

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
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Subject: Executive Insight Brief | June 15, 2018
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Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF – JUNE 15, 2018

Trump Announces New Tariffs on China:

U.S. President Donald Trump announced hefty tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports on Friday as Beijing threatened to respond in kind, in a move that looks set to ignite a trade war between the world's two largest economies. Trump, whose hardline stance on trade has seen him wrangle with allies, said in a statement that a 25 percent tariff would be imposed on a list of strategically important imports from China. He also vowed further measures if Beijing struck back.

These tariffs are only the latest provocation in the high stakes game of international economic chicken being played between the United States and the People's Republic of China and as of now it appears that neither side is willing to back down. The United States is attempting to punish China over its protectionist trade practices, currency manipulation and theft of U.S.

intellectual property. [Read More.](#)

Singapore Summit:

Following the historic Singapore Summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un, President Trump announced that the U.S. would be stopping joint military exercises with South Korea. The initial announcement was later confirmed by a senior [US official](#).

On Thursday at a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States would stick to Trump's demands for North Korea to get rid of its nuclear weapons and that the United Nations [sanctions](#) would remain in place until North Korea accomplished "complete denuclearization."

Raytheon Acquires F-35 contract:

In an interesting turn of events, the major electronics and radar systems company, [Raytheon](#), has snagged a major [systems contract](#) for producing distributed aperture sights for the new F-35 fighter jets of the U.S. military. The contract was originally held by Northrop Grumman. The distributed aperture system, or DAS, is one of the Joint Strike Fighter's signature capabilities — fusing high-resolution videos from the jet's six infrared cameras inside the helmet of the pilot and allowing the operator to identify and track targets in both day and night. When news articles talk about how the F-35's helmet allows the pilot to see through the bottom of the aircraft onto the ground below, that functionality is enabled by the DAS.

Additionally in F-35 news, the U.S. government is proceeding with plans to deliver the first [F-35 to Turkey](#), with the country set to accept its first jet on June 21 despite opposition from some in Congress.

Microsoft Shops Maintenance Technology:

In technology news, as the Pentagon shops for technology that can predict when its weapons might break, [Microsoft \(MSFT\)](#) is shopping its artificial intelligence to defense decision makers in Washington.

This development comes as predictive artificial intelligence-driven maintenance technology is already being used by commercial airlines and being experimented with by the Air Force on its C-5 cargo planes and B-1 bombers. The proposed technology works by aggregating data from Rolls Royce engines and using machine learning to provide analytic insights on engine performance.

With the ability to predict when parts will break, this kind of software could modernize the current infrastructure and provide for proactive maintenance and increased readiness levels.

Virginia Primary:

On Tuesday, the primaries of Virginia and South Carolina made several headlines. [Virginia](#) Republicans turned bright red Tuesday, selecting the more-Trump-than-Trump Corey Stewart as their nominee to challenge Sen. Tim Kaine (D) as primary elections played out in congressional districts across the state.

In South Carolina, there were two headlines. Archie Parnell, a Democratic House candidate who lost the support of his party after he admitted to physically abusing his ex-wife in the 1970s, handily won a primary in [South Carolina](#) on Tuesday. South Carolina Rep. Mark Sanford lost the Republican nomination for his congressional seat to an opponent who attacked his criticism of President Trump. Read more [here](#).

LOOK AHEAD

On Monday, the Association of Defense Communities Annual Summit will kick off at the Washington Hilton. Check out the schedule of events and register, [here](#).

The House Armed Services Committee will have [four hearings this upcoming week](#):

On Wednesday June 20th, "Military Health System Reform: Pain Management, Opioids Prescription Management and Reporting Transparency."

Thursday June 21st, there will be two hearings on "Military Technology Transfer: Threats, Impacts, and Solutions for the Department of Defense" and "Aviation Mishap Prevention—a Progress Report."

Friday June 22nd, there will be one hearing on "Space Situational Awareness: Whole of Government Perspectives on Roles and Responsibilities."

On [Tuesday](#), The House Oversight and Government Reform and House Judiciary committees hold a joint hearing on "Oversight of the FBI and DOJ Actions in Advance of the 2016 Election."

On Wednesday, ahead of the NATO summit in Brussels, the Hudson Institute holds a [discussion](#) on NATO's efforts to "adapt to a new security environment characterized by disruptive technologies and hybrid warfare tactics."

Have a great weekend!

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | JUNE 8, 2018

TOP STORIES

TENSIONS BETWEEN ALLIES

Today marks the start of the two-day [G7 summit](#) in Quebec among the leaders of the seven largest industrialized economies in the world. This is amidst tensions between many of the U.S.'s allies over the recent tariffs put in place by the Trump Administration last week. It is expected that Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and France's President, Emmanuel Macron, will sit down with President Trump, one on one, this weekend to express their concerns.

Tariffs are not the only thing increasing the feud between the U.S. and its allies. Earlier this morning, President Trump [told](#) reporters that Russia should be invited to the summit after being suspended from the G8 in 2014 for its illegal annexation of Crimea. It was also announced that President Trump is

planning on [leaving](#) the summit early on Saturday to arrive in Singapore for the North Korea Summit.

SPEAKING OF THE SUMMIT...

The meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong Un is scheduled to take place in the next four days. The historic summit will mark the first time a U.S. president and a North Korean leader have met to discuss terms of peace, denuclearization and human rights. The goal is [CVID](#) — complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization.

There are several lessons from past meetings to keep in mind when dealing with North Korean leaders, as well as the challenge that the communist state [upholds its promises](#).

The road to this point in negotiations has been anything but smooth. Trump has stated he has not been preparing for the meeting, as it all depends on Kim's "attitude," and tweeted early on Friday that he [does not want advice](#) from certain politicians regarding the matter.

On Thursday, the President expressed hope for normalized relations between the DPRK and the U.S., and mentioned the possibility of an invitation to the White House for Kim Jong-Un in the event talks go well. [Read More.](#)

CHINA'S ROLE IN ALL OF THIS

In conjunction with the upcoming Korean Summit, President Trump has decided to [lift sanctions](#) placed on China's second largest telecommunications firm, ZTE. Chinese President, Xi Jinping, has been an instrumental player in organizing the peace talks between North Korea and the United States, and remains the DPRK's staunchest backer.

The sanctions effectively banned the Chinese company from purchasing American-made products. Some U.S. politicians are opposed to this course of action as they believe the company offers a substantial risk to national security. The sanctions were originally placed on the company following the fact that it was divulged they had breached the Iran sanctions by selling American-made products to Iran. [Read More.](#)

AI IN THE BATTLEFIELD

Responding to the concerns of his employees, Sundar Pichai, the current CEO of Google, released a set of [guidelines and ethics](#) concerning the use of artificial intelligence. As of June 7th, Google has pledged that it would not work on artificial intelligence projects that would be used for weapons or surveillance systems that violate “internationally accepted norms,” and is attempting to chart a course forward for the use of AI that is both principled and pragmatic. [Read More.](#)

The U.S. Army has issued a new vision statement for 2018 that details how the service intends to fight against Russia, China and other near-peer competitors in a joint multi-domain conflict. The Army Vision calls for the use of weapons, sustainment systems, aircraft, manned and unmanned combat vehicles, arms formations and tactics to counter potential adversaries across all domains and cites several measures that should be implemented to achieve that vision. [Read More.](#)

HILL UPDATE

House appropriators approved their first draft of the annual defense budget bill Thursday, including a 2.6 percent pay raise for troops, dozens more aircraft for the services and new protections for military families from political fights in Congress.

The bill proposes a \$145.7 billion — \$133 billion in base dollars and \$12.7 billion in the overseas war budget — for equipment and upgrades. It also adds \$318 million to the president’s budget request for the Defense Health Program, to include more research into traumatic brain injuries and sexual assault prevention. [Read More.](#)

The Senate Armed Services Committee also released the full bill text and [report](#) of the FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act this week. Senator Inhofe, who has taken over as head of the Committee for Chairman John McCain, said the bill addresses China’s militarization in the South China Sea and Russia’s military aggression and cyber attacks. [Read More.](#)

LOOK AHEAD

On Monday, the Woodrow Wilson Center Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies will be holding a [discussion](#) on “Perceptions of the OSCE in Europe and the U.S.”

Tuesday, the summit with North Korea is expected to take place in Singapore.

Wednesday, the Navy Memorial is opening two new exhibits at a special ceremony you can register [here](#).

Next week the House Armed Services Committee will be holding two hearings. Wednesday, is the ["Department of Defense Aviation Safety Mishap Review and Oversight Process"](#) for the subcommittee on tactical air and land forces.

And on Thursday, the subcommittee on readiness holds a hearing on ["Navy and Air Force Depot Policy Issues and Infrastructure Concerns"](#)

Have a great weekend!