter, NSC 5724- Report of the Security Resources Panel (Gaither Report), NSC 6104 Measures to Provide Shelter From Radio Active Fallout, Report of the Special Committee on Fallout Shelters, and other relevant documents.

NSC Staff Papers, Executive Secretary Subject Series, Boxes 15-16- Security Resources Panel (Gaither Report)- includes lengthy reports on active and passive defense (including bomb shelters), limited war, and economic aspects of civil defense.

See also PSB Central Files Series and OC B Central Files Series in the NSC Staff Papers for files on civil defense matters.

OSANSA, NSC Series, Policy Papers Subseries, Box 22- NSC 5724- Gaither Report plus lengthy study of limited war. Also folders for above cited NSC papers, NSC 5709, 5807, and 6104 should be found in this series. File folders on civil defense are also found in NSC Series, Briefing Notes Subseries.

Records of the White House Staff Secretary, Emergency Action Series- documents planning for continuity of government, Operation Alert exercises, relocation sites (some still classified) etc.

Records of the White House Staff Secretary, Subject Series, Alphabetical Subseries, Box 16- Killian Report (February 1955): Meeting the Threat of Surprise Attack. For agency comments on the Killian Report see NSC 5522 in Box ____ of Office of Special Assistant For National Security Affairs, NSC Series Policy Papers Subseries.

US NSC: Intelligence Records – 1 box. Contains partially declassified portions of recommendations of Net Evaluation Committee studies dated 1957, 1958, 1959 assessing the impact of Soviet nuclear attack on US. Comments on shelter programs.

White House Central Files, Official File, OF 133-B Civil Defense, Boxes 656-659

White House Central Files- Confidential File- check folders on Operation Alert

Dwight D. Eisenhower's Papers as President (Ann Whitman File)

Administration Series, Box 4- Atomic Energy Commission, 1955-56- includes report "Human Effects of Nuclear Weapons Development"

Box 14- Federal Civil Defense Agency

Box 14- Flemming, Arthur S.

Cabinet Series,

Box 4, Cabinet Meeting of 11/5/54- emergency relocation exercise

Box 5- Special Cabinet meeting of June 17, 1955 held at a relocation site and discussed how to cope with results of nuclear attack on US

Box 7, Cabinet Meetings of June 21, July 13, and July 25 1956 re Operation Alert

Box 9- Cabinet meetings of June 17, 21 and July 12, 1957 and July 19, 1957 re Operation Alert.

DDE Diary Series, Boxes 28-31- contain memcons re Gaither Panel, missiles and other matters relating to civil defense. Probably numerous relevant items elsewhere in series as well. Finding aid is inadequate so need to check folders entitled "Staff Notes", "Staff Memos" or "Goodpaster Memos". These contain memoranda of conferences with the President prepared by White House Staff Secretary Andrew Goodpaster.

NSC Series, Should check this one thoroughly as civil defense, bomb shelters, the Gaither Report and overall strategic posture were frequently discussed at meetings of the NSC. These detailed summaries of NSC discussions constitutes one of the most important sources of information on national security policy in the Library's holdings.

Records of White House Cabinet Secretariat- Should check finding aid. These records contain much on Operation Alert and continuity of government.

Virgil Couch Papers- contain much on civil defense, bomb shelters, stocking of shelters and general emergency procedures for population at large to follow. Should check finding aid.

James Lambie Records- Contain materials on the Ground Observer Corps and on other civil defense matters.

Records of Bryce Harlow – contain material on Gaither Report

Axel Nielsen Records- contain continuity of government information.

Douglas Price Records- Box 8- Civil Defense- re state and local civil defense organization

Katherine Howard Papers- considerable information on civil defense including role of women in civil defense.