

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
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To: Craig Quigley
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief

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

August 14, 2020



TOP STORIES

Senate leaves until September without coronavirus relief deal

[The Senate left Washington](#), D.C., on Thursday until September – the latest sign that a deal on a fifth coronavirus relief package is, at least, weeks away.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) had kept the chamber in session this week, which was technically the first in its August recess, as a last-ditch attempt to create space for the administration and congressional Democrats to get an agreement.

But with talks stalemated, senators argue there is little reason for them to keep holding daily, roughly 1 1/2-hour sessions. The House already left town and isn't expected to return until Sept. 14.

Top U.S. health official says approval of COVID vaccines unlikely before November

(Reuters) - [Any potential COVID-19 vaccine](#) backed by the Trump administration's "Operation Warp Speed" program is unlikely to receive a green light from regulators any earlier than November or December, given the time needed for a large-scale clinical trial, the National Institutes of Health director said on Thursday.

In a call with reporters, Francis Collins said he thinks testing a vaccine in at least 10,000 people could potentially give enough evidence of safety and efficacy to clear it for wider use. U.S. late-stage vaccine trials launched so far aim to recruit up to 30,000 people.

Israel and United Arab Emirates Strike Major Diplomatic Agreement

President Trump announced that [Israel and the United Arab Emirates would establish “full normalization of relations”](#) and that in exchange Israel would forgo for now “declaring sovereignty” over occupied West Bank territory.

Israel and the United Arab Emirates reached a landmark accord sealed by President Trump on Thursday that could presage a broader realignment in the region as the two agreed to “full normalization of relations” in exchange for Israel suspending annexation of occupied West Bank territory.

In a surprise announcement at the White House after a three-way phone call with Israeli and Emirati leaders, Mr. Trump said the deal would lead to greater cooperation on investment, tourism, security, technology, energy and other areas while the two countries move to allow regular direct passenger flights, open embassies and trade ambassadors for the first time.

Next coronavirus relief package must include a big defense boost, GOP leaders argue

Republican defense lawmakers are pushing for the next emergency [coronavirus funding package to include a hefty boost for defense spending](#), saying that the pandemic’s effects on military spending have cut across an array of program and procurement accounts.

“Socially distanced production spaces, provision of PPE, self-quarantining, disrupted logistics have generated significant bills,” the group wrote in an open statement on Thursday. “These COVID-related effects made defense programs less efficient and more expensive, and DOD cannot redirect money from other crucial priorities to cover these costs.”

Artificial intelligence: Removing the human from mission command

Disruptive technologies drive doctrinal and operational changes for modern militaries. Particularly in the last 120 years, industrial and technological advancements have revolutionized warfare. In the last century, [the United States military has developed a military machine](#) that is centered on a guiding command-and-control principle: centralized control, decentralized execution. However, the next decade will bring significant advancements in autonomous decision-making and artificial intelligence, chauffeuring in resilient, distributed command and control and dislodging the human operator from mission command.

U.S. contractor told Lebanese port official of chemicals risk

WASHINGTON – About four years before the [Beirut port explosion that killed dozens of people](#) and injured thousands, a U.S. government contractor expressed concern to a Lebanese port official about unsafe storage there of the volatile chemicals that fueled last week's devastating blast, American officials said Tuesday.

There is no indication the contractor communicated his concerns to anyone in the U.S. government.

His assessment was noted briefly in a four-page State Department cable first reported by The New York Times.

The cable, labeled sensitive but unclassified, dealt largely with the Lebanese responses to the blast and the origins and disposition of the ammonium nitrate, which ignited to create an enormous explosion. But it also noted that after the Aug. 4 explosion, a person who had advised the Lebanese navy under a U.S. Army contract from 2013 to 2016 told the State Department that he had "conducted a port facility inspection on security measures during which he reported to port officials on the unsafe storage of ammonium nitrate."

Congress has secretly blocked U.S. arms sales to Turkey for nearly two years

WASHINGTON – Four key members of Congress, either individually or collectively, have quietly [frozen all major U.S. arms sales to Turkey for nearly two years](#) in a move to pressure Ankara to abandon its Russian-built S-400 air defense system, *Defense News* has learned.

The legislative action, which has not been previously reported, is another sign of the deeply fractured relationship between the two NATO allies, a disruption that has already led to Turkey's expulsion from the F-35 joint strike fighter program.

While it is unclear exactly how many potential sales have been held back, at least two significant deals are in limbo: a follow-on contract for F-16 structural upgrades and export licenses for U.S.-made engines that Turkey needs to complete a \$1.5 billion sale of attack helicopters to Pakistan. Historically, the United States is the largest exporter of weapons to Turkey.

Support to pursue Hawaii-based missile defense radar continues after DoD drops funding

WASHINGTON – Support is growing both in Congress and in the [Pentagon to pursue a Hawaii-based ballistic missile defense radar](#) that the Missile Defense Agency did not include in its fiscal 2021 funding request.

Previous MDA budget requests in FY19 and FY20 asked for funding for the discriminating radar as well as another somewhere else in the Pacific. The plan in FY19 was to field the Homeland Defense Radar-Hawaii, or HDR-H, by FY23, which meant military construction would have taken place beginning in FY21. Then in FY20, MDA requested \$247.7 million for the radar. Lockheed Martin received an award to develop the radar in December 2018.

COVID-19 is an ‘ally’ for ISIS in the Philippines, DoD report finds

Three years and millions of dollars later, counter terrorism efforts in the Philippines have not made a “substantial difference,” a [Defense Department Inspector General](#) report released this week found.

Since 2017, the U.S. has supported the Armed Forces of the Philippines in fighting terrorism through Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines. However, the strength and influence of extremist groups in the region have remained unchanged, the IG report published on Tuesday said. Additionally, the Philippine government diverted resources from counter terrorism to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since the outset of Lead IG reporting on OPE-P in 2018, we have seen little progress in improving the economic, social and political conditions in that part of the country,” DoD IG Sean O’Donnell said in the report.

Russia warns it will see any incoming missile as nuclear

MOSCOW – Russia will perceive [any ballistic missile launched at its territory as a nuclear attack](#) that warrants a nuclear retaliation, the military warned in an article published Friday.

The harsh warning in the official military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) is directed at the United States, which has worked to develop long-range non-nuclear weapons.

The article follows the publication in June of Russia’s nuclear deterrent policy that envisages the use of atomic weapons in response to what could be a conventional strike targeting the nation’s critical government and military infrastructure.

U.S. barring private charter flights to Cuba

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Transportation said on Thursday it will [suspend private charter flights to Cuba](#) to increase U.S. economic pressure on the Cuban government.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote on Twitter that he had sought the suspension of “private charter flights between the U.S. and Cuba.”

“The Castro regime uses tourism and travel funds to finance its abuses and interference in Venezuela. Dictators cannot be allowed to benefit from U.S. travel,” he wrote.

Washington isn't listening to the Air Force and Space Force

After more than 20 years of advocating for the U.S. Air Force, I continue to be surprised how the world's most dominant [air force has been taken for granted, and even ignored](#), in Washington, D.C. Congress remains fixated on shipbuilding, and the ground services dominate the military's senior positions, policy and defense budgets.

The Department of the Air Force, responsible for training and equipping two military services – the Air Force and the Space Force – has been underfunded for decades, resulting in significant shortfalls in readiness and modernization. While the Air Force forfeited future modernization to pay for current operations, China and Russia made great strides toward parity.

CDC: One quarter of young adults contemplated suicide during pandemic

One in four young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 say they've considered suicide in the past month because of the pandemic, according [to new CDC data that paints a bleak picture of the nation's mental health during the crisis](#).

The data also flags a surge of anxiety and substance abuse, with more than 40 percent of those surveyed saying they experienced a mental or behavioral health condition connected to the Covid-19 emergency. The CDC study analyzed 5,412 survey respondents between June 24 and 30.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

[1281](#)

During [Kublai Khan's](#) second [Mongol invasion](#) of Japan his invading Chinese fleet of 3,500 vessels disappears in a typhoon near Japan

[1842](#)

Second Seminole War declared over by Colonel Worth; Native Americans go on to be removed from Florida to Oklahoma

[1945 V-J Day](#)

Japan surrenders unconditionally to end WW II (also August 15 depending on time zone)

[1947](#)

Pakistan gains independence from Great Britain

[1969](#)

British Army deploys on the streets of Northern Ireland, marking the beginning of Operation Banner

[1980](#)

17,000 workers go on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk, Poland, marking the beginning of the Solidarity movement



LOOK AHEAD

The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies holds a virtual discussion, beginning at 5 p.m., with Air Force Gen. James "Mike" Holmes, commander of the Air Combat Command.

5:00 PM EDT on 08/14/2020

kgunzinger@afa.org

571-263-5781

Kamilla Gunzinger, [Note: The event is by invitation only.; Webinar information is available at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_22dthCmDT3aiYQgrJTFsmw

Participants:

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Bruce "Orville" Wright, AFA president

The Henry L. Stimson Center, Conflict Armament Research, the Small Arms Survey, and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research hold a webinar, beginning at 9:30 a.m., on "The Arms Trade Treaty and Diversion: Assessing Risks and Impacts," focusing on the sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

9:30 AM EDT on 08/17/2020

ashoko@stimson.org

202-478-3419

Audel Shokohzadeh; Webinar information is available at <https://www.stimson.org/event/the-arms-trade-treaty-diversion-assessing-risks-and-impacts/>

Participants:

Himayu Shiotani, Head of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research's Conventional Arms Programme

Rachel Stohl, Vice president for conventional defense at the Stimson Center

Stela Petrovic, Senior adviser for arms and military trade control at the Serbian Ministry

of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
Jonah Leff, Operations director at Conflict Armament Research
Tom Nijs, Legal adviser at the Flanders, Belgium Department of Foreign Affairs

The Henry L. Stimson Center holds a webinar, beginning at 8:30 a.m., on "Afghanistan's Future: Regional Perspectives on the Road Ahead."

8:30 AM EDT on 08/18/2020

ashoko@stimson.org

202-478-3419

Audel Shokohzadeh; Webinar information is available

at <https://www.stimson.org/event/afghanistans-future-regional-perspectives-on-the-road-ahead/>

Homeland Security Department holds a meeting by teleconference of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Schedule:

– 9:15 a.m.: Receive sensitive operational information from senior officials on intelligence, border security, transportation security, cybersecurity and infrastructure (Closed)

– 1:45 p.m.: Receive progress reports from the Economic Security, Biometrics, Information and Communication Technology Risk Reduction, and Youth Engagement subcommittees; Senior leadership announces a new tasking and new Council membership; and Review, deliberate, and vote on the final draft report of the Emerging Technology Subcommittee (Open)

9:15 AM EDT on 08/18/2020

HSAC@hq.dhs.gov

202-447-3135

Mike Miron; RSVP required for dial-in information by 5 p.m. August 14.

The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies holds a "Nuclear Deterrence" webinar, beginning at 10 a.m., with Air Force Lt. Gen. Richard Clark, deputy chief of staff for strategic deterrence and nuclear integration.

10:00 AM EDT on 08/18/2020

kgunzinger@afa.org

571-263-5781

Kamilla Gunzinger, [Note: The event is by invitation only.; Webinar information is available at <https://www.mitchellaerospacepower.org/>

The National Defense Industrial Association holds the iFEST 2020 Online Conference, beginning at 11 a.m., with the theme "Working Out What Works: Creating Value from Innovation," August 17-18.

Highlight:

– 11:10 a.m.: Latvian Land Forces Brig. Gen. Ilmars Lejins, assistant chief of staff for joint force development at NATO Allied Command Transformation, delivers keynote remarks

11:00 AM EDT on 08/18/2020

esocha@ndia.org

703-247-2579

Evamarie Socha; RSVP required. Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.trainingsystems.org/events/2020/8/17/01d0>

USTelecom and The Cybersecurity Coalition hold a discussion on the status of cyber supply chain risk management efforts related to managing the risks associated with acquiring and employing ICT products and services.

11:00 AM EDT on 08/18/2020

Participants:

Jon Boyens, Manager - Security Engineering & Risk Management Group in the Computer Security Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Ari Schwartz, Managing Director of Cybersecurity Services, Venable Robert Mayer, Senior Vice President - Cybersecurity & Innovation, USTelecom John Amis, Supply Chain Assurance Program Director, Dell Technologies Edna Conway, VP & GM, Global Security, Risk & Compliance, Azure, Microsoft Chris Oatway, Associate General Counsel, Verizon Tom Quillin, Global Security Policy, Intel Corporation

[RSVP](#)

The Heritage Foundation holds a webinar, beginning at 1 p.m., on "Homeland Missile Defense: Plotting a Clear Path Forward."

1:00 PM EDT on 08/18/2020

lectures.seminars@heritage.org

202-675-1761

Webinar information is available at <https://www.heritage.org/missile-defense/event/virtual-event-homeland-missile-defense-plotting-clear-path-forward>

Participants:

Patty-Jane Geller, Policy analyst for nuclear deterrence and missile defense at Heritage
Rebecca Heinrichs, Senior fellow at the Hudson Institute
John Venable, Senior research fellow for defense policy at Heritage

The Government Executive Media Group's Defense One holds a virtual discussion, beginning at 2 p.m., on "Next in Flight: The Future of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operations."

2:00 PM EDT on 08/18/2020

events@govexec.com

202-266-7332

Information on the webcast is available at <https://www.defenseone.com/feature/next-in-flight/>

Participants:

Ulrike Franke, Policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations
Gorik Hossepian, Vice president of product line management for Unmanned Aerial systems at AeroVironment Inc.

The Institute of World Politics holds a virtual discussion, beginning at 5 p.m., on

"Countering Islamist Political Extremism by Orchestrating the Instruments of National Power."

5:00 PM EDT on 08/18/2020

202-462-2101

or 202-986-2916; RSVP required to kbridges@iw.edu. Webinar information is available at <https://www.iw.edu/events/webinar-pushing-back-how-can-we-counter-islamist-extremism/>

Participants:

Christopher Harmon, Chair at Marine Corps University

Douglas Streusand, International relations professor at the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College

The Atlantic Council holds a virtual discussion, beginning at 8 a.m., on "Emerging defense technologies in the Indo-Pacific and the future of U.S.-Japan cooperation."

8:00 AM EDT on 08/19/2020

press@atlanticcouncil.org

202-778-4993

Travis Horne; RSVP required. Information on the webcast is available

at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/emerging-defense-technologies-in-the-indo-pacific-and-the-future-of-us-japan-cooperation/>

Participants:

Tate Nurkin, Founder of OTH Intelligence Group

Ryo Hinata-Yamaguchi, Visiting professor at Pusan National University and adjunct fellow at the Pacific Forum

Retired Marine Corps Gen. James Cartwright, Board director at the Atlantic Council and former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Sarah Kirchberger, Head of the University of Kiel Center for Asia-Pacific Strategy and Security

The National Council of Resistance of Iran-U.S. (NCRI-US) holds a virtual discussion, beginning at 10 a.m., on "Extension of the UN Arms Embargo, Internal Situation in Iran and U.S. Policy of Maximum Pressure."

10:00 AM EDT on 08/19/2020

media@ncrius.org

202-747-7847

Webinar information is available

at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zFv3RStJTMWkxj3bXgVpXw

Participants:

Alireza Jafarzadeh, Deputy director of the NCRI-US Washington Office

Matthew Kroenig, Deputy director Atlantic Council Center for Strategy and Security

Former Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, Vice chair of the Atlantic Council Center for Strategy and Security

David Shedd, Visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation, former acting director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and former special assistant to the president and senior director for intelligence programs and reform

former Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Robert

Joseph, Former special assistant to the president and senior director for proliferation strategy, counterproliferation and homeland defense

The R Street Institute holds a webinar, beginning at 12 p.m., on "Everything on the Table: The Case for Rethinking the Pentagon Budget."

12:00 PM EDT on 08/19/2020

202-525-5717

Webinar information is available at <https://www.rstreet.org/event/everything-on-the-table-the-case-for-rethinking-the-pentagon-budget/>

Participants:

Wendy Jordan, Senior policy analyst at Taxpayers for Common Sense

Andrew Lautz, Policy and government affairs manager at the National Taxpayers Union

Jonathan Bydlak, Director of the R Street Institute's Fiscal and Budget Policy Project

Mandy Smithberger, Director of the Project on Government Oversight Center for Defense Information

Environmental Protection Agency holds a meeting by teleconference of the Board of Scientific Counselors Homeland Security Subcommittee to review the initial progress on implementation of the FY2019-FY2022 HS Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP), August 20-21.

12:00 PM EDT on 08/20/2020

tracy.tom@epa.gov

202-564-6518

Registration required by August 19 for dial-in information at <https://epa-bosc-homeland-security-subcommittee.eventbrite.com>

The Federal Aviation Administration [holds](#) a virtual session on "Temporary Flight Restriction Data," as part of its AI Optimization Summit.

1:00 PM EDT on 08/20/2020

Defense Department; office of the Secretary holds a meeting by teleconference of the Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces.

Agenda includes: Deliberate and vote on the draft Final Report on Investigative Case File Reviews for Military Penetrative Sexual Offense Cases Closed in FY2017; Status of the Committee's review and assessment of racial and ethnic disparities in the investigation, prosecution, and conviction of Service members for sexual offenses involving adult victims within the military justice system as required by section 540I of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2020; and Receive updates from the DAC-IPAD Policy and Data Subcommittees

11:00 AM EDT on 08/21/2020

dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil

703-695-1055

Dwight Sullivan; Dial-in at 410-874-6300; Conference Pin, 645-604-037

Environmental Protection Agency holds a meeting by teleconference of the Board of

Scientific Counselors Homeland Security Subcommittee to review the initial progress on implementation of the FY2019-FY2022 HS Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP), August 20-21.

12:00 PM EDT on 08/21/2020

tracy.tom@epa.gov

202-564-6518

Registration required by August 19 for dial-in information at <https://epa-bosc-homeland-security-subcommittee.eventbrite.com>

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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