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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 | NOVEMBER 22, 2019

TOP STORIES

USSOCOM Testing New Bullets Able to Shoot Through Water

The U.S. Special Operations Command has started to test [new supercavitating](#)

[CAV-X bullets able to be shot through water.](#) The potential applications of the new technology are numerous: the bullets would enable shots fired from aircraft to penetrate submarines and would provide the capability to initiate underwater attacks on enemy boats by combat divers. Made by DSG Technologies, the tungsten-coated nose of the bullet creates an air bubble as it moves through water, vastly reducing drag. This same design has been used since World War II on torpedoes and has been incorporated into some boats as well. After recently reaching the capability to mass-produce specialized bullets, DSG has also begun to sell to other countries.

President Signs Stopgap Bill to Prevent Shutdown

On Thursday, the U.S. Senate passed a continuing resolution which [funds the government through December 20 and prevents the shutdown set to start today.](#) The stopgap bill, passed by the House on Tuesday, was then signed by President Trump with only hours remaining before funding ran out and a government shutdown would begin. Funding for the border wall and top-line figures for each of the 12 Fiscal Year 2020 bills remain to be finalized. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have both expressed a desire to finish a FY2020 package before the end of the year, though that goal remains in question in light of continuing disagreements between the parties.

AI Firm to Predict Breakdown of U.S. Army Aircraft and Equipment

The U.S. Army has hired [C3.ai](#) to incorporate [predictive data on the maintenance of its aircraft, vehicles, and weapons.](#) James McPherson, the

Army's general counsel who has been the senior official performing the duties of the undersecretary since this summer, announced that the technology will first be tested in prediction of aircraft breakdown before being applied to vehicles and weapons if successful. McPherson emphasized the service's willingness to go where the "brainpower and innovation" are by working with smaller companies in the industry. The Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force also utilize artificial intelligence for predictive maintenance, part of a larger defense push to employ such technology to create more efficient forces and enable faster decisions.

Senators Urge Creation of 5G Coordinator Position

In a letter sent to National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien on Monday, a bipartisan group of [senators called for the naming of a 5G Coordinator](#), asking the White House to take the lead on 5G strategy development. The lawmakers—which included both the chairmen and ranking members of the Armed Services, Intelligence, Homeland Security, and Foreign Relations Committees—expressed concern over China's role in 5G implementation due to the Chinese company Huawei's domination of the market. Furthermore, the senators argued the necessity of coordination and cooperation among government agencies on 5G strategy to protect and defend against national security challenges.

Troops to Stay in South Korea: Pentagon Denies Report of Removal

The Pentagon has [denied a news story from South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo that said the U.S. was going to remove a brigade of troops](#) from the ally if it

did not increase its burden-share of the cost of maintaining U.S. presence.

Pentagon spokesman Johnathan Hoffman further called for the paper to remove the report. The U.S. and South Korea were in discussion this week about cost allocation for the U.S. contingent, but negotiations ended without an agreement on how much South Korea should provide. The U.S. reportedly called for a fivefold increase in South Korea's current annual contribution for a total of \$5 billion each year. U.S. forces have been stationed in South Korea for almost 70 years, acting as a buffer and deterrent to North Korea.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1542

In Spain, new laws are passed to protect native peoples in the Americas from enslavement.

1757

The Prussian Army is defeated by the Austrians at Breslau during the Seven Years War.

1902

The unfinished Williamsburg bridge in New York is damaged by a fire.

1935

Pan Am begins the first transpacific airmail service, departing San Francisco

and arriving in Manila.

1963

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1973

Moderate Protestants and Catholics share power in Northern Ireland under a new plan announced by Great Britain.

1988

The B-2 Spirit strategic stealth bomber's first prototype is unveiled.

1989

Rene Moawad, the President of Lebanon, is killed after a bomb explodes near his motorcade.

2005

Angela Merkel becomes the first woman to be Chancellor of Germany.

2008

After eight days of violence, Israel and Hamas begin a ceasefire.

LOOK AHEAD

Monday, November 25

3:00 PM EST

Discussion: The Stanley Center for Peace and Security

Topic: Defense – “Next Gen on Nukes and Tech”

Location: National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, First Amendment Room

Have a great weekend! Happy Thanksgiving!
The Executive Insight Brief will resume on December 6.

The Executive Insight Brief is a compilation of articles of interest prepared by the 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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