

# The End of the World

## A Cultural History of Bunkers

Week 3 Lecture | Professor Crews  
RELS 357 W

As Bradley Garrett makes clear in his book *Bunker*, WWII and the Cold War era spurred bunker building projects around the world, first in response to wartime aerial bombardments and later for nuclear deterrence and as sites for continuity of government (COG) operations and hardened military sites.

According to a 2001 DOD estimate, there were at least 10,000 deep underground military bases (DUMBS) scattered around the world.

- Ramenki-43 in the Ural Mountains of Russia
- Raven Rock (“Site R”) in Pennsylvania
- Mount Weather in Virginia
- Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia (“Project Greek Island”)
- Cheyenne Mountain Complex in Colorado
- Doraleh Chinese military complex in Djibouti
- Jammu & Kashmir bunkers in Chachwal Village near India-Pakistan border



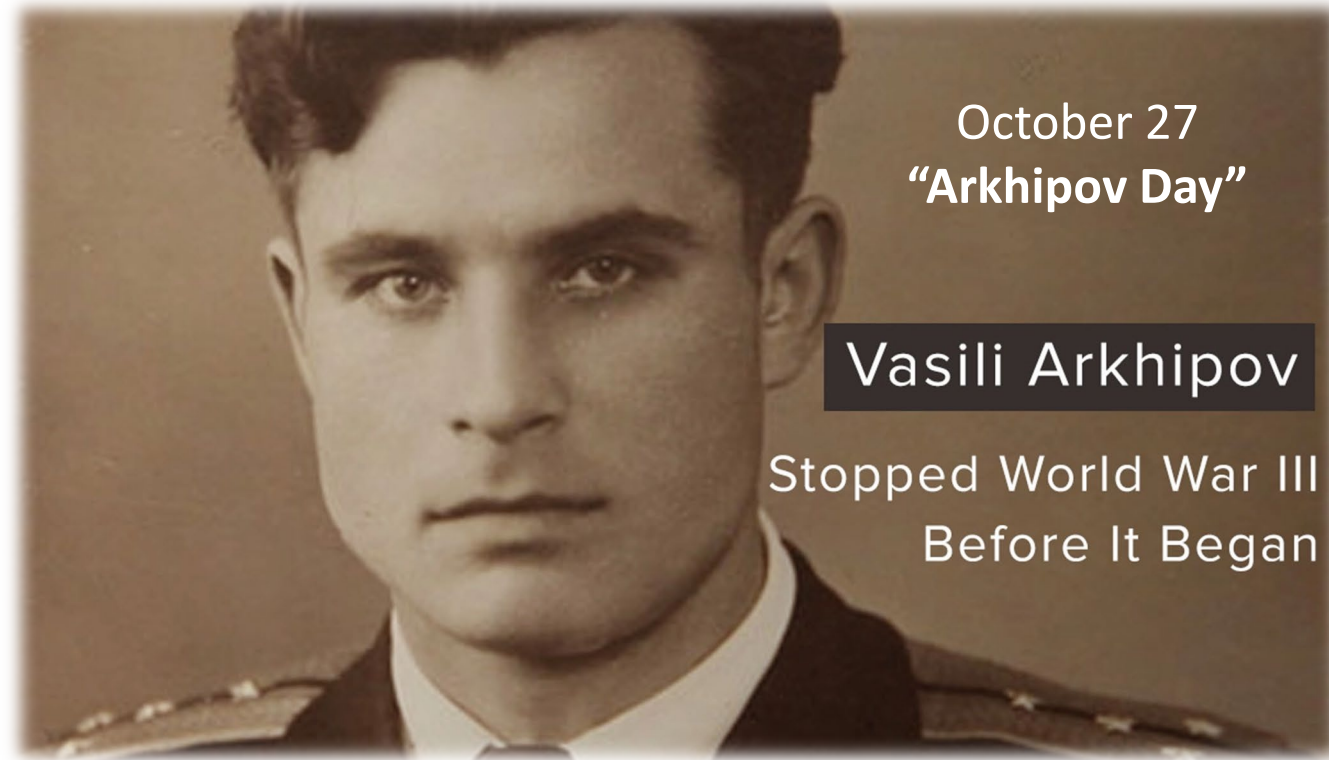
Vasili Alexandrovich Arkhipov was a Soviet submarine commander credited with preventing an armed conflict on October 27, 1962 after the *USS Randolph* dropped depth charges on a Soviet sub. Occurring during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Arkhipov's decision likely prevented a nuclear WWIII.

Other nuclear near misses during the Cold War:

**1979** – President Jimmy Carter almost given a false report of 250 Russian nuclear missiles heading for the US by National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski (60 second margin of error).

**1995** – Russian President Boris Yeltsin given false alert involving a Norwegian scientific satellites confused as incoming US Minuteman III ICBM nuclear missile. Nuclear briefcase activated by Yeltsin (only known time a nuclear briefcase ever activated by a head of state).

In every case, a nuclear war could have begun due to misinformation or technical errors.



Mount Weather, Virginia



As Garrett notes, bunkers became a part of daily life in the 1950s and early 60s, with countries spending millions of dollars to build emergency shelter facilities. From Russia, the US, and UK to North and South Korea, Israel, Finland, and Switzerland, bunkers became an essential part of Cold War life, part of the hardened infrastructure or “architecture of dread” we discussed earlier.

The *marhav mugan dirati* (apartment protected spaces) or “mamads” have become a daily part of architectural life in Israel, with these hardened NBC sites now required by law in all new buildings.



An Israeli *mamad* prior to installation.



*Mamads* integrated into everyday living spaces.

“With the final decision of who lives and who dies on a global scale in the hands of a few elites, US citizens responded in a variety of ways. Some grew fatalistic, seeing nuclear war as unavoidable and in some cases even foreordained by religious beliefs in the end of days [e.g. Hal Lindsey]...Once ensconced in their suburban homes outside the envisaged blast radius, these fleeing citizens then dug in, burying bunkers in their backyards.”



This focus on private preparedness against Soviet attacks gave rise to the US survivalist movement. Robert DePugh, founder of the Minuteman Militia, is sometimes referred to as the “grandfather” of survivalism, or what we might think of as the precursor to the modern prepper movement.



JFK’s July 25, 1961 “Berlin Crisis” speech addressed the growing spread of Soviet Communism and gave rise to the “First Doom Boom” as millions of Americans built backyard bunkers and basement fallout shelters to protect themselves against a possible Soviet attack.

“So long as the Communists insist that they are preparing to end by themselves unilaterally our rights in West Berlin and our commitments to its people, we must be prepared to defend those rights and those commitments...Our primary purpose is neither propaganda nor provocation – but preparation.”

*Minuteman Militia founder Bob DePugh (left) demonstrates how to respond to a potential germ warfare attack (Nov 1961).*

Importantly, there were two very different approaches that governments took towards shelters:

### **Public shelters built for civilians**

- Germany, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Israel

### **Secret shelters only for government elites, nothing for civilians**

- United States, United Kingdom, Canada

“This period in the early 1960s is of crucial cultural significance in the US, Canada, and UK, because it marks the moment when the state abandoned its duty to protect citizens from perceived enemies.”

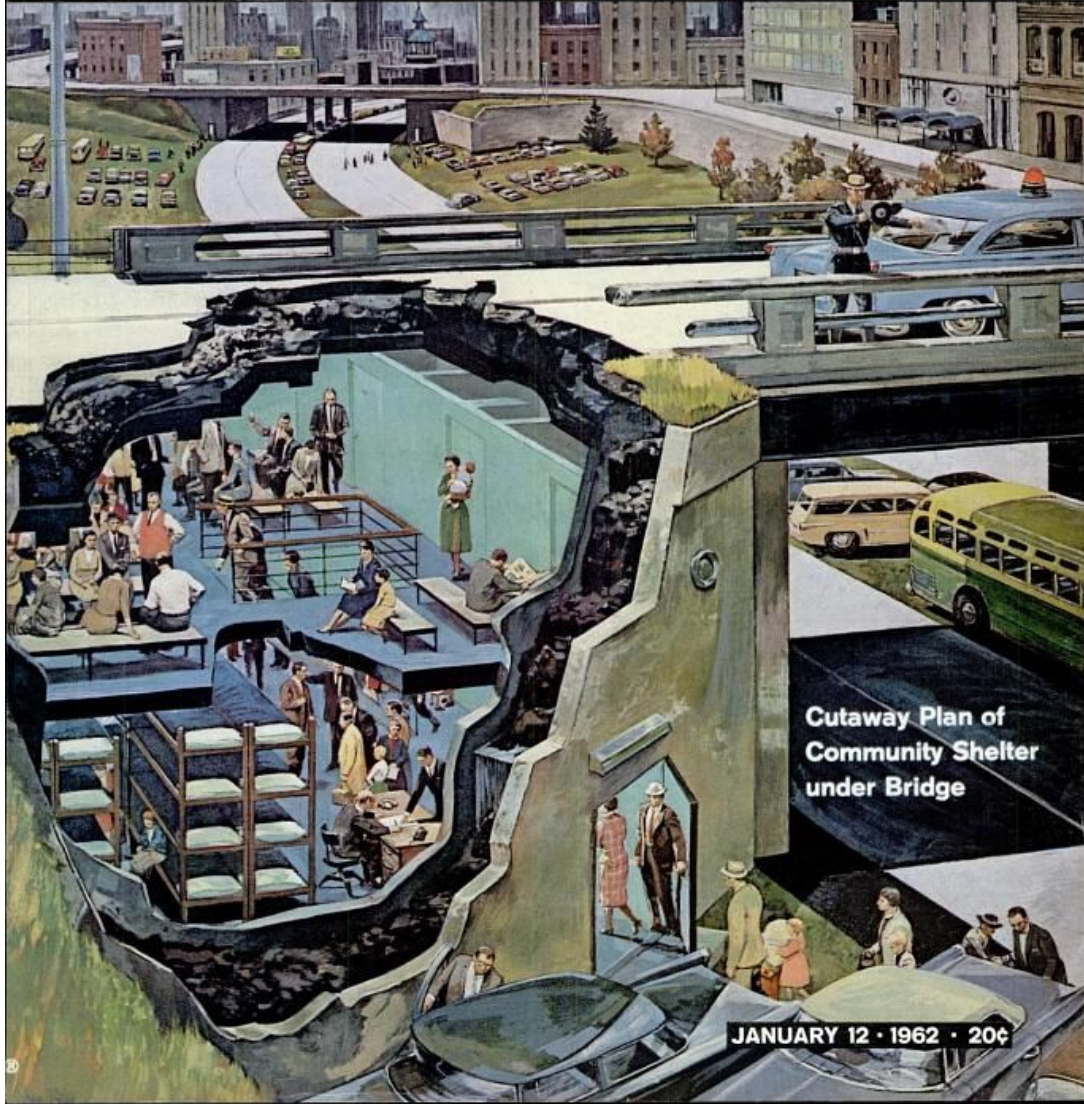




# LIFE

New Facts You Must Know  
about Fallout:

## THE DRIVE FOR MASS SHELTERS



Cutaway Plan of  
Community Shelter  
under Bridge

JANUARY 12 • 1962 • 20¢

# FALLOUT SHELTER HANDBOOK

509  
A  
FAWCETT  
BOOK

By **CHUCK WEST**

75°



Diets and Food Kits

Surviving an Atomic Attack

Underground Shelters You Can Build or Buy

Basement and Garage Shelters

Medical Hints and First Aid

Evacuation Techniques

Sources of Water Supply

Above-Ground Shelters

Fallout Detection Devices

# THE FAMILY FALLOUT SHELTER



MP-15

A committee of the National Academy of Sciences, in a recent study of national preparedness, concluded:

*"Adequate shielding is the only effective means of preventing radiation casualties."*

OFFICE OF CIVIL AND DEFENSE MOBILIZATION

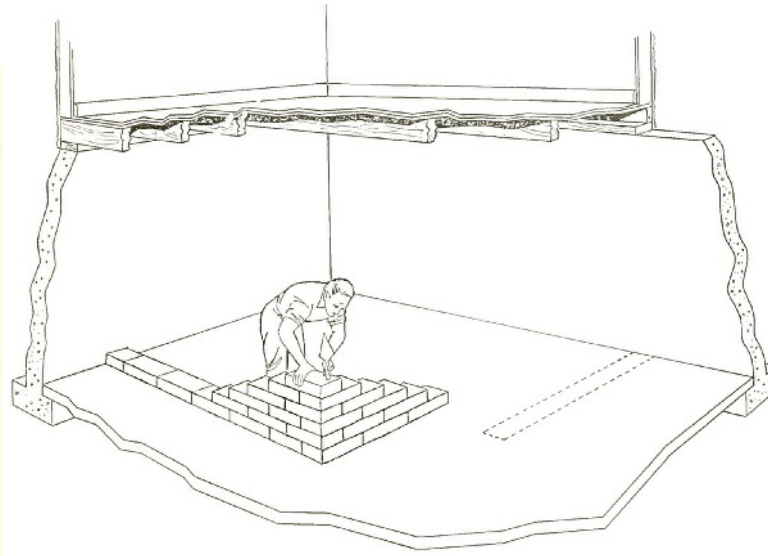


Figure 3

A row of solid concrete blocks is set in about three-eighths of an inch of wet mortar along guidelines marked on the basement floor. The corner is built about six blocks high (fig. 3). The remainder of the wall then is raised to the same height. The corner is built up once more and the wall again raised to its level. The wall is not raised all the way to the basement ceiling. Clear space of at least 16 inches is needed overhead to permit the later construction of the shelter roof. The top rows of concrete blocks are not set on the wall until after the roof is in place.

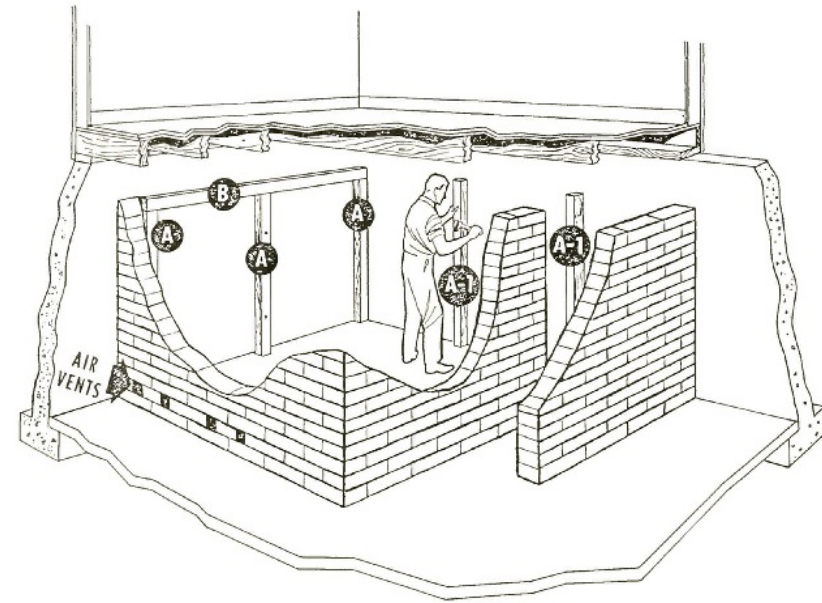


Figure 4

The wall protecting the shelter entrance from direct radiation should be the same height as the main shelter walls. The posts (marked "A" and "A-1" in fig. 4) that support the roof beams are fixed to the basement walls with 1/2-inch anchor bolts. The height of the posts marked "A-1" should equal the height of post "A" plus the thickness of beam "B." A wall beam (marked "B" in fig. 4) is put in place against the rear wall from one corner post to the other. The beam should be nailed to the uprights on which it rests.

7

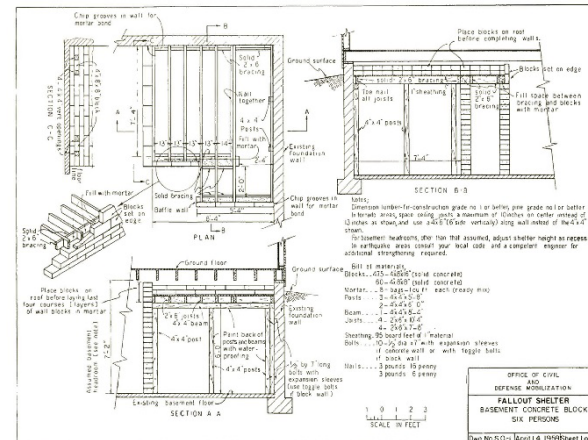
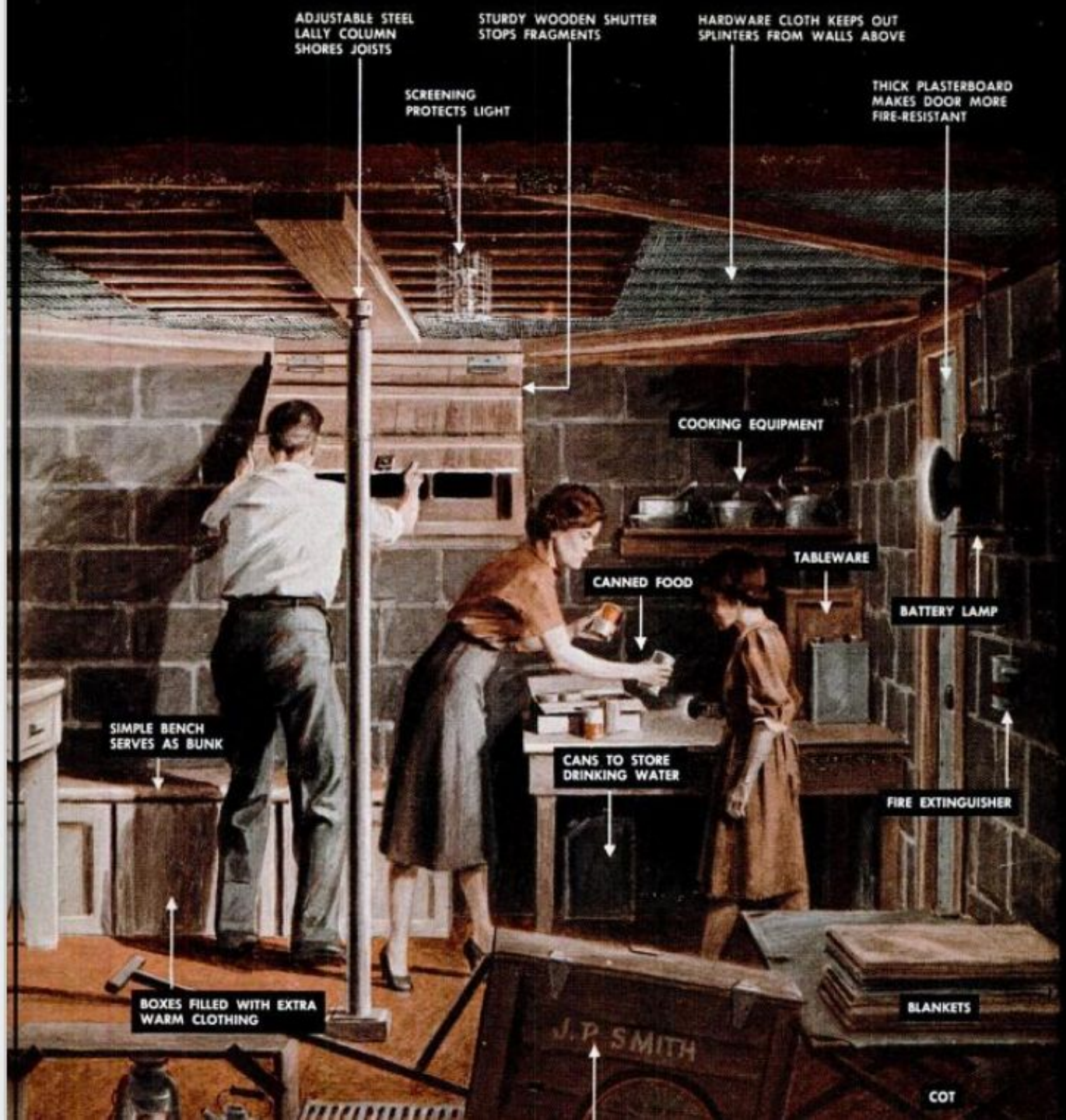
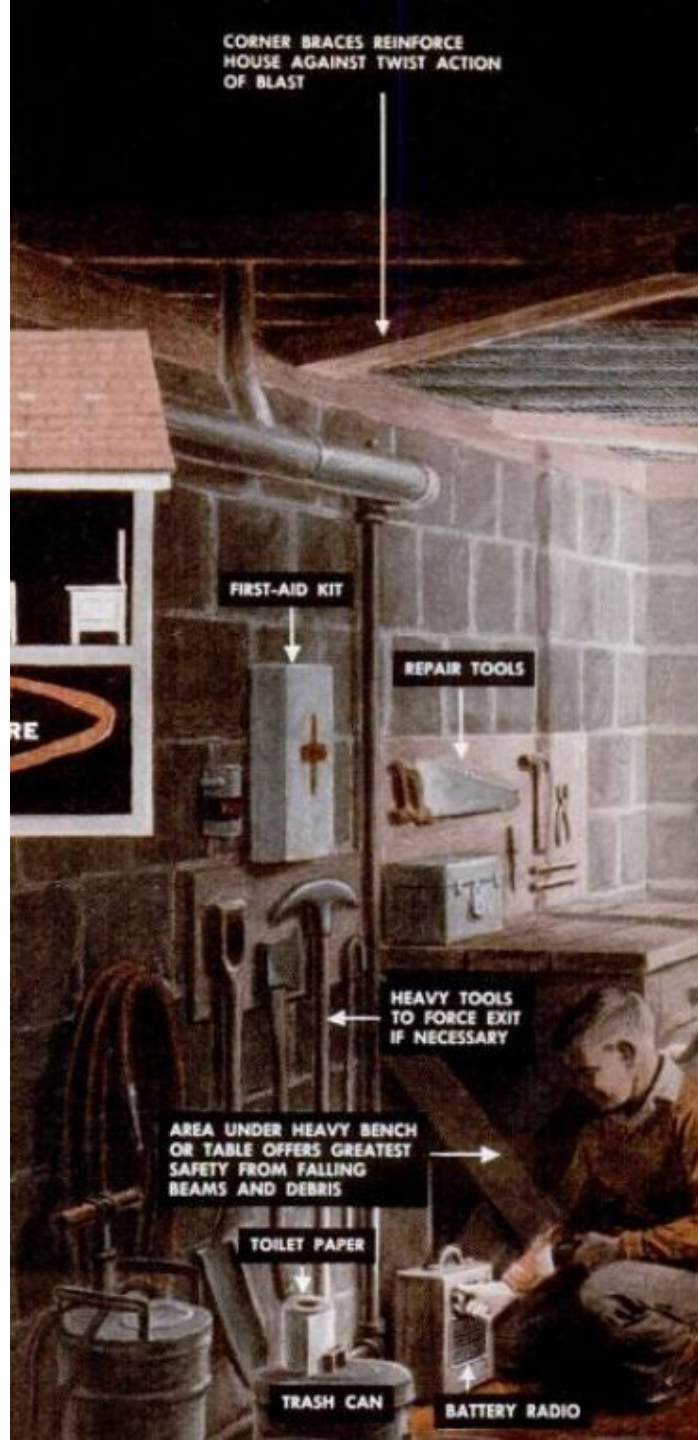


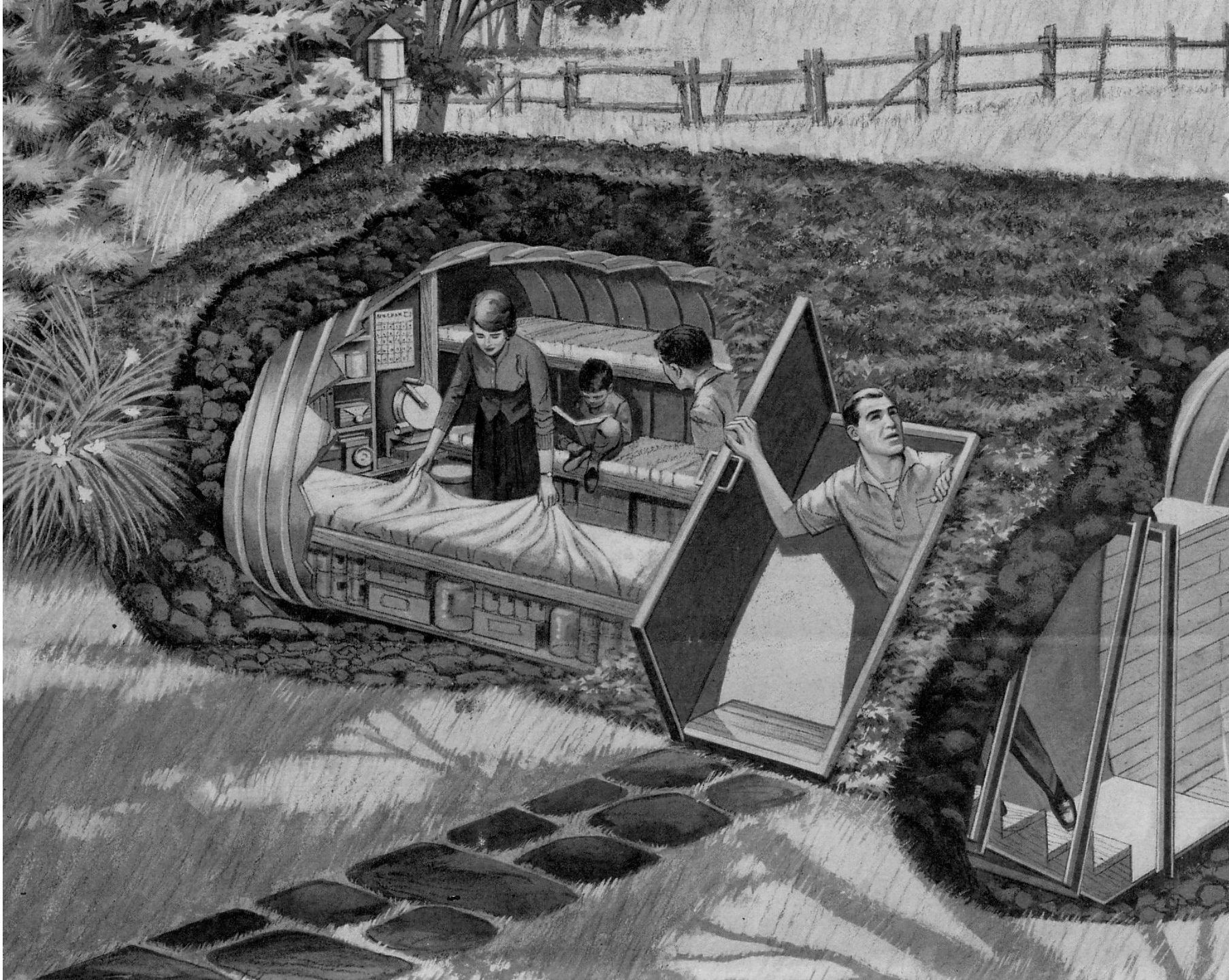
Figure 13

8

SECTION A-A







**EVERY  
FALLOUT SHELTER  
MUST HAVE  
TOILET FACILITIES!**



Get an "AGE"  
**CHEMICAL  
TOILET!**

Model #24

**Especially Designed for  
Emergency Shelters**

AGE Chemical Toilets are designed to meet the problems of a prolonged stay in fallout shelters. Simple installation, either permanent or portable. Odorless, safe, convenient, sanitary. Sizes for every family or condition. Special agitator automatically facilitates decomposition immediately after use. Comes complete with chemicals. Immediate delivery. Phone, wire, write for details.

**SEND CHECK WITH ORDER FOR  
PREPAID SHIPMENT**

- Model 2 (capacity 2 persons) \$ 39.00
- Model 24 (capacity 2- 4 persons) 79.00
- Model 46 (capacity 4- 6 persons) 94.00
- Model 610 (capacity 6-10 persons) 119.00

Includes chemical for initial charge. This charge of chemical solution will effectively operate your toilet for the specified number of persons for 14 days or more.

DEALER, AGENT INQUIRIES INVITED  
**AGE CORPORATION**

7438P W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee 16, Wis  
Phone HOpkins 6-5070 (Area Code 414)



If You've Been Thinking About Fallout Protection (And Who Hasn't?) **HERE IS YOUR ANSWER!**

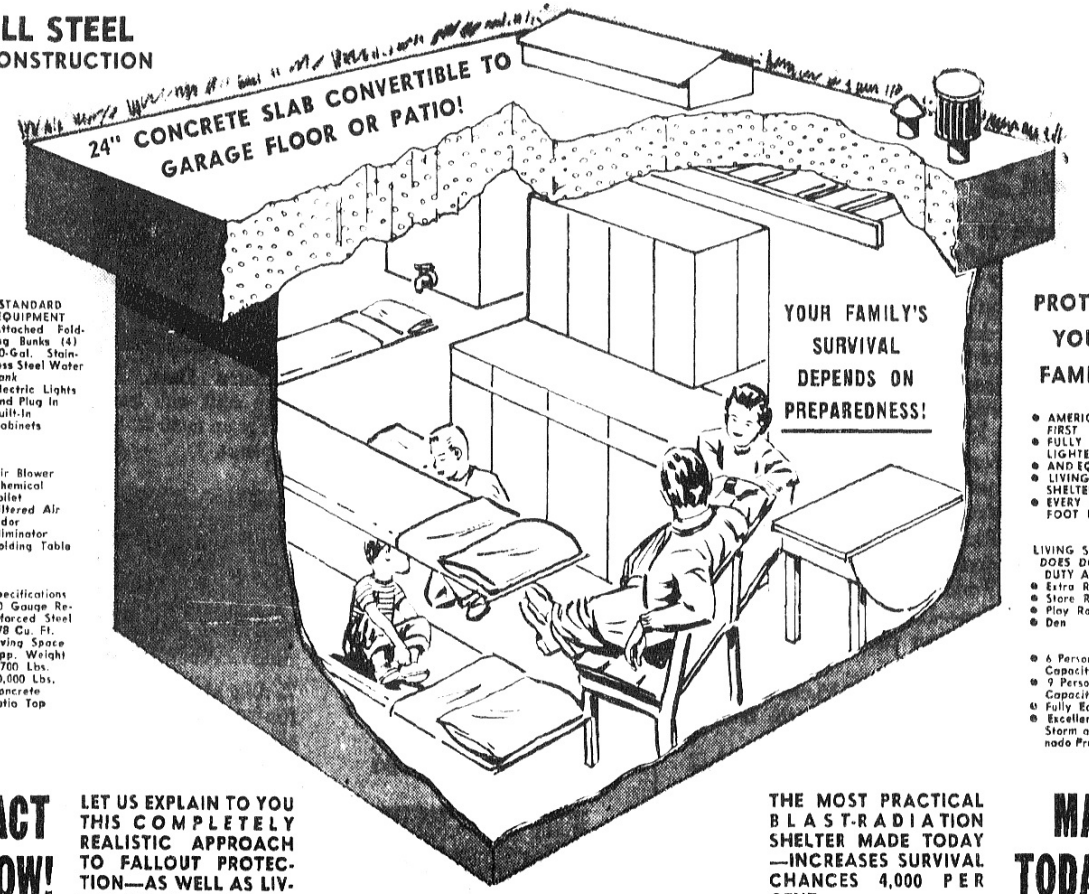
# Living FALLOUT SHELTERS

## BY LIVING SHELTERS OF AMERICA

EVERYTHING A Radioactive Fallout Shelter Should Be . . . PLUS Many, Many Advantages You'll Appreciate!

- Absolutely Highest Rating By Office of Civil Defense
- 20 Year FHA or Bank Financing
- Tested And Accepted By Professional Engineers

**ALL STEEL CONSTRUCTION**



**STANDARD EQUIPMENT**

- Attached Fold-Ing Bunks (4)
- 40-Gal. Stainless Steel Water Tank
- Electric Lights and Plug In
- Built-In Cabinets

- Air Blower
- Chemical Toilet
- Filtered Air
- Odor Eliminator
- Folding Table

**Specifications**

- 10 Gauge Reinforced Steel
- 478 Cu. Ft. Living Space
- App. Weight 2,700 Lbs.
- 10,000 Lbs. Concrete Patio Top

**YOUR FAMILY'S SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON PREPAREDNESS!**

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY!**

- AMERICA'S FIRST
- FULLY LIGHTED
- AND EQUIPPED LIVING SHELTER
- EVERY SQUARE FOOT USABLE

**LIVING SHELTER DOES DOUBLE DUTY AS AN**

- Extra Room
- Store Room
- Play Room
- Den

- 6 Person Capacity
- 9 Person Capacity
- Fully Equipped
- Excellent For Storm and Tornado Protection

**ACT NOW!**

LET US EXPLAIN TO YOU THIS COMPLETELY REALISTIC APPROACH TO FALLOUT PROTECTION—AS WELL AS LIVING SPACE.

**THE MOST PRACTICAL BLAST-RADIATION SHELTER MADE TODAY—INCREASES SURVIVAL CHANCES 4,000 PER CENT.**

**MAIL TODAY!**

"A PLAYROOM TODAY—SURVIVAL—RIGHTAWAY!"

**CALL TODAY—ALL DAY**

Representative On Duty Sunday

**TA 3-9814**

WHY HESITATE?

**AMERICA'S LIVING SHELTERS**

Information—No Obligation  
—Mail Inquiries To—  
**LIVING SHELTERS OF AMERICA**  
5004 LIVE OAK • SUITE 203  
DALLAS 6, TEXAS

NAME.....  
ADDRESS..... PHONE.....  
CITY..... STATE.....

Twilight Zone, Ep. 68 "The Shelter" (9/29/1961)



“Since the Cold War, bunkers have never really disappeared...What’s really different now is that, globally, bunkers are being built by a wide range of government, corporate, and private actors all over the world.”

**Church Universal and Triumphant (CUT)** – Leader Elizabeth Clare Prophet (aka “Guru Ma”) predicts the end times are coming. Massive CUT complex built in remote Montana in 1990 where weapons and supplies are stockpiled for an end times conflict as described in the Book of Revelation.

**Almost Heaven** – Leader Bo Gritz founds a “constitutional covenant community” in 1990s that combines paramilitary white supremacists and back to the land hippies seeking to get away from the government (“the man”) and defend citizen’s constitutional rights.

**Ruby Ridge** – Armed standoff in 1992 in Idaho involving Randy Weaver and FBI.

**Waco, Texas** – Armed standoff in 1993 in Texas between David Koresh/Branch Davidians and FBI.

**Oklahoma City** – Bombing of Oklahoma federal building in 1995 by Timothy McVeigh.

**Malheur National Wildlife Refuge** – Armed standoff in 2016 with Ammon Bundy and Oregon militias.

These examples all included some form of end of the world beliefs, often religious in nature (Book of Revelation), and many include visions of violence and persecution that further escalated tensions.



“By 2012, there were 1,360 radical militias and antigovernment groups, in forty states, with a total membership that soared into the tens of thousands...The survivalists and militias of the first doom boom were the right’s counterculture. They pushed conservative sentiment in the direction of libertarian populism, evincing the same sort of apocalyptic antigovernment isolationist desires we see today.”

For companies like Atlas Survival Shelters and Rising S, the 9/11 attacks created a new wave of interest in bunkers among conservatives, but also those worried about state surveillance after the USA PATRIOT Act was passed. A second wave of bunker buying took place in 2016 with the election of Donald Trump, this time driven by liberals.

So both liberals and conservatives are driving the bunker buying craze. Some are worried about foreign threats, while others are more fearful of internal ones. Both groups are worried about the growing surveillance by governments and corporations into our daily lives. For these individuals, an underground bunkers is seen as the last refuge for protecting privacy and personal freedoms.

“Both backyard bunkers and more ideological survivalist and militia communities arose in the shadow of dread—and they never disappeared; they just went deeper underground.”



**SUPPORTING  
GOD - FAMILY - COUNTRY**



***NOT* --  
SHARIA - MARXISM - SOCIALISM  
POLITICAL CORRECTNESS & WELFARE**

## OHIO VALLEY MINUTEMEN - CITIZEN'S VOLUNTEER MILITIA

"WE ARE WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS ENVISIONED, STRONG-WILLED, AND SELF-RELIANT. WE ARE THE LEGACY THEY FOUGHT TO BUILD. WE ARE NOT ANTI-GOVERNMENT, WE ARE ANTI-CORRUPTION. WE ARE NOT ANTI-IMMIGRANT, WE ARE PRO-CITIZENSHIP. WE ARE NOT SEPARATISTS, WE ARE CONSTITUTIONALISTS. WE KNOW OUR HISTORY AND REVERE IT, WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY AND FEAR FOR IT. WE ARE YOUR MECHANICS, AND YOUR INSURANCE AGENTS, YOUR POLICE AND YOUR FIREFIGHTERS. WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS. WE ARE CITIZENS AND WE ARE THE MILITIA."



[Home](#)   [Militia Laws](#)   [Unit Code of Conduct & By-Laws](#)   [Unit Photo Album](#)   [Militia Outreach](#)

[Unit Videos](#)   [The 13% and the Militia](#)   [A Prepper Family's Worst Nightmare](#)   [Prepper Basics](#)

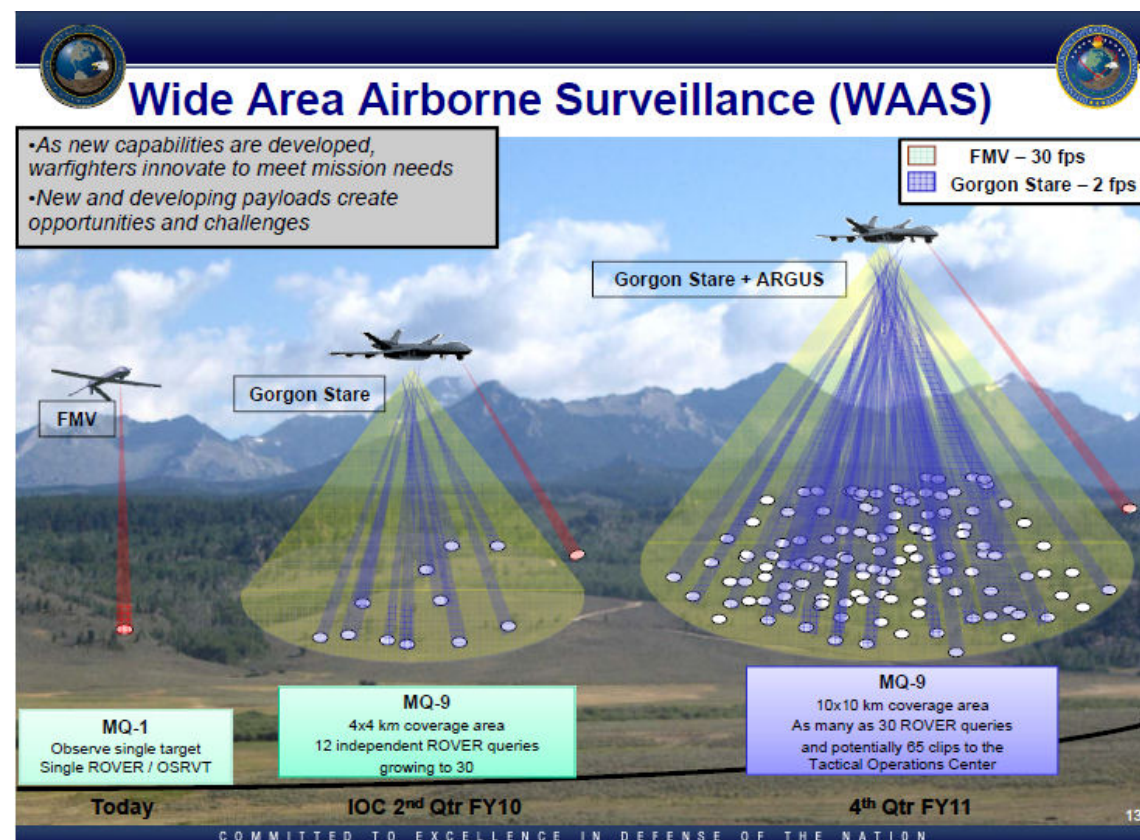
**Local Citizen's Militia, West Virginia & Southern Ohio. Patriotic, Constitution supporting Members Needed.**

**Technoliberalism** – Concept coined by cultural anthropologist Adam Fish to describe the rise of a modern data-driven form of capitalism where political influence is bought by wealthy technocrats in order to weaken civil liberty protections and secure unlimited access to lucrative online user data.

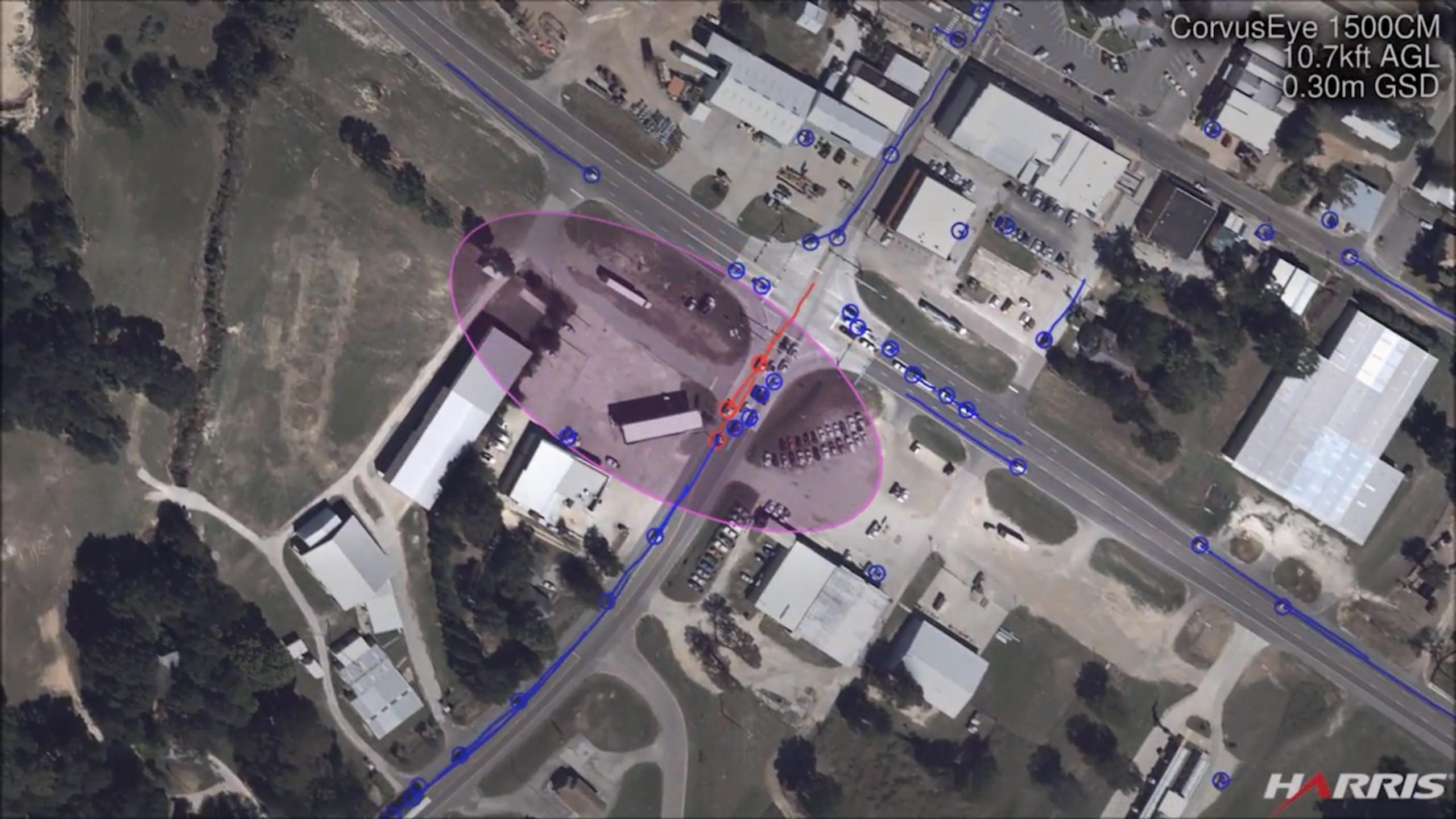
**Autoscopy** – Concept coined by cultural theories Ryan Bishop to describe a self-replicating process in which constant electronic surveillance is fed back to consumers in an endless loop, erasing the distinction between watching and being watched. This in turn creates even more dread—what is our authentic self?

These high-tech surveillance practices have become embodied in government technology like Gorgon Stare, an intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance technology (ISR) which allows for wide area, real-time aerial surveillance.

While developed for military use, it is now being tested by the government to monitor American citizens. Such uses add to fear about government intrusion and religious conspiracies involving new technology (RFID chips are a “mark of the beast”).



CorvusEye 1500CM  
10.7kft AGL  
0.30m GSD



“As much as anything, the second backyard shelter doom boom seemed fueled by an overwhelming desire to hide....You might say that building a secret bunker is an act of civil disobedience in an age when almost everything is meant to be seen, known, traced, and tracked by the corporate state.”

As Garrett argues, modern Doomsday Preppers are a mix of survivalists, militia members, elite bunker enthusiasts, apocalyptic religious believers, and average citizens driven by 4 key worries:

- Nuclear War
- Government Collapse
- Financial Collapse
- Social Unrest

\*Religious “end of the world”



# “Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.”

September is National Preparedness Month, and this provides us a great opportunity to both think critically about questions of preparedness and assess our own preparedness for disaster.

Over the next four weeks that’s exactly what we’ll do, as we look at key elements of being prepared.

WEEK  
1

## Week 1 September 1-5: Make A Plan

Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations due to the coronavirus.

WEEK  
2

## Week 2 September 6-12: Build A Kit

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don’t forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

WEEK  
3

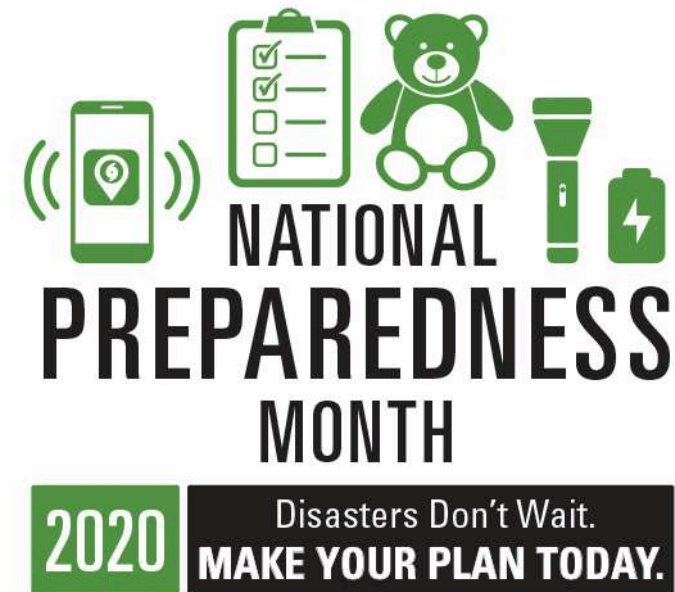
## Week 3 September 13-19: Prepare for Disasters

Limit the impacts that disasters have on you and your family. Know the risk of disasters in your area and check your insurance coverage. Learn how to make your home stronger in the face of storms and other common hazards and act fast if you receive a local warning or alert.

WEEK  
4

## Week 4 September 20-26: Teach Youth About Preparedness

Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated. Reassure them by providing information about how they can get involved.



#BeReady

# Weekly Assignment Reminder

- Remember to check our class Blackboard regularly for updates, announcements, and other related class information...
- Have you done the weekly readings and watched any associated videos? Weekly readings are listed on the Class Schedule page.
- Complete the “Build A Kit” Class Activity #2 and weekly discussion post response for Week 3. Initial post due on **Wed, Sept 9** by end of the day (11:59 pm PST) in Blackboard, and peer response post due on **Fri Sept 11** by end of day.