**Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center**

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| **Mount Weather** |
| Route 601, Loudoun / Clarke counties,near Bluemont, Virginia, USA |
| Mount Weather, with the Shenandoah Valley in the background |
| **Type** | FEMA command center, permanent Executive Branch substitute |
| **Built** | 1959 |
| **In use** | 1959 – present |

The **Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center** is a civilian command facility in Virginia used as the center of operations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Also known as the "High Point Special Facility" (HPSF), its preferred designation since 1991 is "SF".

The facility is a major relocation site for the highest level of civilian and military officials in case of national disaster, playing a major role in U.S. continuity of government (per the Continuity of Operations Plan).

Mount Weather is the location of a control station for the FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), a high frequency radio system connecting most federal public safety agencies and U.S. military with most of the states. FNARS allows the president to access the Emergency Alert System.

The site was brought into the public eye by *The Washington Post*, when the government facility was mentioned while reporting on the December 1, 1974 crash into Mount Weather of TWA Flight 514, a Boeing 727 jetliner.

**Location**

Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, access to the operations center is available via Virginia State Route 601 (also called Blueridge Mountain Road) in Bluemont, Virginia. The facility is located near Berryville, 48 air miles from Washington, D.C. The underground facility within Mount Weather, designated "Area B", was completed in 1959. FEMA established training facilities on the mountain's surface ("Area A") in 1979.

The above-ground portion of the FEMA complex (Area A) is at least 434 acres (1.76 km2). This measurement includes a training area of unspecified size. Area B, the underground component, contains 600,000 square feet (56,000 m2).

**Evacuations**

* According to a letter to the editor printed in *The Washington Post*, following the September 11 attacks, most of the congressional leadership was evacuated to Mount Weather by helicopter.
* Between 1979 and 1981, the National Gallery of Art developed a program to transport valuable paintings in its collection to Mount Weather via helicopter. The success of the relocation depends upon how much warning they have before an attack.

**In the media**

* The first video of Mount Weather shot from the air to be broadcast on national TV was filmed by ABC News producer Bill Lichtenstein, and was included in the 1983 20/20 segment "Nuclear Preparation: Can We Survive," featuring 20/20 correspondent Tom Jarriel. Lichtenstein flew over the Mt. Weather facility with an ABC camera crew. The news magazine report also included House Majority Thomas "Tip" O'Neill and Rep. Edward Markey confirming that there were contingency plans for the relocation of the United States government in the event of a nuclear war or major disaster.
* Both Mount Weather and The Greenbrier were featured in the A&E documentary *Bunkers*. The documentary, first broadcast on October 23, 2001, features extensive interviews with engineers and political and intelligence analysts, providing rare insights into the secret installations. The documentary compared The Greenbrier and Mount Weather to Saddam Hussein's control bunker buried beneath Baghdad. The documentary features interior video of The Greenbrier as well as the Baghdad bunker, which survived direct hits from seven Joint Direct Attack Munition bombs during the Battle of Baghdad in 2003.
* The novel *Seven Days in May* mentions a shadowy facility called Mount Thunder, a reference to Mount Weather, but the road descriptions in the book make it quite clear that it is the same facility.
* A facility similar to Mount Weather is featured in the beginning of the 2002 film *The Sum of All Fears*, based on the Tom Clancy novel of the same name. The fictional U.S. president is taken to a facility located inside Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland during a rehearsal of emergency operation plans following a Russian nuclear attack.
* Author Milton William Cooper described what he considered the authoritarian, secretive, and unconstitutional aspects of Mount Weather in his 1991 book *Behold a Pale Horse*.
* Author William Poundstone investigated Mount Weather in his 1989 book *Bigger Secrets*.
* Mount Weather was mentioned as the emergency facility in the case of a Soviet nuclear attack from Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis in the 2000 film *Thirteen Days*.
* In the final episode of *The X-Files*, entitled "The Truth", ex-FBI agent Fox Mulder enters the Mount Weather complex, which is controlled by a shadow government.
* In the 2008 remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, Klaatu's robot is taken to Mount Weather for analysis.