



The Resilience Rundown

Maritime Risk Symposium 2026

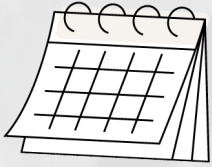


The 2026 Maritime Risk Symposium (MRS 2026), brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, and the maritime sector. The two-day event focused on the evolving challenges facing maritime security, with particular attention to cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, supply chain resilience, workforce development, and maritime domain awareness. Participants examined how emerging threats and operational disruptions can impact not only ports and vessels, but also critical infrastructure, economic stability, and national security.

Discussions throughout the symposium emphasized that maritime risk is increasingly interconnected across sectors and domains. Speakers stressed that compliance alone is insufficient and that organizations must develop practical response capabilities through exercises, clear decision making processes, and cross-functional collaboration. A recurring theme was that resilience depends on understanding interdependencies and strengthening partnerships before crises.

A key takeaway from MRS 2026 was the importance of moving beyond discussion toward measurable action. Attendees called for expanded working groups, collaborative exercises, shared-awareness initiatives, and industry-academia projects that can demonstrate progress ahead of next year's symposium. The event reinforced that no single organization can manage maritime risk alone; effective solutions require sustained cooperation among public agencies, private industry, and academic institutions. By fostering these partnerships and focusing on practical outcomes, the MRS continues to serve as a catalyst for advancing security, resilience, and innovation across the maritime domain.

Official MRS Proceedings will be posted by the end of June on the MRS website.



RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



Predictive Analytics for US Maritime Workforce Development and Supply Chain Resilience A Machine Learning Approach to Rebuilding Shipbuilding Capacity

Qingzhong Liu

This report presents a comprehensive analytical framework for assessing U.S. maritime shipbuilding workforce readiness, supply chain resilience, and policy intervention effectiveness.

The United States has maintained naval supremacy for over seven decades, but the industrial base that builds and sustains the fleet is under severe structural stress. The number of major shipyards capable of constructing Navy combatants has declined from over 30 after World War II to fewer than 7 today.

GAO found that the Department of Defense spent over \$5.8 billion on the shipbuilding industrial base from fiscal years 2014 through 2023, with plans for an additional \$12.6 billion through 2028, yet the industrial base has consistently failed to meet the Navy's production goals. GAO testimony in March 2025 stated that shipbuilders have infrastructure and workforce challenges that have made the Navy's goals difficult to accomplish, and that shipyards are struggling to replace the loss of experienced skilled workers. The most recent GAO assessment documents vacancy rates of 15 to 25 percent for critical trade positions across major naval shipyards. The Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine program faces delays of at least 12–16 months despite being the Navy's top priority since 2013, while the Constellation-class frigate program started construction before design was complete.



MAJOR PROJECT HIGHLIGHT <<<

Rio Grande Valley Waterways Advisory Committee

One of the goals at the Institute for Homeland Security (IHS) is to strengthen maritime resilience through strategic partnerships and collaboration. Working alongside the **Port of Brownsville**, IHS has helped unite federal agencies, industry leaders, and local stakeholders to foster trusted relationships and improve information sharing across the maritime community.

This collaborative effort led to the development of a framework and bylaws establishing the **Rio Grande Valley Waterways Advisory Committee** creating a lasting forum for coordination among public and private partners.

By bringing together comprehensive expertise and encouraging ongoing collaboration, this initiative demonstrates how universities can serve as trusted conveners, helping strengthen maritime safety, security, environmental stewardship, situational awareness, and emergency preparedness throughout the region.

>>> EVENTS <<<

IHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

July 22, 2026

Harris County Department of Education Conference Center

In person

Cost: \$50.00

The IHS Research Symposium 2026: CIP and the Texas Nexus is a one-day, high-impact program designed to bring together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to examine the most pressing challenges facing critical infrastructure protection today.

More information: [here](#)

PODCAST <<<

***Everybody's Getting Too
Much Information
All The Time
with Dr. Robert Gauthreaux
& Dr. Tony Yao***

Information is everywhere. Do you have a plan to cut through the noise in a crisis? This week, we chat about information overload and effective communication strategies with Sam Houston State University's Dr. Robert Gauthreaux, an assistant professor of practice of journalism and emerging media, and Dr. Tony Yao, an assistant professor of emerging media. Listen to the Podcast: [HERE](#)

