**Continuity of Government**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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| [**Nuclear weapons**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapon) |
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| [History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_nuclear_weapons) [Warfare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_warfare) [Arms race](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_arms_race) [Design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapon_design) [Testing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_testing) [Effects](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_nuclear_explosions) [Delivery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_delivery) [Espionage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_espionage) [Proliferation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_proliferation) [Arsenals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons) [Terrorism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_terrorism) [Anti-nuclear opposition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_anti-nuclear_movement) |
| [Nuclear-armed states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_states_with_nuclear_weapons) |
| [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) · [Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) · [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Republic_of_China_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction#Nuclear_weapons) · [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) · [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_and_Israel) [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) · [North Korea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) [South Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction) (former) |
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**Continuity of government** (**COG**) is the principle of establishing defined procedures that allow a [government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government) to continue its essential operations in case of [nuclear war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_warfare) or other catastrophic event.

COG was developed by the [British government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her_Majesty%27s_Government) during [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) to counter the threat of [Luftwaffe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luftwaffe) bombing during the [Battle of Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Britain). The need for continuity-of-government plans gained new urgency with [nuclear proliferation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_proliferation).

Countries during the [Cold War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War) and afterwards developed such plans to avoid (or minimize) confusion and disorder in a [power vacuum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_vacuum) in the aftermath of a [nuclear attack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_warfare).

**By country**

**Canada**

Canada built numerous nuclear bunkers across the country, nicknamed "[Diefenbunkers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emergency_Government_Headquarters)" in a play on the last name of prime minister [John Diefenbaker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Diefenbaker)'s government which was in power at the time.

**France**

The Centre d'Opération des Forces Aériennes Stratégiques (COFAS) is a hardened command center for French nuclear forces in [Taverny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taverny), [Val d'Oise](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Val_d%27Oise). The alternate national command center is located at Mont Verdun near [Lyon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyon).

The hardened headquarters of Force Océanique Stratégique (FOST), France's nuclear [SSBN](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SSBN) fleet, is at [Houilles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houilles), [Yvelines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yvelines).

**Norway**

The [Norwegian government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_government) operate a nuclear bunker called [Sentralanlegget](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sentralanlegget) in [Buskerud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buskerud) County. The bunker is meant to accommodate the [Norwegian Royal Family](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Royal_Family) and the government in case of a nuclear/military attack on the nation, and also function as a wartime headquarters.

**United Kingdom**

The primary British COG headquarters is at the Ministry of Defence in [Whitehall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitehall). An [alternate national command center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Government_War_Headquarters) was previously maintained in a quarry complex (nicknamed [Hawthorn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawthorn,_Wiltshire)) near [Corsham, Wiltshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corsham,_Wiltshire). The above-ground support facility is [RAF Rudloe Manor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Rudloe_Manor).

Service command centers are Northwood for the Royal Navy Trident SSBN force, and [RAF High Wycombe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_High_Wycombe) for the Royal Air Force.

**United States**

Main article: [Continuity of Operations Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuity_of_Operations_Plan)

* Each facility is counterpart to its peacetime equivalent.
  + [Raven Rock Mountain Complex](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raven_Rock_Mountain_Complex) → [The Pentagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon) ([Department of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Defense))
  + [Mount Weather](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Weather) → [Federal Emergency Management Agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Emergency_Management_Agency) (FEMA) (Used temporarily for Members of Congress in Sept. 2001)
  + [Camp David](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_David) → [Executive Office of the President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Office_of_the_President)
  + Unknown → [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) ([The Greenbrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Greenbrier) was to be used until 1992, when it was decommissioned)
  + [Cheyenne Mountain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheyenne_Mountain) → [North American Aerospace Defense Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Aerospace_Defense_Command) (NORAD)
  + [United States Strategic Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Strategic_Command) Center ([Offutt Air Force Base](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offutt_Air_Force_Base)) → [United States Strategic Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Strategic_Command) ([USSTRATCOM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Strategic_Command))
* Former site:
  + [National Audio-Visual Conservation Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Audio-Visual_Conservation_Center) (Mount Pony) → [Department of Treasury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_the_Treasury)/[Federal Reserve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Reserve) (sold off in 1997 to the National Audiovisual Conservation Center)
  + [Project Greek Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Greek_Island) (Greenbrier Bunker - Exposed in press and removed from service)
* Also, mobile systems are used for additional command and control.
  + [E-4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_E-4), [EC-135](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_EC-135), and [E-6](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-6_Mercury) are all airborne command centers.
  + [Air Force One](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Force_One) is the term for any [USAF](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USAF) plane the [President of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) travels on. However, the term normally refers to a [Boeing VC-25](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_VC-25)A the President normally uses. While the VC-25A is equipped with numerous systems to ensure its survival, in an emergency, it would be recommended that he use the [National Airborne Operations Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Airborne_Operations_Center), a [Boeing E-4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_E-4) specially built to serve as a survivable mobile command post. The [Secretary of Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_Defense) may also use it, as a member of the [National Command Authority](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Command_Authority). It is also possible that the President would authorize the [Vice President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_the_United_States) to use it, depending on the circumstances.
  + An [E-6 Mercury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-6_Mercury), is [USSTRATCOM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USSTRATCOM)'s Airborne Command Post, designed to take over in case [USSTRATCOM](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USSTRATCOM)'s headquarters is destroyed or incapable of communicating with strategic forces.
  + NORAD owns and operates a Mobile Consolidated Command Center.