

**Simmons, Ellen**

---

**From:** Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2018 12:29 PM  
**To:** Craig Quigley  
**Subject:** EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | DECEMBER 14, 2018

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

**Craig R. Quigley**  
**Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)**  
**Executive Director**  
**Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance**  
**757-644-6324 (Office)**  
**757-419-1164 (Mobile)**



THE  
*Roosevelt*  
GROUP

**EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | DECEMBER 14, 2018**

**TOP STORIES**

**New Advances in American Military Technology**

The US Navy has launched its third and final Zumwalt-class (DDG 1000) guided-missile destroyer, [USS Lyndon B Johnson](#) (DDG 1002), from General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine. The ship is expected to be

christened in 2019 and enter active service in 2021, along with the Zumwalt and Michael Monsoor, the other two ships of the Zumwalt-class. [Read more here.](#)

[Zumwalt-class destroyers](#) feature a state-of-the-art electric propulsion system, wave-piercing tumblehome hull, stealth design, and are equipped with the most advanced warfighting technology and weaponry. These ships will be capable of performing a range of deterrence, power projection, sea control, and command and control missions while allowing the [Navy](#) to evolve with new systems and missions.

While we're talking Navy, the U.S. Navy and Missile Defense Agency [continued a hot streak](#) Tuesday, when they successfully shot down an intermediate-range ballistic missile target in space from its Hawaii-based Aegis Ashore facility, using the [Standard Missile-3](#) (SM-3) Block IIA. Developed by Raytheon, the SM-3 is designed to combat short and intermediate-range ballistic missile threats.

The SM-3 can be both land and sea-based and uses its own kinetic energy, or "hit-to-kill" rather than explosive warheads. The [Block IIA model](#) is capable of engaging ballistic missiles as they begin their descent in low space at long ranges.

Now for the Army and an update on their new [Next Generation Squad Weapon](#). The main feature of these weapons that is exciting the military community is the new 6.8mm round it fires, replacing the old 5.56. The [6.8mm rifles](#) not only pack greater force, but also feature improved precision from greater distances and are able to handle all-weather and terrain encountered by soldiers. Read more about this development and how we got here by [clicking here](#).

## **Lightning Strikes Twice**

Japan is expected to announce new defense guidelines next week that would transform its newest warship into an aircraft carrier and pave the way for a major purchase of as many as [147 F-35s](#), the parliamentary vice minister of defense for Japan's ruling party said Wednesday. The major F-35 move comes as Japan seeks to phase out its aging fleet of F-4s, F-15Js, and F-2s. [Read more here.](#)

In a move that comes as world tensions are progressively rising, Japan seeks to bolster its defensive capabilities. Though because of the [Post-WWII treaty](#) signed, we most likely will not see Japanese F-35s attacking warships anytime soon.

However, Japan is not our only ally who is getting in on the F-35 program, as the first two F-35A Lightning II fighters to be permanently based in Australia arrived at RAAF Base Williamtown, north of Sydney, on December 10. Defense Minister Christopher Pyne described the F-35 program as the largest air force acquisition project in Australia's history. "The government is investing over \$17 billion [U.S. \$12.27] to acquire at least 72 Joint Strike Fighters," he said.

The F-35A is replacing the 71 surviving McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) F/A-18A/B 'Classic' Hornets, which entered service in 1985. Australia became a Tier 3 partner in the international Joint Strike Fighter program in 2002. [Click here for full story.](#)

The U.S. Navy is set to deactivate its F-35 Lightning II squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and plans to move operations to Naval Air Station Lemoore, centralizing its Joint Strike Fighter operations out west. [Full story.](#)

Nearly two months after Hurricane Michael devastated Tyndall Air Force Base in Northern Florida, the Air Force on Friday said it wants to rebuild the installation — so it can station three squadrons of F-35 fighters there. The

move would mean operational F-22s that were formerly at Tyndall would be permanently moved to squadrons at other bases that are now temporarily housing them: Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. [Read more.](#)

### **Russia Sends Bombers to South America**

Two Russian [TU-160 strategic bombers](#), capable of carrying nuclear weapons, have landed in Venezuela. Though this is not the first time this has happened, the latest visit comes just days after President Maduro met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. [US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo](#) said it amounted to "two corrupt governments squandering public funds."

Col. Rob Manning, a spokesman for the Defense Department, cited the [humanitarian assistance provided in Central and South American by a U.S. Navy hospital ship](#), the USNS Comfort, in the past eight weeks where numerous Venezuelan migrants were among the people who received medical and dental treatment.

"Contrast this with Russia, whose approach to the manmade disaster in Venezuela is to send bomber aircraft instead of humanitarian assistance," Manning stated.

### **China**

A Canadian court [granted bail](#) on Tuesday to the top Chinese executive arrested at the United States' request in a case that has set off a diplomatic furor among the three countries and complicated high-stakes U.S.-China trade talks. The bail is \$10 million Canadian [U.S. \$7.5 million], but required her to

wear an ankle bracelet, surrender her passports, stay in Vancouver and its suburbs and confine herself to one of her two Vancouver homes from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

In a retaliatory move, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said entrepreneur Michael Spavor and former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig were [taken into custody](#) on Monday, on suspicion of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China.

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would intervene with the U.S. Justice Department in the case against the [Chinese telecommunications executive](#) if it would help secure a trade deal with Beijing.

In a diplomatic epiphany (sarcasm) a Chinese Colonel has suggested [ramming U.S. ships](#) sent to challenge Beijing's control of the South China Sea. [Col. Dai Xu](#) made the remarks at an event sponsored by *Global Times*, published by the Chinese government. Dai also recommended invading Taiwan when the opportunity presented itself, even at the cost of economic growth. The remarks were [published](#) in the *Global Times* on December 8, 2018.

### Quick Hits

Voyager 2 has passed an incredible milestone in its journey to explore the solar system by entering interstellar space, now more than [11 billion miles from Earth](#). The twin Voyager probes are the first spacecraft to date that humans have sent to this boundary, called the Heliopause. Right now, estimates are that the twin probes can operate for at least five, perhaps 10 more years with a gradual decay of science data coming back. The goal for the mission is to coax a full 50 years of exploration out of the spacecraft since their launch in 1977.

[Read more here.](#)

Theresa May pushed off the vote on her Brexit withdrawal deal that was to take place on Tuesday in the House of Commons, only to be subjected to a vote on confidence in her leadership, by her own Conservative Party, on Wednesday. She managed to survive (the final tally was 200 for and 117 against). [Full story](#).

A possible partial government shutdown is less than two weeks away with President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats locked in a dispute over border security and no resolution in sight. The key sticking point is how much money Congress should allocate for the President's [long-promised wall](#) at the U.S.-Mexico border. Trump wants \$5 billion, but Democrats are unwilling to agree to that and any spending bill needs bipartisan support to pass Congress, due in part to Senate rules requiring a 60-vote threshold to advance.

The Senate passed a resolution Thursday [to withdraw U.S. support for Saudi-backed forces at war in Yemen](#) in a rare bipartisan rebuke to President Donald Trump. The resolution, led by Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), invokes the War Powers Act and passed in a 56-41 vote. It's the first time the Senate has voted to withdraw forces from a war Congress didn't approve.

### **This Day in History**

1799: [George Washington](#) died in his Mt. Vernon Estate

1819: Alabama was admitted as the 22<sup>nd</sup> state

1911: Roald Amundsen and four others [discovered the South Pole](#)

1960: A U.S. Boeing B-52 bomber set a 10,000-mile non-stop record without refueling

2012: At Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, 20 children and 6 adults are shot to death by a 20-year-old gunman who then committed suicide

-See more on [history.net](http://history.net)

## Look Ahead

### ***Saturday, December 15***

8:30 AM EST

Event: [Wreaths Across America](#)

877-385-9504

Topic: Defense

Arlington National Cemetery, McClellan Gate, Arlington, Va.

1:00 PM EST

Ceremony: [Vietnam Veterans Memorial Volunteers](#)

202-393-0090

Topic: Defense

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Five Henry Bacon Drive NW

4:30 PM EST

Event: [Friends of the National WWII Memorial](#)

[hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org) | 202-675-2017

Topic: Defense

World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Avenue SW

### ***Monday, December 17***

12:00 PM EST

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Travis Horne: [press@atlanticcouncil.org](mailto:press@atlanticcouncil.org) | 202-778-4993

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor

2:00 PM EST

Discussion: [The Henry L. Stimson Center](#)

Jim Baird: [jbaird@stimson.org](mailto:jbaird@stimson.org) | 202-478-3413

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

4:00 PM EST

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's History and Public Policy Program

Ryan McKenna: [ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org) | 202-691-4217

Topic: Foreign Affairs

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300  
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

***Tuesday, December 18***

8:00 AM EST

Forum: [The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies and the Air Force  
Association](#)

Peter Huessy: [Phuessy@afa.org](mailto:Phuessy@afa.org) | 703-247-5839

Topic: Defense

Air Force Association, 1501 Lee Highway, Fourth Floor Boardroom, Arlington,  
Va.

8:30 AM EST



Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department  
Shannon Middleton: [00W@mail.va.gov](mailto:00W@mail.va.gov) | 202-461-6193  
Topic: Needs of Women Veterans  
VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, G.V. Sonny Montgomery Veterans Conference  
Room 230

9:30 AM EST

Meeting: National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
KarShelia Henderson: [khenderson@nasa.gov](mailto:khenderson@nasa.gov) | 202-358-2355  
[Conference call dial-in, 888-809-8966; passcode, 2100562#. The WebEx link  
is <https://nasaenterprise.webex.com/>; meeting number, 904-821-176;  
password, "HPACConf2018!" (case sensitive)]  
Topic: Heliophysics Research  
NASA Headquarters, 300 E St. SW, Room 1Q39

10:00 AM EST

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs  
Committee  
202-225-3527  
Topic: Veterans Community Care Program Implementation  
HVC-210 U.S. Capitol

10:30 AM EST

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute on China and the  
United States  
Ryan McKenna: [ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org) | 202-691-4217  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300  
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

***Wednesday, December 19***

8:30 AM EST

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Shannon Middleton: [00W@mail.va.gov](mailto:00W@mail.va.gov) | 202-461-6193

Topic: Needs of Women Veterans

VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, G.V. Sonny Montgomery Veterans Conference  
Room 230

9:00 AM EST

Meeting: [Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board](#)

Wendy Payne: 202-512-7350

Topic: Defense Accounting Standards

Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Room 7C13

2:00 PM EST

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Senate Veterans' Affairs  
Committee

202-225-3527

Topic: Veterans Community Care Program Implementation  
HVC-210 U.S. Capitol

***Thursday, December 20***

8:30 AM EST

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Shannon Middleton: [00W@mail.va.gov](mailto:00W@mail.va.gov) | 202-461-6193

Topic: Needs of Women Veterans

VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, G.V. Sonny Montgomery Veterans Conference  
Room 230

9:00 AM EST

Meeting: [Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board](#)

Wendy Payne: 202-512-7350

Topic: Defense Accounting Standards

Government Accountability Office, 441 G St. NW, Room 7C13

10:00 AM EST

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee

202-225-3527

Topic: Veterans First Program after Kingdomware

334 Cannon House Office Building

1:00 PM EST

Meeting: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Glenn Sklar: 800-788-4016

Topic: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety

625 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 7019

5:00 PM EST

Event: [The People for Fairness Coalition](#)

[info@pffcdc.org](mailto:info@pffcdc.org)

Topic: Social Issues

Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Avenue NW

***Friday, December 21***

2:00 PM EST

Meeting: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Patrick Finley: [patrick.t.finley@nasa.gov](mailto:patrick.t.finley@nasa.gov) | 202-358-5684

[RSVP for conference call option information before 4:30 p.m. on December 18]

Topic: International Space Station

NASA, 300 E St. SW, Glennan Conference Room

Have a great weekend!