

III. FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

A. Background. The organizational history of the civil defense program since enactment of the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (P.L. 81-920) is depicted at Figure G-1 and is described in greater detail in Annex A. A review of this history reveals that:

- The civil defense management structure has undergone several shifts in the assignment of functional responsibilities and organizational arrangements since 1950.

- Civil defense at various times has been managed as a program of an independent agency (FCDA), the Executive Office of the President (OCDM), and the Department of Defense (OCD and DCPA).

- The civil defense program has, at various times, been managed separately from other emergency preparedness programs, including natural disaster (FCDA before 1953, OCD, DCPA) and, at times, consolidated with them in a single organization (FCDA after 1953, OCDM). Even under this arrangement, however, the natural disaster program was managed in a separate organizational component.

B. Distribution of Responsibilities. By law (P.L. 81-920), civil defense is a joint responsibility of the Federal Government and the States acting together to protect lives and property in the event of enemy attack. Within the Federal Government, civil defense responsibilities are formally assigned to seven major Federal departments and agencies by Executive Order 10952 (Assigning Civil Defense Responsibilities to the Secretary of Defense and Others, as amended) and Executive Order 11490 (Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions to Federal Departments and Agencies, as amended). These are shown at Figure G-2.

C. Program Management.

1. The primary Federal agency for managing the civil defense program is the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA) in the Department of Defense. Essentially, DCPA administers approved civil defense programs in the areas of nuclear civil protection, direction and control, warning, radiological defense, public emergency information, planning, exercises, training and post attack recovery. (See Annex A for a detailed description of these activities.) These constitute more than 95% of the Federal civil defense program. In carrying out its responsibilities, DCPA calls upon the resources of the Military Departments for technical assistance and support as required, usually on a reimbursable basis. In addition military forces are available for providing support to civil authorities in an attack emergency. (See Annex E for details.)