

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
To: [Craig Quigley](#)
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | April 14, 2017
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Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group. Have a wonderful Easter weekend!

Craig R. Quigley
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Executive Director
Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
757-644-6324 (Office)
757-419-1164 (Mobile)



EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | April 14, 2017

TOP STORIES

MASSIVE U.S. BOMB IN AFGHANISTAN KILLED 36 FROM ISLAMIC STATE, SAY LOCAL OFFICIALS. A 22,000-pound bomb dropped by U.S. forces on an Islamic State hideout killed about three dozen militants in eastern Afghanistan, officials said Friday, raising further questions about the already controversial decision to use such powerful ordnance on the battlefield. In comments Friday in Kabul, Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr., commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, defended the strike as "the right weapon against the right target," and he called the militant hideout "an extensive obstacle to our progress." [Read more](#)

ASSAD: SYRIA CHEMICAL ATTACK '100 PERCENT FABRICATION'. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said a [suspected chemical weapons](#) attack was a "fabrication" to justify a U.S. military strike, AFP news agency reported. In his first interview since the April 4 incident prompted a [US cruise missile attack](#) on Syrian forces, Assad insisted his army gave up all of its chemical weapons three years ago and that Syrian military power was not affected by the U.S. strike. [Read more](#)

SYRIA WAR: EVACUATIONS BEGIN IN BESIEGED TOWNS. People from the northwestern towns of Foah and Kefraya are being taken to government-

held areas near Aleppo. Evacuees from rebel-held Madaya, near Damascus, have been bussed to Idlib province. It is not clear if nearby Zabadani, included in the deal, is also being evacuated. More than 30,000 people will be moved.

[Read more](#)

SOUTH KOREAN ELECTION TURNING INTO 2-WAY RACE AS A DARK HORSE SURGES. Just last month, Ahn Cheol-soo, a software mogul turned politician, looked like just another also-ran for the South Korean presidential election in May. His centrist People's Party held only 40 seats in the 300-member Parliament. He was barely polling at 10 percent in surveys. [Read more](#)

WOMAN FATALLY STABBED IN JERUSALEM AMID GOOD FRIDAY GATHERINGS. A woman was fatally stabbed Friday by an apparent Palestinian attacker just steps from Jerusalem's Old City, where thousands of Jews and Christians gathered for religious holidays at one of the busiest times of the year, Israeli police said. Thousands of people filled parts of the ancient city: Jews to celebrate Passover, which ends Monday, and Christian pilgrims for Good Friday. The attack took place inside a car of the city's light-rail train not far from the entrance to the Old City's Christian Quarter. [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: 5 DEAD AS ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS INTENSIFY. Thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets in wealthy eastern Caracas amid a tropical downpour Thursday to support a protest movement that is gaining steam even as it turns more deadly. Venezuela officials confirmed earlier in the day that a fifth person had died in the wave of anti-government protests now entering its third week. [Read more](#)

JAPAN'S ABE WARNS NORTH KOREA COULD FIRE SARIN-LOADED MISSILE. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe warned Thursday that North Korea might be capable of firing a missile loaded with sarin nerve gas toward Japan. Abe, who made the statement at a parliamentary panel on national security, said Pyongyang may already be able to shoot missiles with sarin as warheads, the Associated Press reported. [Read more](#)

ADMINISTRATION

CONSERVATIVE ACTIVISTS WANT ACTION FROM TRUMP. Conservative

leaders are putting President Trump on notice: If he doesn't stick to his campaign promises, there will be hell to pay in the midterm election. Activists are particularly disappointed at the failure to repeal ObamaCare and defund Planned Parenthood. "Someone's got to take responsibility. They no longer have excuses not to do things," said L. Brent Bozell III, the chairman of ForAmerica, a conservative advocacy group. [Read more](#)

TRUMP'S GOT A NEW FAVORITE STEVE. President Donald Trump once affectionately called them "my two Steves," a reference not only to their ideological kinship but to their central role in his administration. But while Steve Bannon is on the ropes in Trump's fractious White House, Stephen Miller has managed to endear himself to the man emerging as the president's most indispensable adviser: son-in-law Jared Kushner. [Read more](#)

N. KOREAN OFFICIAL: NORTH KOREA READY TO GO TO WAR IF THAT'S WHAT TRUMP WANTS. President Donald Trump's tweets are adding fuel to a "vicious cycle" of tensions on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea's vice foreign minister told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Friday. The official added that if the U.S. shows any sign of "reckless" military aggression, Pyongyang is ready to launch a pre-emptive strike of its own. [Read more](#)

CONGRESS

HOUSE DEMOCRATS WANT KUSHNER'S SECURITY CLEARANCE SUSPENDED. A handful of House Democrats are calling on federal authorities to suspend Jared Kushner's security clearance amid a wide-ranging probe into Trump associates' contacts with Russian officials. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser failed to disclose numerous foreign contacts when he applied for a top secret clearance, including at least two meetings with high-profile Russians during Trump's transition to the White House, according to a New York Times [report](#) cited by the lawmakers. [Read more](#)

GOP SENATOR FACES TOWN HALL ANGER OVER SUPREME COURT, HEALTHCARE. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) on Thursday faced off with angry constituents at a town hall, fielding questions about repealing ObamaCare and the Supreme Court. "Senator, my question is: when you are going to choose

your country over your party?" one attendee at the Mesa Ariz., event asked.

[Read more](#)

PELOSI CALLS FOR DEBATE ON STRIKES AFTER 'SABER-RATTLING' ON NORTH KOREA. House Minority Leader [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.) is calling for "immediate" debate over President Trump's use of force following reported "saber-rattling" on North Korea. "Every day, the President gives Congress reason to return and debate the use of force. The President's escalation in Syria and his saber-rattling on North Korea demand serious and immediate Congressional scrutiny," Pelosi said in a statement Thursday. [Read more](#)

POLITICS

FOCUSED ON TRUMP'S SUCCESSES, MANY SUPPORTERS ARE UNFAZED BY HIS REVERSALS. As some on the right howled about a series of reversals by President Trump on a number of his campaign promises — conned, betrayed, sold out, they said — [Rush Limbaugh](#) asked his listeners on Thursday whether any of that flip-flopping really mattered. "See what Jeff Sessions is doing?" Mr. Limbaugh said of the attorney general, answering his own question: "Damn straight." [Read more](#)

STEALTH CAUCUS GAINS GROUND IN TRUMP WHITE HOUSE. In President Trump's White House, it's better to not be seen or heard — at least in public. A cadre of Trump's top aides from New York City — economic adviser Gary Cohn, deputy national security adviser Dina Powell and Trump family members Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner — appear to be gaining in influence even as they've kept low profiles in the media. [Read more](#)

DEMS SEE GEORGIA ELECTION AS CHANCE TURN GOP TIDE. After Republican Ron Estes managed a seven-point victory Tuesday in a Kansas congressional district that Donald Trump won by 27 points, the president took to Twitter to tout a "great win." Trump, whose robo-calls on behalf of Estes were part of a last-ditch effort by the GOP cavalry to save the seat vacated by new CIA Director Mike Pompeo, praised the Republican for "easily winning the Congressional race against the Dems, who spent heavily & predicted victory!" [Read more](#)

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 'MOTHER OF ALL BOMBS'.

The U.S. military just dropped “the mother of all bombs,” the GBU-43/B, on a tunnel complex used by the branch of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan, marking the first time the munition has been used in combat. The “MOAB” which actually stands for Massive Ordnance Air Blast, is the largest non-nuclear bomb ever dropped in battle. But don’t be fooled. It’s not the biggest one in the arsenal. [Read more](#)

CHINA SAYS NORTH KOREA TENSION HAS TO BE STOPPED FROM REACHING 'IRREVERSIBLE' STAGE.

China said on Friday tension over North Korea had to be stopped from reaching an “irreversible and unmanageable stage” as a U.S. aircraft carrier group steamed toward the region amid fears the North may conduct a sixth nuclear weapons test. [Read more](#)

SENATORS SEEK TO LIMIT ARMS SALES TO SAUDIS.

Four Senators have introduced a resolution to limit U.S. support for a Saudi Arabia-led coalition fighting in Yemen’s civil war, they announced Thursday. The resolution would require the President to certify that Saudi Arabia is meeting certain conditions before finalizing future arms sales to the country. [Read more](#)

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

HOW BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS CAN PRODUCE BETTER HEALTH

CARE. Consider the following. I’m a physician at the end of more than a decade of training. I’ve dissected cadavers in anatomy lab. I’ve pored over tomes on the physiology of disease. I’ve treated thousands of patients with ailments as varied as [hemorrhoids](#) and [cancer](#). And yet the way I care for patients often has less to do with the medical science I’ve spent my career absorbing than with habits, environmental cues and other subtle nudges that I think little about. [Read more](#)

GM DOUBLES DOWN ON SELF-DRIVING CARS, HIRING 1,100.

The new employees will be working at the Cruise Automation unit, a tech start-up GM paid \$581 million for in March 2016. GM CEO Mary Barra disclosed in September that the self-driving car unit had already grown to 100 engineers,

up from the 40 people who were there at the time of its purchase. [Read more](#)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SCIENTISTS JUST FOUND A STRANGE AND WORRYING CRACK IN ONE OF GREENLAND'S BIGGEST GLACIERS. Scientists examining satellite images of one of Greenland's largest glaciers believe they have found an unexpected new crack in its floating ice shelf that could contribute to a dramatic break in coming years. The [Petermann glacier](#), located in the high Arctic at 80 degrees North latitude, is one of the most important outlets by which the Greenland ice sheet extends and flows into the sea. [Read more](#)

FRACKING COMES TO THE ARCTIC IN A NEW ALASKA OIL BOOM.

Arctic lands and waters hold irresistible allure for global oil companies. Despite opposition from environmental groups and President Obama's [2016 ban on drilling in federal Arctic waters](#), exploration in Alaska has revealed massive new volumes of oil. This comes at a time of low oil prices, when many observers felt the Arctic would remain off limits. Alaska has proved precisely the opposite. [Read more](#)

ALLERGIES WILL BE EVEN MORE MISERABLE IN THE FUTURE —

THANKS TO GLOBAL WARMING. It's spring in California: the birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and my sinuses are so swollen they might just pop right out of my face. I'm one of the [36 million or so Americans](#) lucky enough to suffer from seasonal allergies. And experts tell me that I might suffer from this eye-itching, sinus-pounding misery even more in the future. [Read more](#)

TECHNOLOGY

NBC'S NEW AGREEMENT WITH AFFILIATES COULD BE A BIG DEAL FOR INTERNET TV SERVICES.

NBC [announced today](#) that it had reached an agreement with its TV affiliate board to allow stations to opt-in to be included in NBC and Universal's blanket agreements for internet streaming and other "TV Everywhere" distribution rights. While that might not sound like much, it's actually kind of a big deal that could make it easier to get live NBC streams on services like PlayStation Vue or Sling TV. [Read more](#)

TECH ALONE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO REBOOT PROGRESSIVE

POLITICS. Ravi Gupta is standing with both hands resting on the lip of a lucite podium. Some 600 audience members, including his mother, are staring intently back at him. Few of them have ever worked in politics before, but they're all here to hear the former Obama administration staffer tell them how they can help save the progressive cause. [Read more](#)

UNLIKE HYPERLOOP, ELON MUSK'S ELECTRIC BIG-RIG ACTUALLY

MAKES SENSE. Once again, Elon Musk has prompted a flurry of speculation with a single tweet. But unlike [hyperloop](#) or his ridiculous [tunneling idea](#), this one totally makes sense: an electric big rig. The busiest man in tech already faces looming deadlines for getting a battery factory up to speed, the Model 3 out the door, a secret payload (probably a spy satellite) into orbit. So, you might think he'd resist adding to his to-do list. Nope. [Read more](#)

Interstate 64 Capacity Improvements – Segment III

York County

Design Public Hearing

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bruton High School

185 East Rochambeau Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Come and see the proposed project plans for capacity improvements on I-64 Segment III in York County. The purpose of this project is to extend the three-lane section of I-64 from approximately 1.15 miles west of Route 199, Lightfoot (Exit 234) to 1.05 miles west of Route 199, Humelsine Parkway/Marquis Center Parkway (Exit 242). Proposed improvements include pavement reconstruction of existing lanes and an additional 12-foot wide travel lane and 12-foot wide shoulders in each direction. Work includes the repair and widening of 4 bridges, 3 major culverts and the replacement of the two Queens Creek bridges. The widening is mostly to occur in the median of the existing interstate, limiting the amount of right of way required to construct the project and avoiding impacts to existing interchanges.

Review the proposed project plans and the environmental documentation at the public hearing or at the VDOT Interstate Maintenance Office, 757-494-5478 or 1-888-723-8400, TTY/TDD 711, or at the VDOT Williamsburg Residency Office, 4451 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188, 757-253-4869. Please call ahead to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Property impact information, relocation assistance policies and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at the above addresses and will be available at the public hearing.

Give your written or oral comments at the hearing or submit them by **May 28, 2017**, to Janet Hedrick, P.E., Project Manager, VDOT, 1992 South Military Highway, Chesapeake, VA 23320. You may also email your comments to Janet.Hedrick@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-64 Segment III Capacity Improvements Comment" in the subject line.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is provided in the environmental documentation. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 757-925-2500 or TTY/TDD 711.

I-64 Segment III

Exit 242 to 234

Exit 234
Route 199/Lightfoot

Route 199 Overpass

Route 604 Overpass

Camp Peary

Waller Mill Park

Exit 238
Route 143/Camp Peary

Route 143 Overpass

Queens Creek Bridges

Route 716 Overpass

Williamsburg

**Colonial Parkway Bridges
&
Lakeshead Dr Bridges**

Exit 242 **Route 199/
Marquis Ctr Pkwy**

Project Length 8.2 Miles

