

Simmons, Ellen

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Friday, November 2, 2018 11:10 AM
To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 2, 2018

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

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THE
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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 2, 2018

TOP STORIES

Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting

Eleven lives were taken last Saturday morning. Along with that, two other worshipers and four police officers were injured.

[Among those killed](#): Middle-aged brothers, an elderly husband and wife and a grandmother nearing 100. Many of them had gathered for a naming ceremony, which marks the beginning of a baby's journey in the Jewish faith.

Defense attorneys for the suspect in the Pittsburgh synagogue massacre entered a [plea of not guilty](#) Thursday to federal charges and requested a jury trial.

Robert Bowers, 46, faces 44 counts of murder, hate crimes, obstructing religious practices and other crimes. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. Authorities called the attack on the Tree of Life synagogue the worst anti-Semitic incident in U.S. history. [Click here for more.](#)

Earlier this week, President Trump and his family [visited the site of the shooting](#), despite protests from the mayor as well as some members of congress. He was accompanied by daughter Ivanka and son-in-law Jared Kushner—both of whom are Jewish—and his wife, Melania, and spent about 13 minutes inside the synagogue. While he was there, the president laid stones and white flowers at memorials for each of the victims. Despite the presence of peaceful protesters during the visit, the rabbi of the Tree of Life synagogue said Thursday he was ["surprised by a warm and personal side"](#) to President Donald Trump during their meeting.

Funerals were held throughout the week as the victims were laid to rest.

India Building up Defense

As of late, it appears India has been quite busy building up its military, through a series of purchases from other countries.

India signed a \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded Krivak III-

class stealth frigates. The deal comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India on Oct. 5 and the ruling National Democratic Alliance government cut a \$5.43 billion deal to [buy five Russian S-400 Triumph missile systems](#), despite objections from its ally the United States.

The 4,000-ton Krivak III vessels will also accommodate two multi-role helicopters and will be used for anti-submarine and airborne early warning missions. [Read the full story here.](#)

Along with that, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced [two deals worth a total of \\$1.3 billion](#) with India, between Oct. 24 and 29. One deal will see IAI outfit the Indian Army with the Sky Capture air defense system, a contract worth \$550 million. In addition, IAI will provide \$777 million worth of Barak 8 missile defense systems, known as LRSAM in India, for seven ships.

China Update

The yuan continues to fall to [historic lows](#), however not all strategists agree this is entirely a good thing for the trade war between the U.S. and China. This makes Chinese goods imported to the U.S. cheaper and offsets the impact of President Trump's tariffs. At the same time, the stronger dollar makes it harder for U.S. companies to export to China.

Having weakened more than 7 percent so far this year, the yuan hit its weakest since the global financial crisis on Wednesday, at 6.9748 per dollar. It's been hammered by the trade war with the United States and bets for further monetary easing by the People's Bank of China to bolster the stumbling economy. [Full story here.](#)

Speaking of the trade war, the U.S. Commerce Department announced that it is restricting American companies from selling crucial software and technology to

[Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co.](#), saying it "poses a significant risk of becoming involved in activities that are contrary to the national security interests of the United States." The ban could bring the chip-maker, which relies on foreign tech, to its knees. A similar U.S. move against Chinese telecommunications equipment maker ZTE in April brought its factories to a standstill for months.

In military news: in response to several occurrences where Chinese nationals have pointed lasers directly into the cockpits of U.S. military aircraft—both over the South China Sea and in Africa - the U.S. Air Force plans to spend nearly \$200 million on special glasses and visors to protect pilots' eyes from the dangerous lasers. [Full story here.](#)

Finally, an interesting report by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), claimed that many Chinese military scientists working on strategic research at Western universities have deliberately concealed their ties to the army, according to new research. That's sparked concerns of host institutions unknowingly contributing to Beijing's defense prowess. [Read more.](#)

Quick Hits

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called for a [ceasefire in Yemen](#) within 30 days, seeking to end the U.S.-backed and Saudi-led bombing campaign against Houthi rebels supported by Iran and negotiate a peace.

Canada is accepting formal bids for the procurement of a new fighter jet in May, with expectations of it being delivered by 2025. The bid calls for 88 new fighters, for a total sum of \$12 Billion U.S. dollars. The aircraft will replace Canada's current fleet of CF-18 fighter jets. The aircraft expected to be considered include Lockheed Martin's F-35, the Eurofighter Typhoon, the Dassault Rafale, Saab's Gripen, and the Boeing Super Hornet. [Full story here.](#)

Russia's only aircraft carrier, [the Admiral Kuznetsov](#), was damaged in a dock accident Tuesday that left one person missing and four injured, officials said. A floating drydock sank early morning in Murmansk, [dropping a crane on the deck](#) of the carrier, the United Shipbuilding Corporation said. The carrier played a prominent role in Russia's [military campaign in Syria](#), where Russian fighter jets are supporting troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

It appears State Department spokeswoman [Heather Nauert](#) is under consideration to replace Nikki Haley as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, according to a new report. Nauert [met with President Trump](#) in the Oval Office earlier Monday, though it is not known if they discussed the position. Several other officials have been named as potential candidates, including U.S. Ambassador to France Jamie McCourt.

President Trump said Wednesday that the number of military troops deployed to the U.S.-Mexican border could reach [15,000](#)—roughly double the number the Pentagon said it currently plans for a mission whose dimensions are shifting daily. There are [currently four caravans](#) making their way toward the U.S. The main group consists of about 4,000 migrants, which is down from the estimated peak of around 7,000. Commander of USNORTHCOM, General O'Shaughnessy, claimed that as far as he knew—the plan was still to send somewhere over 5,200 troops to the border.

Last but not least, the U.S. added 250,000 jobs in October and unemployment remained steady at [3.7 percent](#), marking the 97th straight month of economic expansion as Americans prepare to head to the polls for the midterm elections.

[Read more here.](#)

"Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost." - John Quincy Adams

Have a great weekend!

Simmons, Ellen

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 5:05 PM
To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 26, 2018

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

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 26, 2018
TOP STORIES

An Epic Discovery: The Ship That Odysseus Sailed?

In what is being hailed as the world's oldest shipwreck, archeologists have discovered what they believe to be an [Ancient Greek trading vessel](#) at the

bottom of the Black Sea—off the coast of Bulgaria. With its mast still standing, and its rudders and rowing benches still in place, it has lain undisturbed on the ocean floor for more than 2,400 years. The researchers were stunned to find the merchant vessel closely resembled in design a ship that decorated ancient Greek wine vases and sits at 75 feet long.

The reason the trading vessel, [dating back to around 400 BC](#), has remained in such good condition for so long is that the water is anoxic, or free of oxygen.

Lying more than 2,000m below the surface, it is also beyond the reach of modern divers.

Unfortunately for history buffs, however, the ship may never see the light of day — raising the vessel would be a [Herculean task](#) that could compromise its structural integrity and its cargo, experts said.

Disclaimer—yes, I know the Odyssey didn't take place in the Black Sea!

INF Treaty Fallout

Recently, President Trump has announced he plans to pull the U.S. out of the INF (Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces) treaty on the basis of recurrent violations at the hands of Moscow. Analysts all seem to agree this has actually been the case—since at least 2014.

Suggestions of a new arms race between the U.S. and Russia have been brewing over the past two years, since Russia [deployed a cruise missile](#) in what U.S. officials said was one of the INF treaty violations.

President Vladimir Putin has warned Russia will respond "in kind" if new U.S. nuclear missiles are placed in Europe. [Read more](#).

Manhunt for Serial Bomber

A nationwide search is now underway to find the suspect responsible for [now 12](#) suspicious packages that turned out to encase homemade pipe bombs. The main thing in common are those targeted are all outspoken Trump critics.

This includes former President Obama, the Clintons, former VP Joe Biden, Rep. Maxine Waters, former AG Eric Holder, Former CIA Director John Brennan, George Soros, Sen. Corey Booker and even the actor, Robert De Niro.

The packages, which have contained potential explosive devices described by officials as potential pipe bombs, have sent jitters across the country and prompted calls from Republicans and Democrats for [a cooling of political rhetoric](#).

Military Technology Update

The U.S. Navy's [new ship-killer](#) missile is slated to make its fleet debut much sooner than expected—the service selected Kongsberg and Raytheon's Naval Strike Missile as its first new anti-ship missile in decades earlier this year for its littoral combat ship over-the-horizon missile, giving the LCS much-needed teeth as it operates inside Russian and Chinese anti-access envelopes.

Belgium has chosen Lockheed Martin's [F-35 stealth jets](#) over the Eurofighter Typhoon to replace its aging F-16s, news agency Belga cited government sources as saying, in a move that would cement the U.S.-made warplane's position in Europe. [Read more here](#).

Quick Hits

World's [longest sea-crossing bridge](#) opens between Hong Kong and China—it cost \$20 billion and is 20 times as long as the Golden Gate Bridge. After nine years of construction and controversy, China is set to officially unveil the world's longest sea bridge on Tuesday at a ceremony in Hong Kong. At more than 34 miles long, the [Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge](#) is part of a master plan to create a global science and technology hub by connecting two Chinese territories, Hong Kong and Macau (the world's largest gambling center), to nine nearby cities....

...Since we're talkin' China, two [US Navy warships](#) sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Monday. The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur and the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Antietam conducted "a routine Taiwan Strait transit in accordance with international law". [Full story here](#).

It was [recently reported](#) that Russia and China may very well be listening in to phone calls on President Trump's phone—who, according to NYT, habitually fails to utilize the secure lines available in the White House. The report suggests that outsiders are able to access not only the phone numbers the president calls, but also the content of the calls themselves. On Thursday, [Trump hit back at the article](#), stating it was false and that he regularly uses the government lines.

Unfortunately for all of us, the [Mega Millions jackpot](#) has officially come to a close, as a winning ticket has been sold in South Carolina earlier this week.

The massive jackpot fell just short of the nation's biggest prize, a \$1.586 Powerball windfall that drew three winning tickets in 2016. The Mega Millions prize is the largest for only one ticket. The final count for this jackpot was [\\$1.537 billion](#).

The Wounded Warrior Project pledges \$160 million to battle PTSD. [Read more](#).

To contribute or donate to WWP, click [here](#).

Look Ahead

Monday, October 29

8:00am: [Vision federal market forecast conference, day 1](#)

3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042

12:30pm: [Council on Foreign Relations discussion on foreign policy, midterms](#)

Tuesday, October 30

5:30pm: [Conversation with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis about national defense strategy](#)

2301 Constitution Ave., NW

Wednesday, October 31

9:00am: FAA Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee meeting,
Day 1

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE

Thursday, November 1

9:00am: FAA Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee meeting,
Day 2

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE

Friday, November 2

9:00am: [Brookings Institution panel on military readiness](#)

Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Room, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW

11:00am: [Stimson Center discussion on post-midterm foreign policy](#)

1211 Connecticut Ave. NW

Tune into Game 3 of the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the L.A. Dodgers, tonight at 8:09pm EST—though as a Mets fan—the season has been over for me since June!