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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 | APRIL 5, 2019
TOP STORIES

More Bad KC-46 News

The Air Force has once again [halted](#) deliveries of the KC-46 Pegasus tanker from Boeing after more foreign object debris, or FOD, was found in some

closed compartments of the aircraft.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson confirmed in a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the budget Tuesday morning that deliveries had been stopped for a second time. Wilson told Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., that the Air Force is putting corrective actions in place, including requiring all closed compartments be inspected, “to make sure that the production line is being run the way that it needs to be run.”

The Air Force plans to buy [179 KC-46A Pegasus tankers](#) to replace aging KC-135 Stratotankers that first entered service in the 1950s. The first KC-46A was delivered in January 2019, after a two year delay and \$3 billion in cost overruns paid for by the company. Boeing has delivered seven aircraft so far.

According to Secretary Wilson, the issue will be resolved quickly to keep the deliveries on pace.

NATO Turns 70

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization marked its 70th anniversary this week.

Foreign ministers from NATO countries met in Washington, DC, for the occasion, determined to show a united front in the midst of a long military stalemate in Afghanistan and tensions with Russia returning to Cold War-era levels.

In the [first address](#) to Congress by a NATO head, Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday acknowledged serious divisions within the alliance and called for

bigger defense budgets to cope with global challenges such as [Russian assertiveness](#), the core reason NATO was created in Washington 70 years ago this week.

For Americans, who contribute arguably the most to international organizations, it has become a bipartisan practice to question NATO's relevance in the modern world. It seems that it is one of the few things that Democrat and Republican presidents can agree on.

Yet, at this moment in history, it seems as though the international order is plummeting headlong into the scenario for which NATO was created. The U.S. has developed an increasingly isolationist sentiment, Russian aggression is on the rise and very real—especially with the invasion of Ukraine—and although Germany is not rising militarily, its policies—particularly regarding immigration, have created major discourse within the EU. Read more why we need NATO today, [here](#).

[Click here for some background on NATO](#)

Military Technology Updates

Cheetah Air Defense System

A new air defense system designed to shoot down incoming rockets, artillery and mortar shells is also being designed to intercept aircraft-dropped bombs. The system, known as Cheetah, could revolutionize air-to-ground warfare as we know it, allowing ground forces to shoot down air-to-ground weapons after they are deployed.

Cheetah, developed by German defense contractor Rheinmetall, is a counter-rocket artillery and mortar system (C-RAM). The system uses radar and short-range interceptor missiles to detect, track and shoot down artillery rounds in mid-flight. According to the contractor, the objective is the ability to shoot down a U.S. BLU-109 bunker buster bomb at 6 kilometers (3.72 miles). [Read more here.](#)

Road to New Long-Range Helo

The U.S. Army is advancing further into the process of buying a future long-range assault aircraft to replace UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters by issuing a request for information to industry to see what might be in the realm of the possible when it comes to fielding a new helo by fiscal 2030.

Bell and a Sikorsky-Boeing team have each built a technology demonstrator aircraft to help the Army lay out its requirements for a future aircraft. Bell's V-280 Valor tiltrotor has been flying since December 2017, and the Sikorsky-Boeing SB-1 Defiant flew last month for the first time. [Click here for the full story.](#)

Army's New Submachine Gun

The U.S. Army has officially selected the [Brugger and Thomet APC9K](#) to outfit its Personal Security Details.

The APC9K is the first new submachine gun for the U.S. Army since the M3 "Greasegun" of World War II. The service will buy 350 of the compact automatic weapons for \$2.5 million, with an option to buy 1,000 more. The B&T APC9K beat out guns from more than ten other companies, including Colt and Heckler & Koch, as well as guns based on the M-16 and MP-5 weapons platforms.

The APC9K is an entirely new submachine gun developed in conjunction with and for EKO Cobra, Austria's counterterrorism unit. The gun uses a closed-bolt blowback system, has a maximum rate of fire of 1,080 rounds per minute, and weighs just 5.9 pounds with 30-round magazine, foregrip, and Aimpoint micro red dot aiming sight. It's chambered in 9-millimeter Parabellum and comes standard with two 30-round translucent magazines.

Sprint to the Next Generation SAW

U.S. Army modernization officials told Congress recently that the service will begin fielding the [6.8mm weapons](#) that will replace M249 squad automatic weapons and M4/M4A1 carbines in fall 2021.

"We expect competitors to bring in their prototypes for both weapons systems in the month of May; we will begin the evaluation process and down-select to three [companies] in July of this year," said Ostrowski, who is the principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

The service will then put all three companies' prototypes "through their paces," he added, with a down-select planned in the first quarter of 2021, and fielding in the fourth quarter. [Click here for more.](#)

New Night Vision Goggles

A top [U.S. Army Futures Command leader](#) told Congress recently that the service will field its new, binocular-style night-vision goggles, one year after the previously announced fielding date.

The new ENVG-B—which features a dual-tube technology that equips soldiers with infrared and thermal capability—is scheduled to go to an armored brigade

combat team in October before the unit leaves for a rotation to South Korea, Army modernization officials told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee on Tuesday. [Read more here.](#)

Quick Hits

Heather Wilson

A long anticipated development has finally become official, as Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson was [formally appointed](#) as president of the University of Texas at El Paso.

F-35 and Turkey

The U.S. has suspended the delivery of parts and program materials to Turkey that it needs for standing up a key \$12 billion jet fighter program there. The U.S. Defense Department says deliveries will not resume unless [Ankara abandons its planned acquisition](#) of a Russian missile defense system.

A Lockheed Martin-made F-35 fighter jet for Turkey arrived on Wednesday at a [military training facility](#) in Arizona, an Air Force official said on Thursday, amid a dispute over Ankara's planned purchase of the Russian S-400 system. A second jet is scheduled to arrive at Luke Air Force Base on Friday, the Air Force official said. Two Turkish F-35 jets are already at the base.

China Trade Agreement?

President Donald Trump [said Thursday](#) that talks with China on a comprehensive trade agreement continue to make progress, but there is still no date for a summit meeting where he and Chinese President Xi Jinping could finalize a deal.

"If we have a deal, there will be a summit," Trump told reporters at the White House before a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He. "I would say we'll know over the next four weeks."

The world's two largest economies [imposed tariffs](#) on billions of dollars' worth of one another's goods over the past year. Negotiations between them have continued since a trade truce was agreed in December, but have at times been rocky.

Although, with the [recent development](#) of a woman carrying two Republic of China passports being charged after allegedly lying to Secret Service agents to gain access to President Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club while he was there last weekend, we will see how this effects the agreement progress.

She was carrying four mobile phones, a laptop computer, an external hard drive and a thumb drive found to contain "[malicious malware](#)". The FBI is investigating whether the Chinese woman arrested at Mar-a-Lago had [links to Chinese intelligence](#) or military services by examining a thumb drive that allegedly contained malware.

This Day in History

1242: Russian troops repel an [invasion](#) by Teutonic knights, known as the [Battle of the Ice](#).

1614: [Pocahontas](#) marries English colonist John Rolfe.

1774: Benjamin Franklin [publishes](#) "[An Open Letter to Lord North](#)"

1792: George Washington casts the [first presidential veto](#).

1843: Queen Victoria [proclaims](#) Hong Kong a British crown colony.

1859: Darwin sends first three chapters of "[The Origin of Species](#)" to his publisher.

1861: Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy, issues official orders for the [USS Powhatan](#) to sail to [Fort Sumter](#).

1862: [Siege](#) of Yorktown begins.

1865: As the Confederate army approaches Appomattox, it skirmishes with Union forces at Amelia Springs and Paine's Cross Road.

1919: [Eamon de Valera](#) becomes president of Ireland.

1941: German commandos secure docks along the Danube River in preparation for Germany's invasion of the Balkans.

1944: USAAF [return](#) to bomb the oil refinery at Ploesti.

1951: Americans [Julius](#) and [Ethel](#) Rosenberg are sentenced to death for espionage.

1972: North Vietnamese launch second front of [Nguyen Hue Offensive](#)

1984: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar breaks NBA all-time scoring record.

1986: A bomb explodes in a West Berlin disco packed with American soldiers.

1994: Grunge rock icon Kurt Cobain commits suicide.

See more at Historynet.com and History.com

Look Ahead

Saturday, April 6

8:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Topic: Nuclear Reactor Safeguards

Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Conference Room T2D10,
Rockville, Md.

Monday, April 8

8:45 AM EDT

Symposium: The Woodrow Wilson Center and the Small States and the New
Security Environment Project

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Navy Department

Topic: Naval Academy Oversight

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The George Washington University Sigur Center for Asian Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Suite 503

4:00 PM EDT

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

Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300

Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

Tuesday, April 9

8:30 AM EDT

Conference: The Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Brookings
Institution and the Woodrow Wilson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

8:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The United States Institute of Peace and the University of South
Carolina's Rule of Law Collaborative

Topic: Foreign Affairs

USIP, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: Navy Posture

Senate Armed Services Committee

G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: U.S. Special Operations Command Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

H-140 U.S. Capitol

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: TSA/Coast Guard Budgets

House Homeland Security Committee, Transportation and Protective Security

Subcommittee

310 Cannon House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: NIST Budget

House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Research and Technology

Subcommittee

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee

Topic: Pending Legislation

House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee

1334 Longworth House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Topic: Human Rights-Democracy-Rule of Law in Asia

Senate Foreign Relations Committee, East Asia, Pacific and International

Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee

419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:30 AM EDT

Event: The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide

Topic: Foreign Affairs

State Department, 2201 C St. NW, Dean Acheson Auditorium

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Korea Economic Institute of America

Topic: Foreign Affairs

KEI, 1800 K St. NW, Suite 1010, Washington D.C.

12:00 PM EDT

Event: The Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association

Topic: Transportation

Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW

12:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: VA Prevention of Fraud/Waste/Abuse

12:00 PM EDT

Release: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Topic: Defense

1:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Polar Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300

Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Members' Day

House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee

2008 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Army Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

H-140 U.S. Capitol

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: U.S. Special Operations Forces/Command Budget

House Armed Services Committee, Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Subcommittee

2212 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: Climate Change Homeland Security Impacts

House Homeland Security Committee, Emergency Preparedness, Response

and Communications Subcommittee

310 Cannon House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Markup: House Foreign Affairs Committee

Topic: Pending Legislation

House Foreign Affairs Committee

2172 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Atomic Energy Defense/Safety

House Armed Services Committee, Strategic Forces Subcommittee
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee
Topic: Military Construction/Family Housing Budget
Senate Appropriations Committee, Military Construction, VA and Related
Agencies Subcommittee
124 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee
Topic: State Department Budget
Senate Appropriations Committee, State, Foreign Operations and Related
Programs Subcommittee
138 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

SENATE EVENT Defense
Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee
Topic: U.S. Special Operations Command Transformation
Senate Armed Services Committee, Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Subcommittee
SVC-217 U.S. Capitol

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Budget Committee
Topic: Defense Budget
Senate Budget Committee

608 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Meeting: U.S. Agency for International Development

Topic: International Food/Agriculture Development

3:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Politics

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

3:00 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: Air Force Modernization

Senate Armed Services Committee, AirLand Subcommittee

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

4:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of International
Affairs

Topic: Foreign Affairs

GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Room 505

Wednesday, April 10

8:00 AM EDT

Briefing: The Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology

Topic: Technology

Mandarin Oriental, 1330 Maryland Avenue SW

8:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Women's Council on Energy and the Environment

Topic: Energy

Bracewell LLP, 2001 M St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Members' Day

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

H-140 U.S. Capitol

9:15 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Topic: State Department Budget

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee

2008 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Navy Budget

House Armed Services Committee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee

Topic: National Guard/Reserve Budget

Senate Appropriations Committee

138 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

SENATE EVENT Defense

Topic: Marine Corps Ground Modernization

Senate Armed Services Committee

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

12:30 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Middle East Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

MEI, 1319 18th St. NW

1:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: Geriatrics/Gerontology Programs

VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, room 630

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: New America

Topic: Foreign Affairs

New America, 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee
Topic: Defense Industrial Base Cybersecurity Policy
Senate Armed Services Committee, Cybersecurity Subcommittee
SVC-217 U.S. Capitol

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee
Topic: VA Health Care
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee
418 Russell Senate Office Building

Thursday, April 11

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department
Topic: Geriatrics/Gerontology Programs
VA, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, room 630

8:00 AM EDT

Symposium: The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association
Topic: Defense
Perspecta Conference Center, 15052 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, Va.

8:30 AM EDT

Forum: The Center for Strategic and International Studies' Project on U.S.
Leadership in Development
Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Topic: Defense

CSBA, 1667 K St. NW, Suite 950

10:30 AM EDT

Meeting: State Department

Topic: Public Diplomacy Activities

SVC-209-208 U.S. Capitol

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Foreign Affairs

TBA

12:00 PM EDT

Forum: The University of Maryland's Center for International and Security

Studies at Maryland

Topic: Foreign Affairs

UMD, 1203 Van Munching Hall, College Park, Md.

Friday, April 12

8:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Energy Department

Topic: Coal Energy

Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2650 Woodley Park Road NW

9:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

Topic: Defense

AFA, 1501 Lee Highway, Fourth Floor Boardroom, Arlington, Va.

10:00 AM EDT

Briefing: The Middle East Policy Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs

485 Russell Senate Office Building

Have a great weekend!