

Visiting your Local ROC Bunker thistime?

UK Warning and Monitoring Organisation, INTEX Exercise, March 15/16

The large and smaller-scale actions at Faslane, Coulport, Edzell, Dounreay etc. are, quite rightly, the main focus of our Scottish campaigns against the nuclear build-up in Scotland. But the nuclear chain comes right into your backyard too, with nuclear war exercises going on several times a year at ROC bunkers. So in between the sit-downs, demos, and snowball actions, maybe your group would like to mark the next UKWMO exercise at your local bunker. Mid-March is your next chance. At 8 am on Sat. 15 March, ROC volunteers, young and old, men and women, will be at ROC bunkers all over the country, taking part in the UKWMO Intex International Exercise.

Do you know where your local ROC bunkers are?

Lots of SCND members are already scouring the country for bunkers (see Competition in January "SCND NEWS", closing date 31 March). There are over 200 of them spread evenly over Scotland, so there must be one near you and there's probably half-a-dozen within 20 miles. Look at the enclosed list of names and OS map ref. nos., taken from "Attack Warning Red" by Derek Wood, pub. MacDonald & Janes 1976 (a fascinating tome from your local library). The ref. no. helps you to pinpoint the location of the bunker, but it won't be marked on the map - you have to look for it. The bunker entrance is painted dull green, and has a little fence round it (see Jan. "SCND NEWS"). If you can't find the bunker, it's just possible that one of the digits of the ROC's OS ref. no. is one out, so you could try changing one of the digits, and look there.

What next?

You might like to write now to the UKWMO Controller for the Caledonian Sector at Dundee. Ask for a few copies of the UKWMO publicity booklet. Ask what the INTEX exercise is about, and whether they feed information to military "Nuclear Reporting Cells" (see Duncan Campbell's "War Plan UK", Chapter 9). Ask if you can visit a bunker, or, if near Dundee, if you can come along to their UKWMO HQ to talk about the INTEX exercise. The UKWMO Controller for the Caledonian Sector is Mr. G.J.C. Halford, UKWMO HQ, Craigiebarns, Dundee, DD4 7PJ. If you have time, make up a leaflet (see draft) for supporters and the general public, telling them where their local ROC bunkers are, and what your group think about this exercise. Other local peace groups might like to come in on it, not to mention your local councillors.

What to do two days before

Book your local press photographer, or put a short black and white film in your camera. (Bunkers are very photogenic, and suitable for video film too, if you can lay your hands on a camera). Arrange for local radio and TV interviews. Finalise transport for your bunker visitors, and what you are to do when you get there. Give out your leaflets.

On the day

Do your own thing, small or large! It's better to go to more than one bunker, just in case the first reception is really frosty. Ask the ROC volunteers what they're doing and why. You might like to plant a tree, hand over a bunch of flowers, blow up some balloons for the little fence, have readings aloud from "Attack Warning Red" and "War Plan UK", give them a Sanity, organise a somersault and handstand competition for the kids, take a photo of the dog jumping over the bomb baffle plates, bed down for a sleep-in.

/

THEN, immediately you get home, telephone your activities in to the local press, local radio and TV, and phone immediately to me too, so that I can pass on accumulated news reports to the Sunday Post and the Monday national papers (I have to do this early on the Saturday evening and on the Sunday evening respectively). Then later, send in your photos and reports to Scottish CND for "SCND NEWS".

Good luck! Hope to hear from a lot of you on 15/16 March.
And keep 8 June free for the next UKWMO exercise!

Kristin Barrett
SCND Events Organiser
25 Ashgrove Terrace
Blairgowrie
PH10 7ET Tel 0250 4594

PS "Bunkerwatch 85" VHS video. Technically amateurish, but full of interesting dialogue and events at four Tayside bunkers. For private viewing by groups only, not for public viewing. Phone 0250 4594 to book. No charge, but please send 90p to cover p&p to KRISTIN BARRETT, 25 ASHGROVE TERRACE, BLAIRGOWRIE, PH10 7ET