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Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | OCTOBER 25, 2019

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 25, 2019

TOP STORIES

Review of Russia Probe Becomes Criminal Investigation

A probe by Attorney General William Barr into the origins of the Russia investigation has [changed from an administrative review into a criminal investigation](#). The exact time of the change is unknown, but the probe began in May as an administrative review. The change in status provides the power to subpoena witness testimony and documents, to impanel a grand jury and to file criminal charges. The FBI began investigating Russian election interference in July 2016, leading to Robert Mueller's determination that the Trump campaign

did not coordinate with the Russian election interference effort. Michael Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general, has been conducting an investigation into the FBI's actions launching the Russia probe, however Attorney General Barr does not believe that an IG inquiry is sufficient to provide all the answers. The fact that the review is now a criminal investigation could raise alarms that President Trump is using the Justice Department to go after his perceived enemies.

U.S. Troops Set to Protect Oil Fields in Syria

The Pentagon plans to use [armored vehicles to defend northeastern Syria's oil fields from attack by Islamic State fighters](#). Defense Secretary Mark Esper confirmed this minutes after President Trump tweeted that troops were coming home. Secretary Esper maintains that the mission in Syria continues to be the defeat of ISIS. It is not clear how many troops will remain at the oil fields or what types of vehicles will be sent in. The decision for troops to stay with the oil fields is a partial reversal of President Trump's previous pullout order, where close to 1,000 troops were to leave. Secretary Esper also stated that Kurdish troops are recapturing ISIS members who escaped from Kurdish-run prisons since the start of Turkey's incursion into Syria.

Pentagon to Begin Testing 5G at Four Bases

The Defense Department will soon begin prototyping and testing 5G technology at a handful of bases. In the next few months, the Pentagon will kick off a [large scale effort to explore various applications of 5G technology](#), which will initially focus on three different 5G use cases and take place across four unnamed

domestic military installations. The three 5G use cases include using 5G to expand the use of augmented and virtual reality systems in training and mission planning, developing smart warehouses to improve logistics, and exploring new strategies for sharing different types of spectrum. DoD hopes to partner with industry on this effort, planning to release a draft request for proposal in November to get feedback from industry followed by a final solicitation expected in December.

A Back-Up NDAA

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe announced Thursday he would offer a [“skinny” version of the FY20 National Defense Authorization Act as a backup plan](#) in case talks to reconcile the main bills become deadlocked. Though lawmakers initially hoped to quickly negotiate competing versions of the bill, Senator Inhofe’s idea is to ensure no year-end scramble to authorize special payments and bonuses for service members, construction projects, and military acquisition program oversight that would expire at the end of the calendar year. Lawmakers are still split over war powers, Guantanamo Bay, transgender service members, the Feres Doctrine, and the border wall.

FDA Takes Action Against Popular Vaping Brand

The FDA sent a popular vaping company, Eonsmoke LLC, a warning letter seeking to remove roughly 100 flavored vaping products from the market. The [company is accused of ignoring the law by marketing dozens of unauthorized e-cigarette products](#). Eonsmoke LLC is also accused of claiming its products are less harmful than other marketed tobacco products. Such claims require

FDA review. A written response from the company was requested within 15 working days, and if the company does not comply, the FDA will take further actions. The FDA has announced a compliance policy that it plans to finalize in the coming weeks that would clear the market of unauthorized flavored e-cigarettes.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1415

An English army under Henry V defeats the French at Agincourt, France. The French had outnumbered Henry's troops 60,000 to 12,000 but British longbows turned the tide of the battle.

1760

George III of England crowned.

1951

In a general election, England's Labour Party loses to Conservatives. Winston Churchill becomes prime minister, and Anthony Eden becomes foreign secretary.

1954

President Eisenhower conducts the first televised Cabinet meeting.

1960

Martin Luther King, Jr., is sentenced to four months in jail for a sit-in.

1962

In South Africa, civil rights activist Nelson Mandela is sentenced to 5 years in prison.

LOOK AHEAD

Monday, October 28

8:30 AM EDT

Symposium: The Association of Old Crows

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

9:15 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

Location: DoubleTree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va.

1:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Topic: Savannah River Tritium Facility Safety

Location: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW,

Room 7019

Tuesday, October 29

8:15 AM EDT

Discussion: The National Defense Industrial Association Electronics Division

Topic: Technology

Location: International Business Machines, 600 14th St. NW, Room 300

8:30 AM EDT

Symposium: The Association of Old Crows

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

8:45 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

Location: DoubleTree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va.

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: Deasy/Sander Nominations

Location: G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Topic: Aviation Safety/Future of Boeing 737 MAX

Location: 216 Hart Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Theories of Victory

Location: 2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Topic: Pending Nominations

Location: 419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

3:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Defense

Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Wednesday, October 30

8:30 AM EDT

Symposium: The Association of Old Crows

Topic: Defense

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place
NW

8:45 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

Location: DoubleTree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Heritage Foundation

Topic: Defense

Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: National Press Club

E-cigarette discussion

Location: Zenger Room, 13th floor, National Press Building, 529 14th St., NW

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: DOD Cyber Operations

Location: SVC-217 U.S. Capitol

7:30 PM EDT

Event: The National Defense Industrial Association

Topic: Defense

Location: Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City, 1250 South Hayes St., Arlington, Va.

Thursday, October 31

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Topic: Supply Chain Security-Global Competitiveness-5G

Location: 342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Have a great weekend!

The Executive Insight Brief is a compilation of articles of interest prepared by The Roosevelt Group research team. This information is provided for situational awareness. Items are chosen to highlight trends and issues in the news and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of The Roosevelt Group.

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