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THE RESILIENCE RUNDOWN

Leadership Command College Prepares Law Enforcement Executives for Homeland Security Leadership

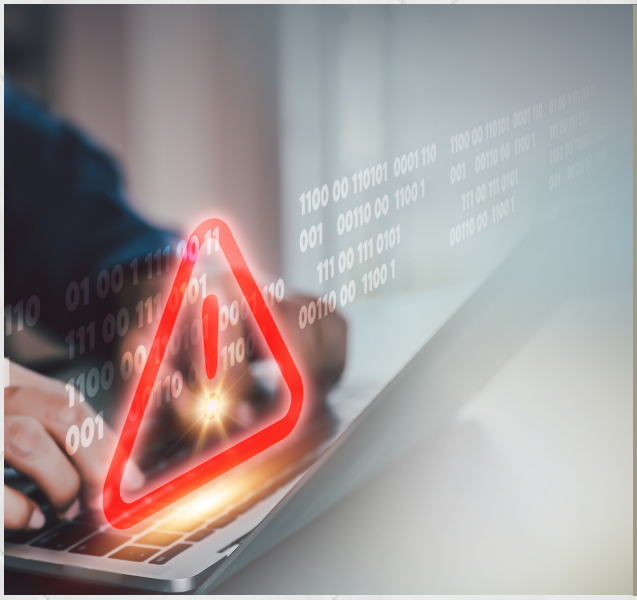
By: Executive Director Michael Aspland

The Law Enforcement Management Institute here at Sam Houston State University, offers the Leadership Command College (LLC) to develop current and future executives serving in various criminal justice roles. I had the opportunity to present a lecture on Policing and Homeland Security (HS): Roles, Responsibilities, and Strategic Integration. Between 2001 and 2006, the events of 9-11, the Beltway Sniper Shootings, and Hurricane Kartina required law enforcement leaders to expand their focus on order maintenance and community policing activities to include emergency management and critical infrastructure protection (CIP). This shift required criminal justice (CJ) professionals to take on the role of meta leaders to build strategic partnerships that are both multi-discipline and multi-jurisdiction focused.

CJ professionals must use risk assessment methodologies to determine how to invest HS funds and personnel resources to make CI both secure and resilient. HS is an all-encompassing phrase with no clean definition. In fact, ten years after 9-11, every jurisdiction had differing HS missions, strategic initiatives, and objectives that might be described as siloed or, to be more cynical, cylinders of excellence. At the last LCC, participants learned about the importance of including private sector partners in HS planning, prioritization of tasks, and how to respond to threats categorized by risk. They learned about the history of the HS function, opportunities for funding, and organizations such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (www.cisa.gov) to expand their knowledge of what is expected of them moving forward under the HS umbrella.

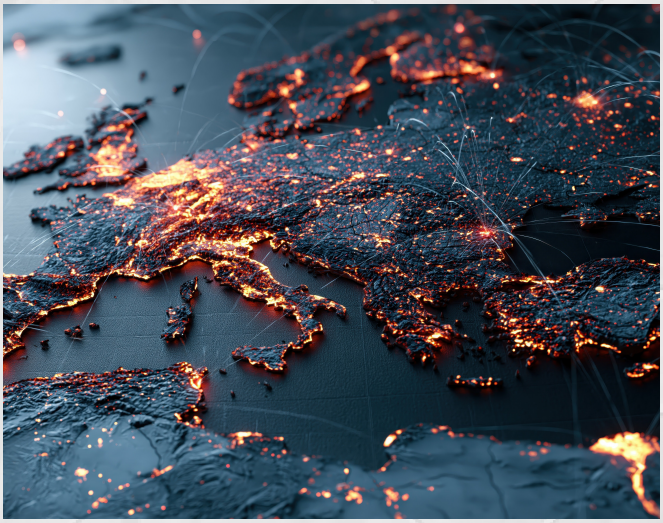
RESEARCH

Online Research Link



Escalating Cyber Risk to Critical Infrastructure: Geopolitical Conflict, Operational Technology Vulnerabilities, and Resilience Strategies for Energy Systems

Chuck Russell & Israel Reyes



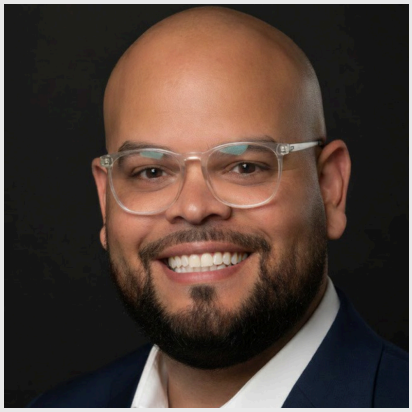
Critical infrastructure sectors—including energy, manufacturing, oil and gas, transportation, healthcare, food processing, water, mining, and aerospace—have become increasingly dependent upon complex cyber-physical systems whose disruption may generate significant operational, economic, environmental, and national security consequences. Although existing cybersecurity standards provide valuable guidance for governance, compliance, and risk management, they do not fully address the engineering problem of maintaining operational continuity during sustained cyber-physical disruptions.

This paper introduces Operational Resilience Engineering (ORE), a multidisciplinary engineering methodology that integrates systems engineering, cybersecurity, engineering reliability, quantitative risk management, and executive decision support into a unified framework for evaluating and improving operational resilience.

The proposed methodology introduces several original engineering contributions, including the Reference Critical Infrastructure Architecture (RCIA), Operational Dependency Modeling (ODM), the Operational Dependency Criticality Index (ODCI), the Operational Reliability Index (ORI), quantitative operational risk assessment using Expected Loss (EL), Value at Risk (VaR), Conditional Value at Risk (CVaR), Monte Carlo simulation, resilience optimization, and the Return on Resilience Investment (RORI).

STAFF HIGHLIGHT <<<

Jeffery Hernandez
Project Manager II



Jeff Hernandez is the Chemical Sector Project Manager for the SHSU Institute for Homeland Security. In this role he directs initiatives to secure and strengthen critical infrastructure across Texas. He bridges the gap between public and private sectors by collaborating with government, industry, and law enforcement to advance research, training, and strategic supply chain protection against physical and cyber threats.
Jeff brings a unique blend of technical and leadership expertise from his time as an Engineer and Technical Program Manager at Amazon Fulfillment Technologies & Robotics. He led large-scale IT operations, optimized global service delivery, and scaled technology initiatives across multiple continents.

Read More of his background on the IHS Website

>>> EVENTS <<<

Disruptions In Healthcare

August 20, 2026

Live Stream Event

Healthcare systems across the Texas are facing an unprecedented range of disruptions—from cyberattacks and workplace violence to supply chain shortages, infrastructure failures, extreme weather events, and growing capacity constraints. Disruptions in Healthcare – Identifying and Mitigating, brings together leaders from healthcare, public health and emergency management for a timely live stream event focused on understanding today's evolving risk landscape and advancing practical strategies to reduce operational disruptions.

More information: here

PODCAST <<<

"No Pasa Nada" and Crisis Preparedness

WITH CATHERINE MARTIN-TRUJILLO

In a crisis, knowing who to call is critical - and when to call for backup. This week, we unpack a crisis management and tabletop hurricane exercise down in the Valley with Catherine Martin-Trujillo, the emergency preparedness coordinator for the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and explore big takeaways for emergency exercises and preparation.

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