

March 16, 1992

NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTIVE 66

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY  
AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY  
MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

SUBJECT: Civil Defense (U)

POLICY

The United States will have a civil defense capability as an element of our overall national security posture. The objective of the civil defense program is to develop the required capabilities common to all catastrophic emergencies and those unique to attack emergencies in order to protect the population and vital infrastructure. Civil defense can contribute to deterrence by denying an enemy any confidence that he could prevent a concerted national response to attack. (U)

The civil defense program will support all-hazard integrated emergency management at State and local levels. In so doing, the civil defense program will: (U)

*PREVIOUSLY*

Declassified/Released on: 4-27-94  
under provisions of E.O. 12358  
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council

(F94-796)

(6)





military resources will be employed in civil defense missions only if State and Federal civil resources are not sufficient. Nothing in this directive alters or otherwise affects the chain of command for the armed forces established by the Constitution and laws of the United States. (U)

Nothing in this directive provides for any new Federal responsibilities which are now the responsibility of State and local governments. (U)

**RESCISSION**

National Security Decision Directive 259, dated February 4, 1987, is rescinded. (U)

*A. B. B.*

