



THE RESILIENCE RUNDOWN

A Thank You to Robert Crane, One of the First IHS Hires!



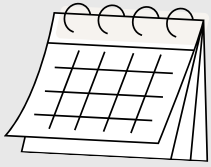
Robert Crane, a Houston-area native and graduate of the University of Houston, joined Sam Houston State University in early 2022 to help establish the Institute for Homeland Security. Drawing on more than 26 years of active and reserve service in the U.S. Coast Guard and nearly 15 years of federal service with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Crane brings a unique ability to bridge national policy with operational realities across Texas and beyond.

In this role, he supported energy security, business continuity initiatives, and public sector engagement efforts connecting government, industry, and academia.

Beyond government service, he remains actively engaged in critical infrastructure resilience and security organizations and has spent nearly two decades teaching business continuity, crisis management, and critical infrastructure protection at the university level. He holds both a Bachelor of Science in Technology and a Master's of Business Administration.

IHS wishes Rob a happy retirement and thanks him for his years of service and dedication on helping us build into what we are today. Throughout Crane's career, he has consistently demonstrated integrity, dependability, and a willingness to support others. His experience and guidance has helped shape our team, and your contributions will continue to be felt long after his retirement.

Congratulations on a well-earned retirement Rob! We wish you happiness, relaxation, and many exciting new adventures in this next chapter of life!



RESEARCH



[Online Research Link](#)



Defending Texas Ports From Malicious Drones: Authority Gaps, Emerging Federal Pathways

Art Wolfskill & Michael Wolfskill

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) have transformed the threat landscape for U.S. critical infrastructure, in this paper we examine the rapid evolution of drone misuse by terrorists, criminal organizations, cartels, and lone actors, tracing a trajectory from early military applications to contemporary weaponized, autonomous, and swarm-capable systems.

Unmanned aerial systems (UAS) have transformed the threat landscape for U.S. critical infrastructure, introducing low-cost, high-impact vulnerabilities that traditional security frameworks were not designed to manage. In this paper we examine the rapid evolution of drone misuse by terrorists, criminal organizations, cartels, and lone actors, tracing a trajectory from early military applications to contemporary weaponized, autonomous, and swarm-capable systems. It analyzes major global and domestic incidents to illustrate how commercially available drones are now used for reconnaissance, smuggling, disruption, and kinetic attacks, including attempts targeting power substations, airports, government officials, and high-value petrochemical assets. Particular emphasis is placed on U.S. ports, especially Texas maritime facilities, where unauthorized drone activity has surged and where Area Maritime Security Committees report persistent surveillance flights, potential smuggling operations, and operational interference.



The paper evaluates the complex legal environment governing counter-UAS measures in the United States. Case studies from Texas ports, including documented UAS incursions at Houston, Brownsville, and Galveston, demonstrate the operational consequences of these regulatory gaps.

»» EVENTS ««

MARITIME RISK SYMPOSIUM

June 2 - 3, 2026 | 8:30am to 3:00pm CT

- LyondellBasell Center for Petrochemical, Energy, & Technology at San Jacinto College, Pasadena Texas
- In person or virtual attendance options
- Cost: \$90.00

Over ninety percent of global trade travels through the world's maritime domain, making it a linchpin of international commerce. Safeguarding this vast ecosystem is vital—not only for the secure transport of goods and passengers, but also for economic resilience and national security.

More information: [here](#)

IHS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM: CIP AND THE TEXAS NEXUS

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 ««

DECODING AI PROCESSES & NETWORKING

WITH DANIEL WINDLE

Generative artificial intelligence has the potential to upend most industries - but it only works if you know how to work with it, not hide behind it. This week, we look back on last month's INFORMS Analytics+ conference with Daniel Windle, director of sales operations at Trinity Industries; Andrew Hartley, a data analyst with Navy Federal Financial Group; and David Stone, a research associate with the Institute for Homeland Security.

Link: <https://ihsonline.org/ihs-media/podcast>

