

# ARIZONA NEWSLETTER Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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## **CITIZENS DEMONSTRATE; THEY WANT A FIGHTING CHANCE**

They carried no signs, climbed no fences, crossed no lines, caused no civic disorder, and did not get arrested. The big news media were not on the scene. There was only one video camera, in the hands of a professional two-man crew hired by the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine to record the demonstrations.

A group of volunteers, mostly from Grant's Pass, Oregon, demonstrated the construction of the shelters and equipment in the updated version of Nuclear War Survival Skills by Cresson Kearny. Three ladies (ages 63, 64, and 65) proved that they could dig a car-over-trench fallout shelter large enough for six, using pick, shovel, plastic trash bags, and Mr. Kearny's instructions. They were undeterred by an occasional inquisitive snake. School children and two teachers built and occupied a pole-covered trench shelter. A excellent seamstress made hammocks, convertible into chairs, for improving shelter habitability. After building a plywood double-action piston pump and filter, some volunteers demonstrated its effectiveness for ventilating a mine tunnel shelter. A teenage boy constructed a Kearny fallout meter (KFM), an instrument of proven accuracy that requires no battery, only a KFM charging device such as a roll of Scotch Magic Tape. (You may have read about the KFM in Pulling Through by Dean Ing or War Day by Whitley Strieber and James Kunetka.)

The message sent by these volunteers is clear enough without any posters.

Unfortunately, Jack Geiger of Physicians for Social Responsibility, who travels around the country ridiculing the idea of shelters, was not on the scene to tell these people that they're supposed to die of radiation sickness if the Soviets ever attack our country. He could also tell them that his professional gravediggers would be unable to move that much dirt.

Undoubtedly, expedient shelters have many disadvantages. The project also demonstrated a permanent blast shelter, built out of a 5000 gallon fuel storage tank with a few alterations made in a local welding shop. According to Art Robinson of the Oregon Institute, this type of shelter is cheap enough that most families could afford to bury it as an insurance policy. He advises people to make shelters big enough for their neighbors too. The space might cost around \$300 per person. "Is a person's life worth that much?"

Kearny's book Nuclear War Survival Skills can be ordered from the Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, PO Box 1279, Cave Junction, OR 97523, \$9.50 per copy or \$75 for 15 copies, postpaid. This book is full of lifesaving information; every family should have a copy. A book giving the details of how to construct the permanent shelter is in preparation. Videotapes of the demonstrations, starring Cresson Kearny, will be available as soon as 84 hours of tape can be edited to a suitable length. Persons who receive this newsletter might already have received a complimentary copy of Fighting Chance by Art Robinson and Gary North; additional copies are available from the address above for \$5.95 (or \$50 for 50 copies). Highly recommended is the Fighting Chance newsletter (regular, \$60 for 12 issues; charter, \$35 for the first 12 issues).

## **A R I Z O N A   C A L E N D A R**

"Questions and Answers about Star Wars," an interview by Roy Landreth with Jane Orient and Bill Anderson, will be cablecast on John Cantrell's program The Stones Cry Out, Wednesday, July 1, at 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, July 2 at 11:00 a.m., Channel 3 in Tucson.

"Defense Against Nuclear Weapons: How and Why?" will be discussed by Dr. Orient at the July 15 meeting of Arizonans for National Security, Airport Central Inn, 2247 E. Van Buren, Phoenix, at 12:00 noon. Lunch is \$5.75. Call 831-0274 or 253-3453.

## A R M A   S U P P O R T S   C I V I L   D E F E N S E

At the annual meeting on June 6, the Arizona Medical Association considered the following resolution, submitted by 18 Arizona physicians:

WHEREAS: The United States faces the threat of nuclear weapons in the hands of several hostile foreign powers;

AND WHEREAS: Dozens of minor and irresponsible nations might now or in the future have access to fissionable materials such as enriched uranium or weapons grade plutonium that are suitable for building nuclear explosives;

AND WHEREAS: The exploding of one nuclear weapons does not automatically mean that all other nuclear devices will inevitably be exploded;

AND WHEREAS: It is likely that even after an all-out nuclear war, there will be millions of survivors;

AND WHEREAS: The appalling destruction of human life from nuclear weapons would be even greater in the absence of measures to protect the population against their effects and to aid the survivors of the immediate effects;

AND WHEREAS: The United States program of civil preparedness has deteriorated alarmingly while that of other nations such as the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and Switzerland has steadily improved;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT: The Arizona Medical Association will work with state and federal authorities in developing statewide contingency plans for dealing with the medical consequences of limited or all-out nuclear war.

A member of Physicians for Social Responsibility amended the "resolved" to add the idea that the Association opposes the continued proliferation of nuclear armaments, and the resolution passed as amended. No one spoke against the need for preparedness, and the vote was overwhelmingly favorable.

### U P D A T E   O N   T H E   " A R M S   R A C E "

Number of nuclear weapons in U.S. arsenal in 1967: 32,000; in 1987, 26,000.

New warhead produced: 1895 to 2070 per year. Old warheads dismantled: about the same.

Total megatonnage now: 75% less than in 1960.

"This reduction in numbers and megatonnage was accomplished even in the face of a major increase in the number of Soviet hard targets." (Science 236:515-516.)

### I S   R A D O N   G O O D   F O R   Y O U ?

Marshall Brucer, MD, of Tucson, points out that low dose radiation is not only good for you, but is essential to life (see the Proceedings of the August 1985 conference on radiation hormesis, published in the May, 1987 special issue of Health Physics). It is true that miners in the radon-infested region of Joachimsthal, Bohemia frequently died of lung cancer -- but their life expectancy was ten years longer than average.

### E R R A T A

Cresson Kearny commented on the report on the Nuclear Attack Planning Base 1990, discussed in the May, 1987 issue: Ground bursts would be limited because air bursts can destroy about twice as large an area (of most targets), not because of the fear of creating radioactive deserts. Even multimegaton ground bursts could not do that.

The number of dosimeters owned by FEMA is actually 3,300,000 (not 34,000,000), as Mr. Kearny learned from the head of FEMA's radiation monitoring instruments division in 1986. In other words, only 4.8% of the number needed rather than 50%. (Have you built a Kearny Fallout Meter yet? It takes about six hours.)

### P R I O R I T I E S

"The guiding principles should be: \*End all nuclear testing. \*End Contra aid. \*End Star Wars. \*Ratify SALT II." --Gus Hall, General Secretary of the Communist Party, USA, quoted in the Jan. 1987 edition of Political Affairs (theoretical journal of the CPUSA).