

NAVAL RESILIENCE

THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 7 December 1941



RESILIENCE LESSONS FROM THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

Japanese naval aviation conducted a devastating attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Sunday 7 December 1941, causing significant destruction to the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The measures taken by the Americans following the attack, however, converted this defeat into a remarkable case of resilience. This transformation can be analyzed through the resilience model developed by Maritime Strategy Research.



NH 50930 Pearl Harbor Attack. Naval History and Heritage Command.

BACKGROUND

The attack on Pearl Harbor came as a surprise for the American Navy and was a resounding tactical success for the Japanese. At the time of the strike, the United States and Japan were not at war and the naval base at Pearl Harbor was not prepared to counter this air attack.

As a consequence of this audacious attack the Americans suffered significant losses, including 2,403 death, 18 ships sunk or damaged, and 159 planes destroyed.

THE RESILIENCE MODEL



RISKS

- 1 Risk assessments
- 2 Risk appetite



PREVENTION

- 3 Culture | Leadership
- 4 Training | Simulations
- 5 Protocols | Guard rails
- 6 Inspections | Indicators



DISRUPTION

- 7 Early warning signals
- 8 Emergency reaction
- 9 Crisis management



RECOVERY

- 10 Recovery plan
- 11 Insurance

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

André Fournier is a naval historian and risk management practitioner with more than 25 years of experience. He is also a risk researcher and believes that naval history provides lessons of risk management that are replicable to modern-day business situations.

THE RESILIENCE MODEL



Mutualization of resolve. No insurance policy covered the Navy's losses. However, the nation united behind one purpose: to defeat Japan. This unity galvanized the public and fueled the war effort.

Resilience steps

