

FARA Field Trip - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Tour



On May 2, 2023, thirteen FARA members went on a guided tour of the MEMA bunker located on Rt 9 in Framingham.



Figure 1-The thirteen FARA Members posing for a picture in the bunker.

Using ChatGPT, below is a brief description of the MEMA bunker:

“The MEMA bunker in Framingham, MA, is an underground facility designed to serve as the central command center for emergency management in the state. It is equipped with advanced communication systems, staffed by emergency management professionals, and plays a crucial role in coordinating resources, sharing information, and responding to emergencies. The bunker conducts training exercises, collaborates with various agencies, and ensures preparedness for disasters. While primarily restricted to authorized personnel, it may also host briefings and meetings related to emergency response.”

It should also be noted that the FARA repeater and antenna are located on the site.



Figure 2-FARA repeater tower.



Figure 3-FARA repeater tower.



Figure 4-Before entering the site, Glenn KC1HPZ, showed us the FARA antenna (red circle).



Figure 5-Closeup picture of FARA antenna.

The tour encompassed visiting several rooms and ended with a presentation regarding the emergency coordination and communication MEMA performs.

Thank you, Steve N1MH, for all your effort in an enjoyable field trip!

Below are some pictures with descriptions from the field trip.



Figure 6-Welcome



Figure 7-Entrance/exit ramp.



Figure 8-The previous ramp was followed by a right-angled zigzag hallway leading to this blast door entrance. The reason for the zigzag hallway is to prevent radiation from reaching the blast door; It was thought that radiation could not bend around corners.

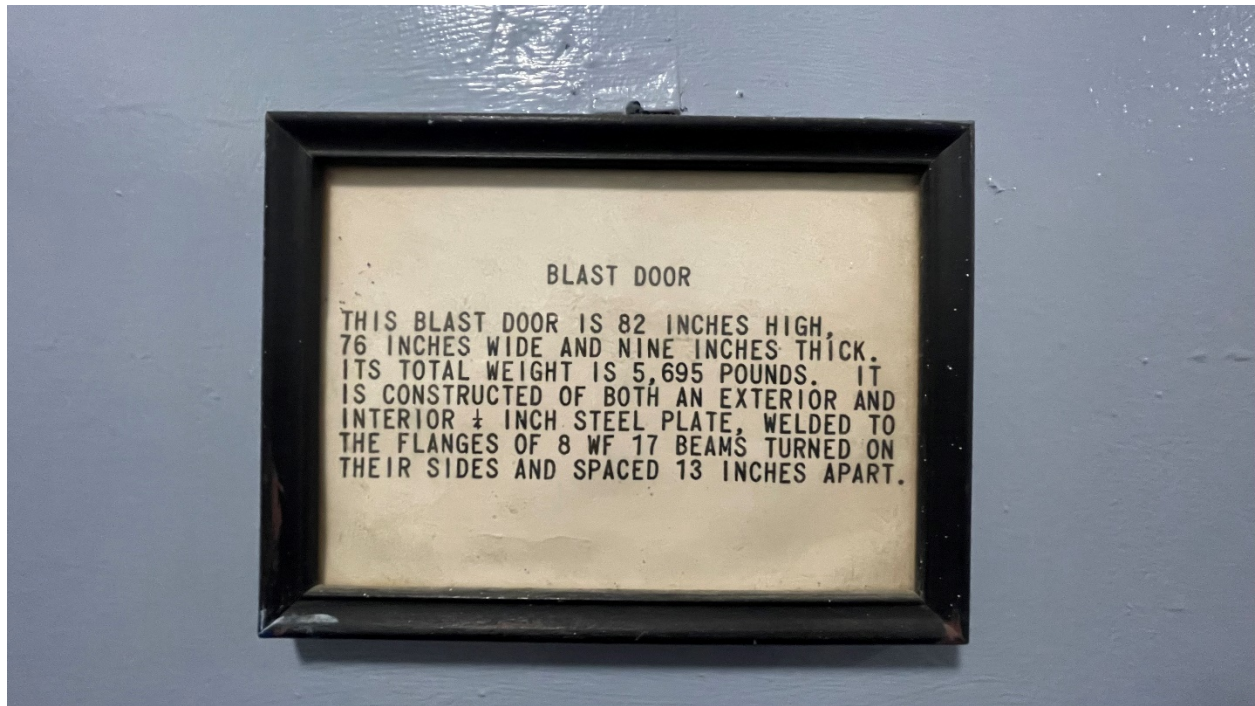


Figure 9-Blast door sign.



Figure 10-Civil Defense (CD) Cabinet.



Figure 11-Cabinet with Civil Defense items (including Geiger counters).

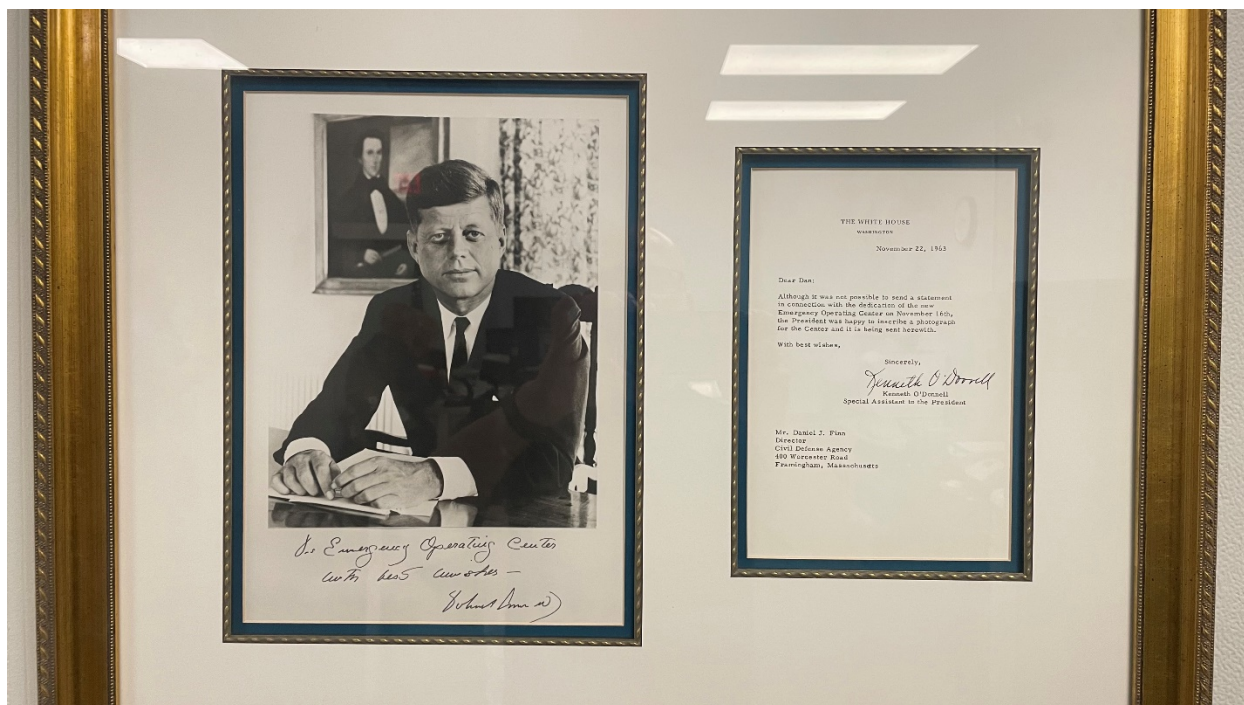


Figure 12-A picture of JFK and a letter from the White House dated Nov. 22, 1963, are on the wall near the receptionist's desk. John F. Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963. The same date as the bunker was dedicated. During the early 1960s, President John Kennedy devised a plan for each state to have a facility to ensure continuity of state government following a nuclear attack. Massachusetts was the first in the nation to have an underground blast-proof State Emergency Operations Center.

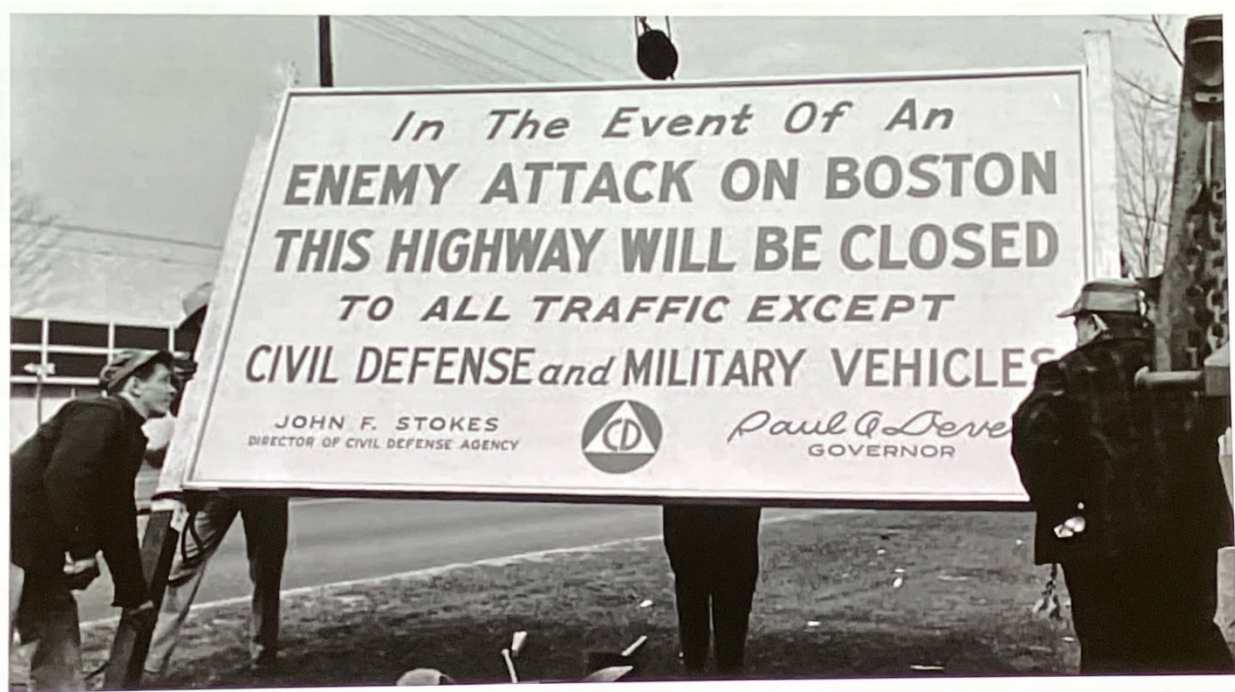


Figure 13-Route 9 in the days of the cold war.



Figure 14-Site in Natick that preceded the MEMA bunker.



Figure 15-MEMA Bunker under construction.



Figure 16-MEMA utilities room.



Figure 17-MEMA surge room.



Figure 18-MEMA bunk beds.



Figure 19-Shared repeater room. The FARA repeater enclosure (white) is the one on the floor next to the orange ladder. The repeater is the thin component near the bottom of the cabinet. The component (with the grill) at the top of the enclosure is an amplifier.



Figure 20-Shared repeater room (continued). The repeater puts out one Watt and the amplifier steps it up to 110 Watts. The output ends up being about 80 Watts.

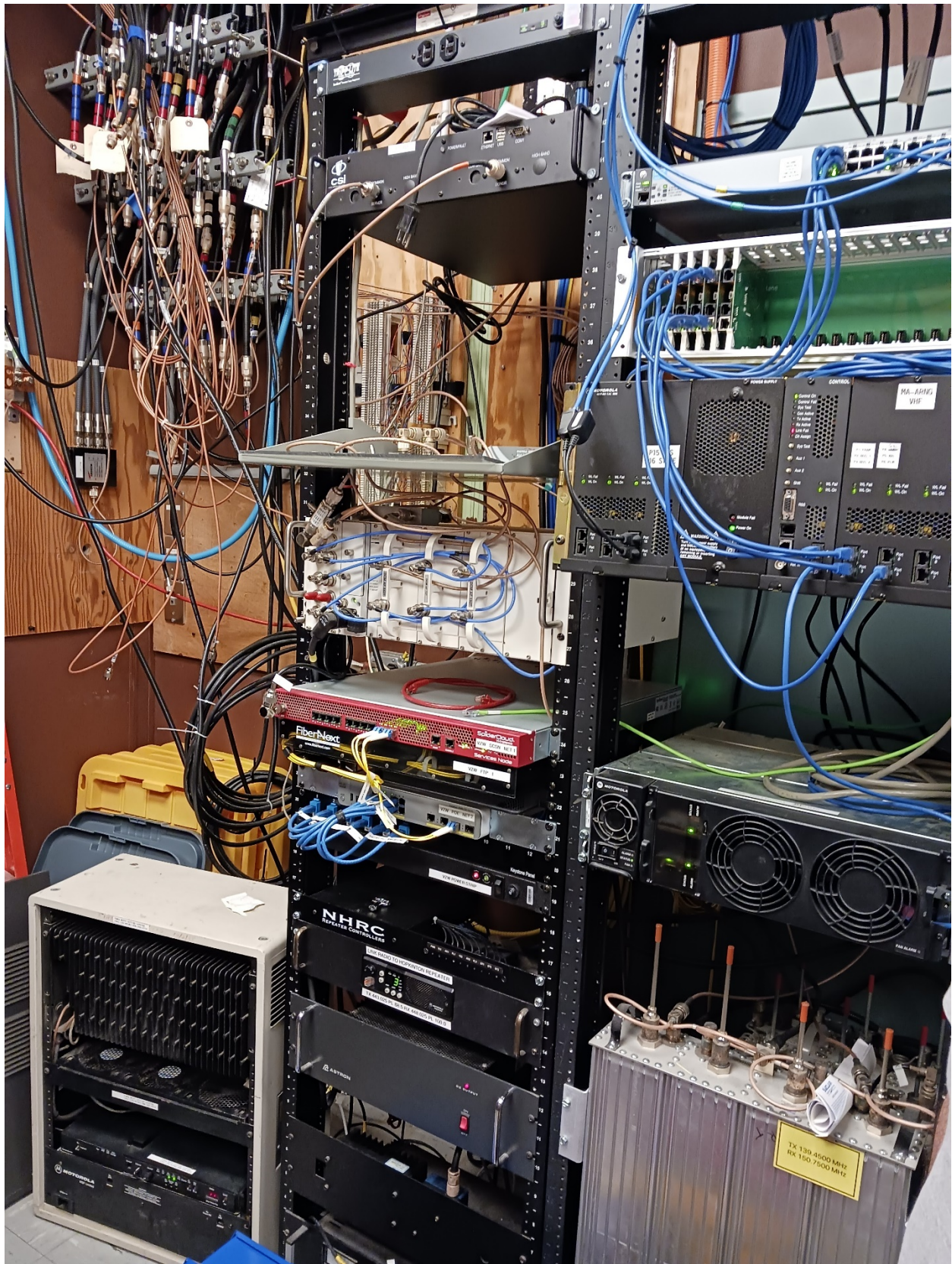


Figure 21-Shared repeater room.



Figure 22-Entrance to the EMP (electromagnetic pulse) room. The room protects critical emergency equipment from EMPs.



Figure 23-An outside view into the EMP room.



Figure 24-Some equipment in the EMP room.



Figure 25-This is the amateur radio station in the communication room. The bottom two radios from left to right are: ICOM 706 and Yaesu FT-450D. The top radio is a user-friendly radio (i.e., don't need to be a ham) issued by the federal government.



Figure 26-Operations center where we watched a MEMA presentation.

History of the Bunker

- State Emergency Operations Center
 - MEMA Headquarters – Framingham, MA
 - Dedicated on November 16, 1963 – First in the Nation
 - Underground bunker ~ 40' below grade; nearly an acre in size
 - Constructed to withstand a 20-megaton bomb 3 miles out
 - Numerous redundant systems, water, electricity, air handling, etc.
 - 50-60 people workspaces day-to-day

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Figure 27-MEMA presentation slide - Bunker History.

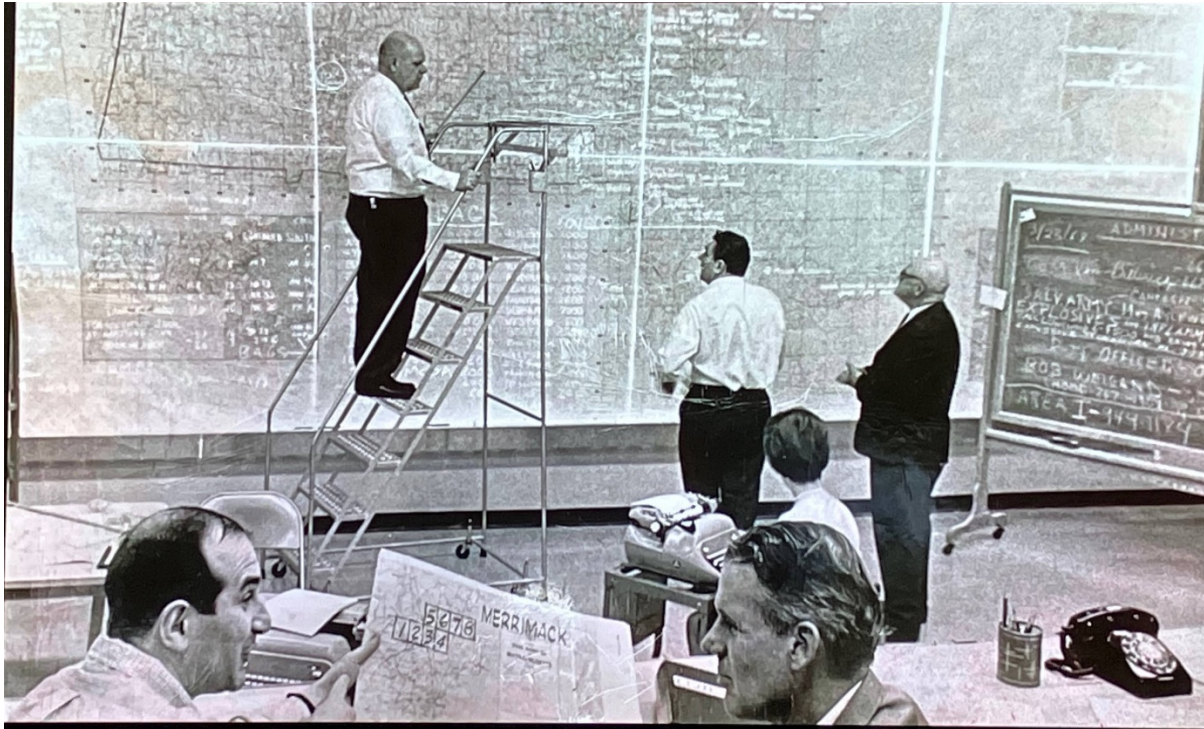


Figure 28-MEMA presentation slide - Operations center before electronic monitors/screens. It should be noted, MEMA still has and uses the ladder.

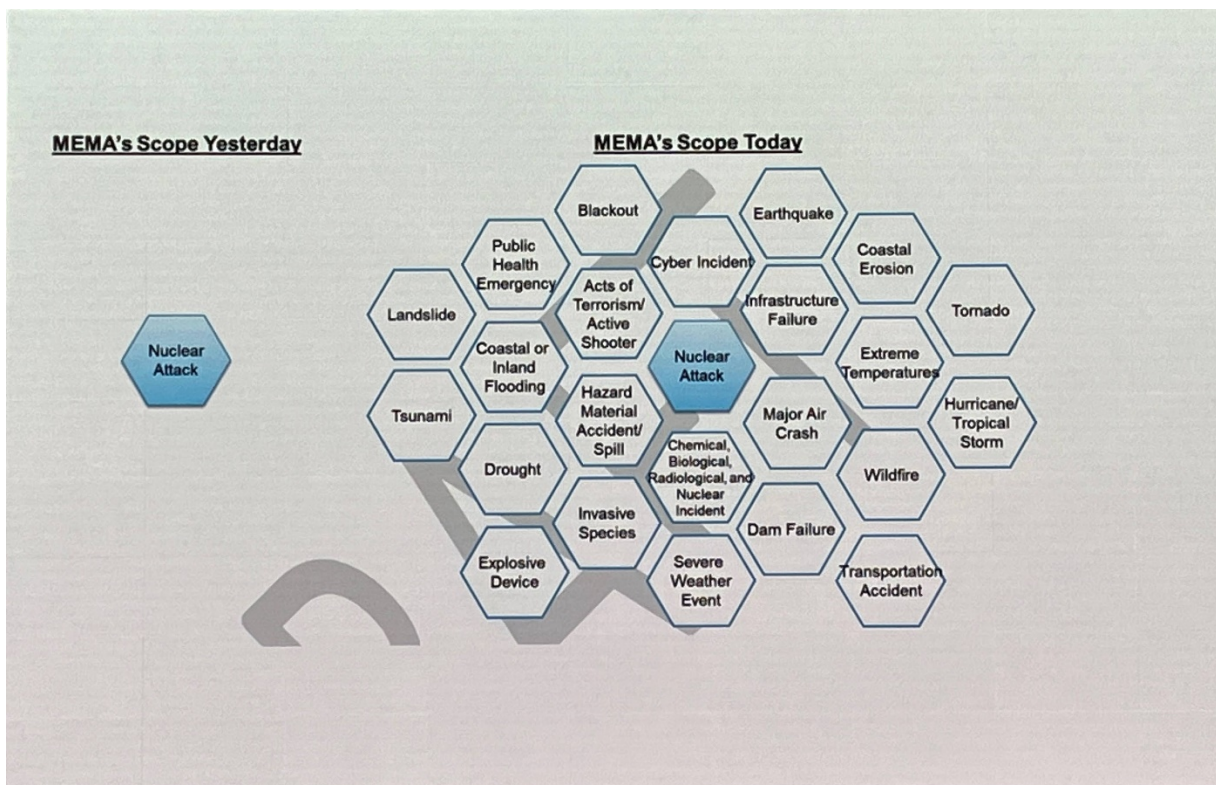


Figure 29-MEMA presentation slide - MEMA's Scope Today.