

It is likely that most people reading this analysis will generally agree with its conclusions. After all, we are an organization of pro-civil defense Americans. This analysis is correct. It is not new, and it has been shared by some very influential Americans such as Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan. Why does America have no defenses?

The answer lies in the same factors which influence many other enterprises which have great and obvious potential to improve the quality and security of life for ordinary people - enterprises which are said to be "populist" in nature.

In the two areas in which I have substantial knowledge and experience - national defense and biomedical research - I have learned that populist efforts often do not effectively advance and protect the careers and wealth of their proponents.

Power, prestige, advancement, and resources flow to individuals for many reasons. These reasons rarely include effective efforts to improve the quality of human life. Many people and enterprises do manage to improve the circumstances of ordinary people, but this is often a side-effect which actually harms those who make these efforts.

This phenomenon is especially true of complex undertakings such as defense and medical research wherein the average person lacks the training and information to easily understand his best interests.

The history of medicine and of national defense is littered with the careers and resources of people who improved the lives of ordinary people and destroyed their own careers and lives in the process.

The solution to this paradox lies in knowledge. In the case of national defense it lies in grass-roots understanding of defensive and offensive technology.

The road to the effective dissemination of that knowledge is a long path. It includes many obstacles put there by those whose personal interests are best served by popular ignorance. It is a road littered with the careers and resources of many people.

It must be travelled if our nation is to survive.

SELF RESCUE

It is especially important to assure that shelter occupants are not buried alive in their shelters. Fear of this possibility or more general claustrophobia is sometimes mentioned by people who say that they would not want to occupy a small space underground even in an emergency.

In a real emergency, claustrophobia and other apprehensions quickly disappear. Virtually everyone is happy to have a safe place available. Never-the-less, a poorly planned shelter can become a death trap.

The most common shelter danger in war time is carbon monoxide from fires near the shelter air vents or near air leaks into the shelter. Carbon monoxide is an odorless gas