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Regulations stipulate that members of the household defense unit should be persons who remain on the premises day and night. For this reason, and because of the general shortage of personnel, women are generally the members of this unit.

The commune has to build various protective constructions for the local civil defense organization, like EOC, warning-stations, first aid and medical stations, waiting-positions for the different detachments and platoons of the tactical units and locations for reserve personnel and material according to the civil defense plan.

All new buildings must contain adequate shelter from weapons effects for its occupants. Communes must provide for the construction of public shelter where private shelters do not exist, cannot be built and wherever crowds of people gather. In communes without a hospital, the commune may be required to build a sheltered emergency hospital as an extension of its medical station with well-protected operating and treatment rooms.

In the smaller communes without mandatory local civil defense organization the local fire fighting organization must be adapted to war conditions and be reinforced by rescue and first aid personnel.

Business Establishment

Business and industrial establishments with 100 and more employed personnel (hospitals, homes with 50 and more beds) are responsible for forming a civil self-defense organization and complying with other required measures. This organization (industrial/institutional defense unit) has the same pattern as the local civil defense force and their leaders and crews must attend training courses and participate in periodic exercises as well as the local civil defense units.

Individual Persons

Individuals cannot hold conflicting duty assignments with both the military and with the civil defense. Nearly every male adult member of

the community who is not bound for military (militia) compulsory duty is given an assignment in local or industrial civil defense, as a fire fighter, a stretcher bearer, a medical attendant, a member of the welfare service or another specialized job. He has to undergo basic training, refresher-courses and to participate in periodical exercises.

The public must observe blackout regulations, guard against the accumulation of debris, and obey regulations governing personal behavior during warnings and alerts. Upon the activation of civil defense organizations, each person is obliged to render aid to the full extent of his ability.

System Activation

The activation of the civil defense system in an emergency may be accomplished at the federal, cantonal, or local level. The federal government is empowered to activate civil defense organizations should there be a partial of full military mobilization. The cantons and individual communities have the authority to activate civil defense organizations in the event of an unexpected act of war, or to render emergency aid in case of a natural disaster.

The concept of civil defense calls for almost total mobilization of civilian manpower in the survival system. The state of operational readiness of the civil defense organization is keyed to a corresponding state of mobilization in the Swiss armed forces.

Military Support

The Swiss Army supports civil defense by placing designated military units called air defense troops at the disposal of local governments. These units are assigned by the federal government to assist large communities that lie in probable target areas. These regularly armed troops are equipped with heavy equipment for fire fighting, rescue and medical assistance. Actually, 32 battalions and 13 independent companies are available for civil defense support. On

request and if available the Army will temporarily dispose of additional troops (pioneers, transport- and medical units i.e.). Military units maintain unit integrity and remain under military command but the local civil defense director decides where their assistance is needed and with what urgency.

Program Cost

Where action is taken on execution of federal laws, decrees and prescriptions i.e. for training, equipment, and new constructions, the federal government awards subsidies, in special cases up to 65%. For mandatory building of shelters in private constructions this subsidy amounts to an average of 30% of the expense of building the shelter, but not exceeding 5% of the whole building cost. Canton and commune contribute with 35 to 45%.

As an inducement to private owners of existing buildings, to build shelters into their structures, the government will contribute a total of at least 80% of the shelter cost. In case of hospital shelter, the federal government pays 55 to 65% and the canton with the commune contribute the remaining.

Under this rule, shelter space has been provided for roughly 45% of the whole population until December 1967. The annual increase is set at approximately 250 000 shelter spaces with the actual constructions activity.

With the construction subsidies and the centralised and standardized equipment program included, the federal government, in favour of civil defense, spent 88 million Swiss francs in 1966, 98,5 million Swiss francs in 1967 and the budget figure for 1968 is of 147,7 million Swiss francs. The other governmental bodies (cantons, communes) together, in terms of annual budgets, approximately made the same contributions. For 1968 the total per capita expenses on all governmental levels approach 11 US dollars. *O. Burkhardt*

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