

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
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Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | JULY 6, 2018
Date: Friday, July 6, 2018 1:43:51 PM

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF - July 6, 2018

Light Attack Flights:

The U.S. Air Force will continue the flying portion of its light-attack aircraft experiment after a June 22 crash resulted in [the death of a pilot](#), a senior official announced Tuesday.

In the wake of the accident, Air Force officials have stressed that the incident would not unduly impact the service's deliberations about whether to procure a light-attack aircraft, which proponents argue would be able to conduct the counter-terrorism mission in the Middle East at lower costs.

As the light-aircraft experiment continues, the service will take a "multi-pronged approach" that explores everything from the manpower and logistics tail needed to support a new light-attack plane, to possible basing options, Bunch said, and it will move forward with those efforts until directed otherwise.

Read more [here](#).

NATO:

President Trump has reportedly sent sharply-worded letters to several NATO member countries, urging them to spend more on their self-defense, in an escalation of the U.S. president's long-standing feud with the military alliance. In letters reportedly sent to leaders of NATO countries like Canada, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, Mr. Trump accused the allies of "under-spending" on their national defense, and warned that the U.S. may soon change its stance on the alliance. Read more [here](#).

President Trump earlier this month reportedly told the leaders of the Group of Seven member countries that NATO was "as bad as NAFTA," according to Axios. At the G-7 summit in Canada, Trump reportedly said the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was "too costly for the U.S." and compared it to the North American Free Trade Agreement that he has often targeted as a bad deal.

Read more [here](#).

The North Korean Saga:

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headed to North Korea on Thursday under pressure to produce tangible signs of progress as U.S. intelligence reports cast doubt on Kim Jong Un's intention to dismantle his nuclear and missile programs. The top U.S. diplomat has offered few details about the state of negotiations following the June summit in Singapore between Kim and President Donald Trump, but knows he must return from his third trip to North Korea in as many months with concrete plans for a path forward, sources tell CNN. For more information, click [here](#).

North Korea is reportedly continuing nuclear work. But it's not clear that it is a violation of what it agreed to in Singapore. The optimism generated by President Trump's meeting last month with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is giving way to the reality of just how difficult it will be to persuade North Korea to surrender its nuclear weapons. In fact, it's difficult even to understand what Kim and Trump actually agreed to. Read more [here](#).

An Update on Syria:

Syrian rebel forces have agreed to resume talks on a truce with the

government in the south-western region of the nation, after a day of intense air and artillery strikes on July 4th. Over 320,000 people have fled their homes since the Assad regime began bombing the Deraa region two weeks ago and 150 civilians are estimated to have been killed in the recent attacks.

Displaced civilians are now stranded in ill-equipped camps along Syria's border with Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, both of which have refused to allow large numbers of refugees. Specifically, Jordan's government rejected the request, saying it was the UN's responsibility to provide people with safe havens inside Syria. Read more about the ongoing crisis [here](#) and [here](#).

Trade War Heating Up:

President Trump's repeated threats to start a trade war with China appear to be headed for reality as the administration prepared to impose tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese products on Friday morning, setting up a potentially devastating clash between the world's two largest economies.

The penalties, which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, are expected to prompt immediate retaliatory tariffs by Beijing, which has said it will tax an equal amount of American exports, including pork, soybeans, steel and peanuts. The dispute is expected to ripple through global supply chains, raise costs for businesses and consumers and roil global stock markets, which have been volatile in anticipation of a prolonged trade fight between the United States and almost everyone else. Read more [here](#).

China has promised to strike back at the U.S. tariffs, levying their own on American imports, releasing a target [list](#) of \$34bn worth of imported U.S. goods, including lobsters, soybeans, electric cars and other agricultural products, which also faced 25 percent tariffs.

Look Ahead

Wednesday, July 11th 2018

Department of Defense's Role in Foreign Assistance

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

10 a.m. - 2118 Rayburn <https://armedservices.house.gov/hearings>

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
To: [Craig Quigley](#)
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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 29, 2018

Putin-Trump Drama:

President Trump plans to meet President Vladimir V. Putin in Helsinki, Finland, on July 16 for one-on-one talks, the White House said on Thursday, a politically delicate meeting that will take place while the special counsel continues to investigate the Trump campaign's possible ties to Russia. Read more [here](#).

Either way, NATO members say they fear that all the preparation and the desire to show solidarity in the face of [a new Russian threat](#) will be overshadowed, if not undone, by a divisive encounter followed by Mr. Trump's prospective [summit](#) meeting with the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin.

This continues to create lots of tension as the [House approved a measure](#) demanding that the Department of Justice (DOJ) turn over documents related to the FBI's handling of investigations into the 2016 presidential campaign.

International Arms:

The U.S. State Department approved the sale to Spain of Aegis weapon systems for five new frigates at an estimated cost of \$860.4 million, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a release. On top of that, [Australia](#) was approved for a \$185-million Aegis purchase of its own. The Aegis Combat System is an integrated naval weapons system that uses radar and computer technology to detect and track targets, and guide weapons to destroy them. The system is composed of the Aegis Weapon System, the Aegis Anti-Aircraft Warfare capability, along with the Phalanx Close In Weapon System and the Mark 41 Vertical Launch System for missiles. For more information, click [here](#).

Lockheed Martin has received a \$1.12 billion contract to produce new F-16 fighter jets for the Royal Bahraini Air Force, the company said in a news release Monday. The sale makes Bahrain the first country to procure the newest configuration of the Fighting Falcon. Read more [here](#).

China Lowers Tariffs on South Asia:

[China](#) will reduce tariffs on thousands of products from India and South Korea, as well as the smaller economies of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Laos, China's commerce ministry said Thursday.

The reductions are due to take effect on July 1. They're part of an agreement among the six countries called the [Asia Pacific Trade Agreement \(APTA\)](#) that covers more than 10,000 goods in total, the ministry added.

This is the second time that China has reached out to other countries to reduce its burgeoning trade surpluses with them, after its trade tensions began with the U.S. It has invited almost 100 countries to take part in the first of its kind import-only fair in November.

North Korean Nuclear Disarmament:

North Korea continues to make improvements to a major nuclear facility, raising questions about President Donald Trump's claim that Kim Jong Un has

agreed to disarm, independent experts tell NBC News. New satellite images made public by 38 North, a web site devoted to analyzing North Korea, show that "improvements to the infrastructure at North Korea's Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center are continuing at a rapid pace," three 38 North analysts concluded in a paper. [Read more here.](#)

Supreme Court Justice Announces Retirement:

Following a major Supreme Court decision on [public sector unions](#), Justice Anthony M. Kennedy announced Wednesday that he is retiring from the Supreme Court, a move that will give President Trump a chance to replace the pivotal justice and solidify a more conservative majority on the court that plays a crucial role in American life. [Read more here.](#)

Look Ahead

Next week Congress is not in session.

Happy Fourth of July! Here is a [list](#) of great viewing spots around the Washington, DC area!