

GNSI DECISION BRIEF

Cracks in Our Foundation: How Neglected Bridges Threaten National Security

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Introduction

identi fed four critical infrastructure areas—energy and water,
transportation—as lifeline systems essential for ensuring public

Vulnerable Bridges and Infrastructure as Targets

Bridges are potential strategic targets in armed conflict. Damage

As Western support for Ukraine in the Russo-Ukrainian conflict

escalating to armed conflict with Western countries. Russian

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Decision Points

1. **Given the threat to bridge infrastructure resulting from underfunded budgets and deferred maintenance, what safety measures and funding are being implemented to protect the nation's bridges from intentional targeting?**
2. **What immediate steps should be taken to enhance the security and resiliency of U.S. bridge infrastructure ensuring the protection of critical transportation routes?**
3. **In what ways can the U.S. leverage international best practices with higher resilience standards to improve its own infrastructure?**
4. **What strategies should be developed to protect roads and bridges from being targeted by adversaries during international conflicts or sabotage?**
5. **In light of the recent incident where the containership Dali struck the Frances Scott Key Bridge highlighting vulnerable port systems, what strategic measures should the U.S. implement to mitigate the risks associated with critical infrastructure failures?**
6. **What proactive steps can be taken to ensure rapid recovery and continuity of military and civilian logistics when vital bridges fail?**

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