

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

YAVAPAI DEFENSE COUNCIL
JACK MEDD, CHAIRMAN
JOHN PRUITT, MEMBER
TAYLOR ESTES, MEMBER

YAVAPAI COUNTY
BOX 787
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

COUNTY DIRECTOR
CLAUDE A. HAYES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
EVELYN MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
S. M. LOUITT

LOG OF OPERATIONS
JUNE 20, 1953
YAVAPAI COUNTY - CITY OF PRESCOTT

OPERATION BEWARE

- 6:30 Yavapai County Sheriff advises County CD Director of yellow alert
6:33 Sheriff notifies Prescott CD Director (acting)
6:35 Communications chief alerted
6:45 Red Alert received
7:00 By this time division chiefs alerted
8:00 Prescott CD Hq. activated
8:01 Ham radio report - Bridge over Verde River north of Chino Valley damaged by saboteurs
8:05 Message from State CD Hq. "Can you send 60 CD police to Globe by air immediately. - Harvey."
Sheriff and City police contacted to find number of police available
Transportation chief contacted to arrange air transportation
Airport contacted to advise suitability of landing field near Globe
8:20 Hells Canyon bridge reported destroyed
CAP requested to fly over both bridges to determine damage
8:24 Sheriff requested to block Highway 89 at Ashfork and at intersection 6 miles N. of Prescott, diverting traffic over 89A
8:40 Sheriff reports that about 60 cars are held up at bridges
Traffic being detoured via road from Chino to Perkinsville to Drake
Deputies at Ashfork and Drake notified
8:42 Sheriff reports 35 members of Sheriff's Posse available for Globe as well as 10 city police reserve
Transportation Chief reports Bonanza plane due to arrive 8:45 can carry 28, private or CAP planes can handle 1 each in 3 planes, 7 in 1 plane and 3 in one plane
8:56 State highway department alerted for equipment and men to repair bridges damaged or make detours
8:59 Land Rescue Squadron alerted (Jeep Club)
9:00 Sheriff reports men ready for Globe
9:11 Highway Dept. reports men and equipment available
9:15 Message 1 to CD State Hq. "35 sheriff's posse available. 28 departed on diverted Bonanza plane arrive Cutter Field, Globe about 10:00. Private plane bringing 7 about same time"
9:20 CAP reports Hells Canyon bridge US Highway 89 demolished
Traffic diverted from route 89 at Ashfork and at Junction of 89 and 89A, 6 miles north of Prescott. County engineer repair crew dispatched 9:18
Verde river bridge north of Chino. Clearing traffic thru Perkinsville-Drake
9:30 Transportation Chief reports standby tractor and semi and low body heavy truck other than City-County equipment ready if needed to handle bridge materials
9:50 On radio installed at Hq. intercepted message that Hill Field (Ogden, Utah) under HE attack
9:58 Our message No. 1 intercepted on radio. Much difficulty in transmission

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- 10:00 Our message 2 intercepted
- 10:15 Intercepted message that 10,000 cars blocked at Yuma. 2000 per hour crossing bridge. One-half bound for Tucson, other to Phoenix, splitting at Gila Bend
- 10:18 Airport reports that police arrived safely at Globe
- 10:20 Welfare director notified of possible need to care for transients as result of road block
- 10:45 Local representative of state Grocers Assn. alerted for possible control of food distribution
- 10:50 Fred Crowell alerted for possible central control of gasoline and oil distribution
- 11:00 Power Company notified of situation and alerted against possible power line failures
- 11:25 Land Rescue Squadron requested to furnish 2 cars to assist in convoy of cars on Perkinsville detour
- 11:28 Land Rescue Squadron - jeeps gassed and ready. Departed at once.
- 12:20 Message 3 to CD State Headquarters: "Bridge over Verde River north of Chino on U.S. Highway 89 repaired. Detour around Hells Canyon Bridge will be ready to allow limited traffic thru at 15:30" (Amateur radio closed down - message delivered to Sheriff's radio)
- 13:00 County Welfare officer reported ready to set up welfare station in basement of County Court House. All forms and requisitions ready for issuing. Registrations can be handled at approximate rate of 40 families per hour. Arrangements made for cashing vouchers
- 13:15 West Yavapai Chapter, American Red Cross, reports first aid station set up at National Guard Armory, and preparations made to furnish emergency feeding for 100 people by 18:00
- 15:30 All divisions of local CD organization and cooperating agencies informed that practice alert completed
- 15:31 Siesta time

COMMENTS: This operation showed that the greatest weakness in this County is in Communications. Amateur radio operators did a good job as far as they could go but messages were too slow in being handled and we needed a closer tie-in with radio operators. Considerable improvement will be made along this line. A direct phone hook-up between amateurs and CD Headquarters needed. Also needed communication set up at Headquarters so as to get more outside information.

More office help is needed at CD Headquarters for typing messages, filing and detail work.

Needed 3 or 4 messengers on hand when phone contacts cannot be made (Boy Scouts can be used here).