

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
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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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THE
Roosevelt
GROUP

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF

May 22, 2020

TOP STORIES

Senate confirms Navy Secretary Kenneth Braithwaite

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate [confirmed a new Navy secretary, Kenneth “K.J.” Braithwaite](#), by voice vote on Thursday.

Braithwaite, a former ambassador to Norway and executive for American oil and health care companies, assumes the job after financier Richard V. Spencer was forced out of office amid a fight with the White House and senior defense leaders over the handling of a legal case against a Navy SEAL accused of war crimes.

At his confirmation hearing this month, Braithwaite vowed Thursday to improve public trust in leadership of the service after years of controversies have led to a “tarnished” culture within the ranks.

A Michigan native and 1984 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Braithwaite was an anti-submarine warfare pilot who tracked Soviet submarines in western Pacific and Indian Oceans for a Hawaii-based patrol squadron. From there, he served in various communications and legislative affairs roles before leaving active service in 1993 and the Naval Reserve in 2011.

‘Hard stop’: States could lose National Guard virus workers

More than 40,000 [National Guard members currently helping](#) states test residents for the coronavirus and trace the spread of infections will face a “hard stop” on their deployments on June 24 — just one day shy of many members becoming eligible for key federal benefits, according to a senior FEMA official.

The official outlined the Trump administration’s plans on an interagency call on May 12, an audio version of which was obtained by *POLITICO*. The official also acknowledged during the call that the June 24 deadline means that thousands of members who first deployed in late March will find themselves with only 89 days of duty credit, one short of the 90-day threshold for qualifying for early retirement and education benefits under the Post-9/11 GI bill.

Citing financial cost of pandemic, House liberals demand cut in military spending

Twenty-nine of the House’s most liberal Democratic members called Tuesday [for a cut in](#)

[military spending in the yearly national defense authorization bill](#) – a declaration, they said, that is meant to focus federal resources on the coronavirus pandemic.

The demand, however, stands to greatly complicate the Democratic-controlled House's ability to advance the National Defense Authorization Act, one of the most consequential must-pass measures that Congress assembles each year. It is likely to generate objections from Republicans and more moderate Democrats alike – and create headaches for Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and her leadership team.

CDC acknowledges mixing up coronavirus testing data

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [acknowledged Thursday that it is combining the results](#) from viral and antibody COVID-19 tests when reporting the country's testing totals, despite marked differences between the tests.

First reported by [NPR's WLRN station in Miami](#), the practice has drawn ire from U.S. health experts who say combining the tests inhibits the agency's ability to discern the country's actual testing capacity.

“You’ve got to be kidding me,” Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, told [The Atlantic](#). “How could the CDC make that mistake? This is a mess.”

U.S. masses planes at Japan base to show foes and allies it can handle coronavirus

TOKYO (Reuters) - [U.S. Air Force transport aircraft on Thursday massed at Washington's key Asian military air transportation hub](#), Yokota Air Base in Japan, to show potential foes and allies it was ready for action despite the coronavirus emergency.

“It shows both our adversaries as well as our allies in Japan the importance of our placement, the importance of our ability to execute our mission,” base Vice Commander, Colonel Jason Mills, said.

U.S. forces are stationed in Japan to defend Washington's key Asian ally from attack from North Korea, but also to check China's growing influence in the wider region, including Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

As Washington tries to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, some officials worry outbreaks in the military may provide fodder for Beijing to question U.S. strength in the region.

FCC decision highlights GPS vulnerability and the urgent need for resilient tech

On May 15, 32 members of Congress wrote a bipartisan letter opposing the Federal Communications Commission's approval to [allow Ligado Networks to build a fifth-generation, or 5G, network of smart devices on the ground](#). These elected officials were supporting concerns by the Department of Defense that the 5G service would interfere with GPS navigation – affecting the accuracy of weapons systems and disrupting 911 first responder calls. In response, the FCC said the approval process was rigorous and that the decision would have no impact on the GPS systems upon which our nation's economic, military and social infrastructures rely.

This debate is a microcosm of a much larger one surrounding GPS, upon which the United States is wholly dependent.

GPS receivers are in countless weapon systems and in most of our critical infrastructure, like water systems, railway systems, airplanes, air traffic control towers, gas pumps, ATM machines, banking systems and telecommunications. The internet and all our global communications rely on time communicated through the GPS signal.

United States Strategic Approach to The People's Republic of China

On May 20, 2020, in accordance with the [2019 National Defense Authorization Act](#), the administration delivered a report, "U.S. Strategic Approach to the People's Republic of China" to members of Congress. This report articulates our whole-of-government approach to China under the 2017 National Security Strategy. To view the report, please visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/U.S.-Strategic-Approach-to-The-Peoples-Republic-of-China-Report-5.20.20.pdf>.

Here's where your state falls on the scale of most to least reopened

Most states have lifted strict coronavirus lockdowns, but many restrictions remain in place as the pandemic remains a health threat.

[Here are the states](#) that are mostly open, partially open and mostly closed when it comes to rules meant to limit the spread of COVID-19.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

334 BC

The Macedonian army of [Alexander the Great](#) defeats Darius III of Persia in the [Battle of the Granicus](#)

1570

1st atlas 'Theatrum Orbis Terrarum' (Theatre of the World), published by Abraham Ortelius in Antwerp with 70 maps

1843

1st wagon train with 700 - 1000 migrants, departs Independence, Missouri for Oregon

1939

[Adolf Hitler](#) and [Benito Mussolini](#) sign "Pact of Steel" in Berlin, Germany

1946

First U.S. rocket (WAC Corporal) to reach edge of space fired from White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

2014

Royal Thai Armed Forces, led by General Prayut Chan-o-cha, stage a coup in Thailand, suspending the kingdom's constitution and taking control of the government, the 12th since the country's first coup in 1932

LOOK AHEAD

The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies holds a Nuclear Deterrence Forum via webcast, beginning at 10 a.m., as part of the "Strategic Deterrence" series.

10:00 AM EDT on 05/22/2020

703-247-5839

Peter Huessy; RSVP to Peter Huessy at Phuessy@afa.org. Webcast information is available at <https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/aerospace-nation>

Participants:

- Stephen Blank, Senior Russia fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council
- Mark Schneider, Senior analyst at the National Institute for Public Policy

Gov. Ralph Northam, (D-Va.), holds a news conference, beginning at 2 p.m., with the Virginia Emergency Support Team to provide updates on Virginia's COVID-19 response.

2:00 PM EDT on 05/22/2020

Patrick Henry Building, 1111 East Broad St., West Reading Room, Richmond, Va.

Alena.Yarmosky@governor.virginia.gov

Livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/GovernorVA/>

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration holds a virtual crew engagement briefing via teleconference, beginning at 2:15 p.m., for the SpaceX Demonstration Mission Two, the first time a commercially built and operated American rocket and spacecraft will carry humans to the International Space Station.

2:15 PM EDT on 05/22/2020

kyle.j.herring@nasa.gov

281-483-5111

Kyle Herring; Media phone bridge available. RSVP to ksc-newsroom@mail.nasa.gov by May 21 for dial-in information. Livestream at <https://www.nasa.gov/nasalive>

Participants:

- NASA astronaut Doug Hurley
- NASA astronaut Robert Behnken

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial holds a virtual ceremony, beginning at 9 a.m., "to honor and remember more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during World War II."

Highlight:

– 9:30 a.m.: Wreath-laying ceremony and recorded video remarks by Jeff Reinbold, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks; Roberta Nolan, daughter of 1st Lt. James O'Boyle Lyons, who was taken prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge and died less than a month after his release; Col. Tim Bonner, chaplain; Jane Droppa, vice chair of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial; and Josiah Bunting III, chairman of Friends of the National World War II Memorial

9:00 AM EDT on 05/25/2020

Mike_Litterst@nps.gov

202-306-4166

Mike Litterst; Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.facebook.com/WWII MemorialFriends>

The United States Navy Memorial posts a pre-recorded Memorial Day wreath-laying, ginning at 1 p.m., ceremony to "honor the sailors and marines who have given the ultimate sacrifice."

12:00 AM EDT on 05/25/2020

Mike_Litterst@nps.gov

202-306-4166

Mike Litterst; Event will be posted at <https://www.navy memorial.org/new-events/2020/5/25/memorial-day-wreath-laying-ceremony>

The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies holds a webinar, beginning at 10 a.m., with Drew Walter, performing the duties of deputy assistant Defense secretary," as part of the Nuclear Deterrence Forum series.

10:00 AM EDT on 05/26/2020

703-247-5839

Peter Huessy; RSVP to Peter Huessy at Phuessy@afa.org. Webinar information is available at <https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/nuclear-deterrence-breakfast-series>

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies holds a discussion via webcast, beginning at 1:30 p.m., on "National Security in the Post-Coronavirus Era."

1:30 PM EDT on 05/26/2020

rsvp@fed-soc.org

202-822-8138

Eastern time. Information on the webcast is available at <https://fedsoc.org/events/national-security-in-the-post-coronavirus-era>

Participants:

- [Rep. Mike Gallagher](#)
- Robert Driscoll, Shareholder at the Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Labor and Employment Practice

The Atlantic Council holds a discussion via webcast, beginning at 9 a.m., on "Drone attacks against critical infrastructure in the Middle East."

9:00 AM EDT on 05/27/2020

press@atlanticcouncil.org

202-778-4993

Travis Horne; RSVP required. Information on th webcast is available at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/drone-attacks-against-critical-infrastructure-in-the-middle-east/>

Participants:

- Former Assistant Defense Secretary for International Security Affairs Mary Beth Long, Co-founder and principal at Global Alliance Advisors
- Scott Crino, Founder and CEO of Red Six Solutions

The Cyberspace Solarium Commission hosts a discussion on "Preserving and Employing the Military Instrument of Power in Cyberspace."

12:00 PM EDT on 05/27/2020

Webinar

diane@solarium.gov

[RSVP](#)

Defense One hold a webcast, beginning at 1 p.m., on "Security Vulnerabilities and Protection in a New, Remote Normal," focusing on federal and Defense cyber priorities.

1:00 PM EDT on 05/27/2020

events@govexec.com

202-266-7332

Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.govexec.com/feature/security-vulnerabilities-and-protection-in-a-new-remote-normal/?oref=ge-events-upcoming>

Participants:

- Bob Kelly, Director of product management at Flexera
- Armando Quintananieves, Director of the General Services Administration's Security Operations Division
- Nick Marinos, Director of information technology and cybersecurity at the Government Accountability Office

The National Defense Industrial Association's National Training and Simulation Association holds a discussion via webinar, beginning at 2:30 p.m., on "Our Modeling and Simulation Professionals: Leading Through Crisis."

2:30 PM EDT on 05/27/2020

esocha@ndia.org

703-247-2579

Evamarie Socha; RSVP required. Webinar information is available at <https://www.trainingsystems.org/events/2020/5/27/ntsa-may-webinar>

Participants:

- Navy Capt. Tim Hill, Commanding officer of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division
- Marine Corps Col. Luis Lara, Program manager for training systems at the Marine Corps Systems Command
- retired Navy Rear Adm. James Robb, President of NTSA
- Air Force Col. Robert Epstein, Commander of the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation
- Timothy Bishop, Deputy program executive officer for simulation, training and instrumentation at the Army

Government Executive Media Group holds a discussion via webcast, beginning at 3 p.m., on "Artificial Intelligence in Action: Reliable and Responsible Systems for Mission Solutions."

3:00 PM EDT on 05/27/2020

events@govexec.com

202-266-7332

Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.govexec.com/feature/artificial-intelligence-in-action-webcast-2/?>

Participants:

- Curtis Dukes, Executive vice president and general manager for security best practices at the Center for Internet Security
- Rick Pina, Chief technology adviser for the public sector at World Wide Technology
- Anthony Robbins, Vice president for federal at NVIDIA
- Brian Drake, Artificial intelligence director at the Defense Intelligence Agency
- Nand Mulchandani, CTO of the Defense Department's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center
- Daniel Thomas, Associate director for research and strategic insights at the Government Executive Media Group

The National Aeronautic Association hosts a discussion about airports, airlines and airplanes, including what to expect when we return to travel for work, business and recreation. [Register online.](#)

1:00 PM EDT on 05/28/2020

The Center for Strategic and International Studies holds a webcast, beginning at 3 p.m., on "Challenges to the Industrial Base During COVID-19," focusing on the defense industrial base.

3:00 PM EDT on 05/28/2020

202-775-3242

Andrew Schwartz; Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.csis.org/events/online-event-challenges-industrial-base-during-covid-19>

Participants:

- Andrew Philip Hunter, Director of the CSIS Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group
- Mitch Snyder, President and CEO of Bell
- Nazzic Keene, CEO of Science Applications International Corporation

The Center for Strategic and International Studies holds a webcast, beginning at 9:30 a.m., on "Artificial Intelligence, Defense, and Intelligence."

9:30 AM EDT on 05/29/2020

202-775-3242

Andrew Schwartz; Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.csis.org/events/online-event-ai-defense-and-intelligence-conversation-jaic-director-lt-gen-john-nt-jack>

Participants:

- Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack Shanahan, Director of the Defense Department's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center

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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