

This last year we saw a coalition of invading armies from countries all over the world turn the country of Iraq into a sea of flames, horror, and death. The mechanism to produce such coalition armies is in place. Are we sure that it will never be turned upon us? And if it is turned upon us, will we be able to resist? The current, quiet unilateral destruction of our tactical nuclear weapons goes a long way toward making the answer to that question - No!

Maybe, in time of national peril, we can buy weapons from Iran. There are increasingly credible reports that the Iranians are buying tactical nuclear weapons from entrepreneurs within the Soviet military. The Iranians and the Russians - all such nice people with impeccable records of responsible behavior - into whose hands unilateral disarmament is delivering the future of the American people.

CORRUGATED STEEL SHELTERS

The most cost-effective means of providing permanent, high protection civil defense shelters is with cylindrical steel rooms that have flat ends and are buried at depths that permit effective earth arching. Other construction methods such as concrete or fiberglass are very much more expensive for the same level of protection and the same number of people.

There are two sorts of steel construction that can be used for cylindrical steel shelters - smooth, heavy-walled steel such as is found in fuel storage tanks and corrugated, galvanized, light-walled steel such as is found in culvert pipes. Either of these materials can be used to make a very protective, high quality, cost-effective shelter.

If a national shelter system were ever built, it would probably use corrugated steel tanks. Corrugations give the steel much greater strength per unit thickness. Therefore, where the tooling to stamp out shelter units can be amortized over large numbers of shelters, corrugated steel is less expensive, because it uses less steel. Moreover, corrugations give the shelter a little better characteristics of bending at maximum stress. Most shelters will never be stressed to the buckling point. If this happens, however, a corrugated cylinder is less prone to catastrophic buckling failure.

There is also a specialized application in which corrugated steel has an added advantage. Swiss military cylindrical steel shelters are designed for burial by troops in the field and are constructed of bolt-together corrugated plates. This allows the entire shelter to be stored and transported as a light weight, compact, palletized package and assembled very quickly by a small group of soldiers.

So why have most of the shelters built by supporters of Fighting Chance and other knowledgeable people during the past few years utilized the smooth, heavy-walled steel design? There are two reasons.