

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 8:40 AM
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.

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)



THE
Roosevelt
GROUP

Executive Insight Brief

What happened this week and what's to come

October 1, 2021

Headlines - Budget & Approps - Aerospace & Defense - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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Notable Headlines

Shutdown averted: [Biden signs government funding bill to prevent shutdown](#)

- [House delays infrastructure vote as last-minute talks hit wall](#)
- [Why some Members prefer a longer term CR over a budget deal](#)
- [Defense Business Board Relaunches After Pentagon Review](#)
- [Space Force issues \\$47.5 million for prototype data transport service](#)

Closing the gender gap: [CISA and Girls Who Code Announce Partnership](#)



Remember School House Rock? POLITICO decided it needed an update.

Budget & Appropriations

Confused by all the infrastructure talk? Here's a look inside the bills.

THE BREAKDOWN

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

\$1.2 Trillion to fund traditional infrastructure
Passed Senate (69-30), still awaiting house vote (pushed from Sept 30th)

NEW SPENDING

\$110B for roads and bridges	\$66B for railroads	\$65B for the power grid
\$55B for water infrastructure	\$47B for cybersecurity and climate change	\$39B for public transit
\$25B for airports	\$21B for the environment	\$17B for ports
\$11B for safety	\$8B for Western water infrastructure	\$7.5B for electric vehicle charging stations
	\$7.5B for electric school buses	

NOTABLE INITIATIVES

\$8B for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America for nationally significant freight and highway projects	\$2B for new rural grant program to provide funds to improve and expand surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas
\$2.5B over 5 yrs for grants for building of alternative fueling infrastructure (electric, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas vehicles)	\$25M over 5 yrs for DOT pilot program to conduct emerging tech research (ex. manufacturing and advanced driver automation)
\$7.5B over 5 yrs for local and regional project assistance grants to fund projects that would have "significant impact"	\$500M over 5 yrs for SMART grants to fund demo projects focused on advanced smart city tech to improve transportation
Establish an ARPA-I to support the development of science and tech solutions to advance US transportation infrastructure	\$250M to create Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Tech Assistance Program
\$320M to complete nat'l modern surface and subsurface mapping and data integration effort to find domestic mineral resources	\$550M over 5 yrs for higher ed-based research centers to optimize energy efficiency in manufacturing, industrial facilities
\$42.45B for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program "to bridge digital divide"	\$8B over 5 yrs for the creation of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs
\$3B over 5 yrs for battery manufacturing and recycling grants	\$7B over 5 yrs to federal-state partnership for intercity passenger rail grants

THE BREAKDOWN

THE BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

\$3.5 Trillion to fund human infrastructure
Advanced by House Budget Committee 9/25, awaiting vote

AREAS OF PROPOSED INVESTMENT

- \$135B** → **The Agriculture Committee**
 - Agriculture conservation, drought, and forestry programs to help reduce carbon emissions and prevent wildfires
 - Rural development and co-op clean energy investments
 - Civilian Climate Corps funding, agricultural climate research
- \$332B** → **The Banking Committee**
 - Creation and preservation of affordable housing
 - Community investment in land trusts, transit, sustainable housing
 - Public Housing Capital Investments and Sustainability
- \$83B** → **The Commerce Committee**
 - Investments in tech, transportation, coastal resiliency, healthy oceans, and more
 - Research, manufacturing, and economic development
 - NSF research and technology directorate
- \$198B** → **The Energy Committee**
 - Financing domestic manufacturing of clean energy and auto supply chain technologies
 - Federal procurement of energy efficient materials
 - Consumer rebates to weatherize and electrify homes
- \$67B** → **The Environment and Public Works Committee**
 - Clean Energy Tech Accelerator
 - Clean water affordability, healthy ports, climate equity
 - Investments in clean vehicles
- \$1.8T** → **The Finance Committee**
 - Paid family and medical leave
 - ACA expansion and filling the Medicaid Coverage Gap
 - Expanding Medicare and lowering eligibility age
 - Addressing health care provider shortages
- \$726B** → **The Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee**
 - Universal Pre-K, child care for working families
 - Tuition-free community college, investments in HBCUs
 - School infrastructure, student success grants, educator investments, pandemic preparedness, health equity
- \$37B** → **The Homeland Security and Gov't Affairs Committee**
 - Electrifying the federal fleet (USPS and non-USPS)
 - Electrifying and rehabilitating federal buildings
 - Improving cybersecurity infrastructure
 - Border management investments
 - Federal investments in green materials procurement
- \$107B** → **The Judiciary Committee**
 - Lawful permanent status for qualified immigrants
 - Investments in smart, effective border security measures
 - Community Violence Intervention Initiative
- \$20.5B** → **The Indian Affairs Committee**
 - Native health programs and education programs/facilities
 - Native American housing programs
 - Native resilience and climate programs
 - BIA programs and facilities
- \$25B** → **The Small Business Committee**
 - Small business access to credit, investment, and markets
- \$18B** → **The Veterans Affairs Committee**
 - Upgrades to VA facilities

Aerospace & Defense

[Hypersonics Test Shows the US Is Catching Up in the New Missile Race \(Defense One\)](#)

Last week's successful demonstration of a hypersonic glide vehicle is a "step in the right direction" in closing the research and testing gap between the United States and rivals Russia and China, a top Air Force technologist said this week. But the United States still has ground to cover in deploying highly maneuverable hypersonic weapons and defenses against them, Brig. Gen. John M. Olson, the Mobilization Assistant to the Chief of Space Operations and the Air Force's acting Chief Technology and Innovation officer, told Defense One during a State of the Air Force panel on Tuesday. Last week, Olson's service and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency conducted a free flight test of its Hypersonic Air-breathing Weapon Concept, or HAWC, which dropped from a jet and lit off its supersonic combustion ramjet. "The engine compressed incoming air mixed with its hydrocarbon fuel and began igniting that fast-moving airflow mixture, propelling the cruiser at a speed greater than Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound)," DARPA said in a statement this week.

[Space Force, Air Force Total Force recruiting makes goal for Fiscal 2021 \(DVIDS\)](#)

For the first time in five years, each of the Total Force recruiting partners have reached or exceeded their recruiting goal and each has achieved its end strength for Fiscal 2021. "It's been another challenging year as we've continued to fight through the challenges of COVID but our recruiters have made every Air Force and Space Force goal. Our active duty Air Force recruiters made goal for the 21st straight year and our Guard and Reserve recruiters managed a Herculean lift, making goals even amidst record-high retention in the active Air Force, the source of many of our experienced and trained prior-service recruits," said Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. Thomas acknowledged that this is the first time in five years that the all three components, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, have achieved their goal and end strength in the same year. "Undoubtedly, the Total Force recruiting concept is a success," Thomas said. "We've still got work to do but we are aggressively moving the ball down the field and achieving historic levels of performance. The Guard and the Reserve, who rely on those coming off active duty to join their ranks, particularly have had to pedal exceptionally hard. I couldn't be more proud of our Total Force recruiters' resilience and determination to succeed during this challenging year."

[Likely Base For Second Polish F-35 Squadron Identified \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

During a Sept. 8 speech at the 29th MSPO defense show held at Kielce, Poland, a top Lockheed Martin executive appeared to unintentionally unveil a probable location for the second Polish Air Force F-35A squadron. Officially, a second location for the F-35A unit has yet to be chosen by the government here. But while speaking at MSPO, JR McDonald, Lockheed's vice president of business development for the integrated fighter group, identified the likely spot for the squadron as the 21st Tactical Air Base "Maj Stefan Stec" in Świdwin, in north-western Poland. The location is not a major surprise, as it makes sense on paper. Świdwin is now home to an Polish Air Force squadron equipped with a dozen aging Russian-made Su-22M4 Fitters and six Su-22UM3K trainers. These aircraft are used to train new pilots and provide recurrent training for both the traditional air force and for Polish Special Forces JTAC and Air defense unit training.

[The inside story of why Marine MEUs are 'special operations capable' \(Military Times\)](#)

Any Marine who has even a passing interest in the service's history as it relates to special operations knows that when the Joint Special Operations Command was formed in the 1980s it brought together existing special operators from each of the services — except the Marines. Future authors in their own memoir-publishing company Navy SEALs Team 6 along with the Army's soon-to-be Chuck Norris movie franchise line Delta Force and the lesser-known Air Force 24th Special Tactics Squadron all formed up under the newly-tasked command. It would take more than a quarter-century for Marines to form the Marine Raiders in the heat of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and join the party. Back in the post-disco haze of the early 1980s the Marines were “special” enough, thank you very much. And, by the way, why would the Corps offload some of its best hard-chargers for some Army general or Navy admiral to keep all to themselves? The pit bull stays with its trainer.

Advanced Technologies

[HawkEye 360 wins radiofrequency mapping contract with intelligence agency \(C4ISRNET\)](#)

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has issued a \$10 million contract to commercial satellite company HawkEye 360 to help it detect and map radiofrequency emissions all over the world. The company says its services will be used for NGA analytics, helping the agency detect and track military and criminal activities, and combatant commanders will be able to utilize the data. The intelligence community has been assessing HawkEye 360 — which uses satellites to detect and characterize RF emissions — since December 2019, when the National Reconnaissance Office issued the company a study contract. NGA was able to leverage that study contract, initiating a RF GEOINT Pilot program with the company in Sept. 2020 to further see how the company's unclassified RF capabilities could benefit the agency. Following a request for proposals in March 2021, the company was awarded the sole contract in July.

[What's next: A drone station on every corner \(Axios\)](#)

City landscapes could one day be dotted with automated drone landing pads like the one that Matternet — which makes drones and equipment for drone logistics networks — debuted Thursday in Switzerland. Why it matters: Urban drone operations could radically change on-demand and last-mile deliveries by making it faster, cheaper and more sustainable to transport packages. Matternet's futuristic pod could one day enable automated package deliveries with minimal human involvement. Driving the news: Matternet, based in Mountain View, California, announced the deployment of its first fully automated drone station at a hospital in Lugano, Switzerland, where its autonomous aircraft have been flying for four years.

[Big Tech's Congressional Circus Rolls On \(Protocol\)](#)

Senators hauled in a Facebook executive, Antigone Davis, yesterday to answer for

damaging reports about Instagram's effect on teens' mental health. And no, Davis wasn't the executive they screamed at last week about the reports, or the as-yet-unnamed company whistleblower they'll bring in to help them yell next week. Congressional response to Big Tech has become a repetitive political farce, rather than helping advance lawmakers' understanding so they can fix things. And yesterday's hearing is the latest proof. For years, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been monologuing that they're fed up with tech and about to regulate — but they never have. Right on cue, Sen. Roger Wicker even echoed a bipartisan call for privacy legislation, declaring: "We are serious about taking action."

Military Installations & Communities

[DoD Authorizes a Temporary Increase to 2021 Basic Allowance for Housing Rates for Certain Locations \(DoD\)](#)

The Department of Defense has temporarily authorized increases in the 2021 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for 56 housing markets (commonly referred to as Military Housing Areas, MHAs) across the U.S. Uniformed service members who have incurred increased housing costs above their current BAH may be eligible to apply and receive BAH at the temporarily higher rate. The increased BAH rates for affected active duty (and full-time National Guard duty) Service members in these MHAs will take effect October 1, 2021 and expire on December 31, 2021. Rental housing market data collected by the Department of Defense from March-August 2021 indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on rental housing costs in the 56 affected markets. Notably, low availability and turnover of rental housing stock during the spring and summer months led to rental cost increases in many locations. To help ease the financial burden of rising housing costs facing Service members moving to new duty stations or signing new leases, the Department moved quickly to assess market changes across the U.S., develop a list of the most affected markets, and evaluate and implement potential solutions.

[Families demand change after dozens died in veterans' home COVID-19 outbreak \(Military Times\)](#)

Families of veterans who died in one of the deadliest COVID-19 outbreaks in a U.S. nursing home called Wednesday for changes in how Massachusetts oversees its veterans homes. Members of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home Coalition said in a virtual hearing held by state lawmakers that Massachusetts' two state-run facilities — the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke and the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea — should be overseen by the state Department of Public Health, not the state Department of Veterans Services. The group said the board of trustees for the homes should also include appointments from the veterans community. And they want medical experts put in charge of day-to-day operations. Group members, who include former leaders of the Holyoke home and family members of veterans who died in last year's outbreak, said legislation proposed in

response to last year's outbreak is insufficient. "We are all here because of a tragedy that occurred because too many people were asleep at the wheel," the group wrote in testimony submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "It gives our Coalition no pleasure to say this and pains us a great deal, but this legislation is not the answer in building up our trust and confidence."

['Exchanges on Wheels' in High Demand as Military Installations Welcome Afghan Guests \(DVIDS\)](#)

At a moment's notice, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service can bring the comforts of home to Warfighters deployed anywhere in the world. The Department of Defense retailer uses mobile field Exchanges (MFEs)—53-foot stores on wheels packed with snacks, beverages and hygiene products—to quickly support emerging mission needs, a capability that has taken on even greater relevance in recent months. As of mid-September, all but two of the Exchange's 11 U.S.-based MFEs are in active service. Seven of these are deployed in support of Operation Allies Welcome (OAW), helping installations provide essential support to Afghan evacuees while they complete the necessary steps for resettlement in the United States. "MFEs give deployed troops a lifeline to America, helping them stay ready and resilient through their mission," said Army Col. Brian Memoli, the Exchange's deputy director of Logistics. "With years of experience rapidly deploying MFEs to war zones, training exercises and areas impacted by natural disasters, the Exchange knows how to bring much-needed comfort to our troops downrange."

Homeland Security

[U.S. will no longer deport people solely because they are undocumented, Homeland Security secretary says \(NBC\)](#)

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Thursday said immigration officers can no longer detain and deport people from the U.S. solely because they are undocumented. In a memo to immigration and border agency officials, Mayorkas outlined new guidelines that direct Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to focus on the arrest and deportation of immigrants who pose a threat to both national and border security, as well as public safety. This includes people suspected of terrorism or espionage, those who have committed serious crimes and migrants who illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border after Nov. 1, 2020.

[Twenty years after 9/11 attacks, Congress now looks at the future of DHS and TSA \(WaPo\)](#)

Twenty years after 9/11, lawmakers in Washington this week sought to assess the performance of two key federal agencies that were formed to bolster national security in the wake of the attacks. At separate hearings before the House Homeland Security Committee and its Oversight Management and Accountability Subcommittee, lawmakers examined the critical role the Department of Homeland Security and the Transportation

Security Administration have played in the years following attacks at the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Their conclusion: While safer, the United States faces evolving sets of domestic and international threats that will continue to test the capabilities of both agencies. “The threats we face today have grown beyond foreign terrorists to include cyber attacks, climate change and domestic violence extremism,” said the subcommittee chairman Rep. Lou Correa (D-Calif.) at the hearing. From its early days as the umbrella agency for 22 federal entities, DHS has evolved into the third-largest federal agency and has “matured to become more cohesive, and therefore more effective,” Correa added.

[Survey: 61 Percent of Business Owners Admit Concealing a Cyber Breach \(HSToday\)](#)

Arctic Wolf published findings from a recent global survey of over 1,400 IT decision-makers at enterprise organizations. After a year of high-profile cyberattacks, the survey data reveals executive attitudes on a wide array of cybersecurity and business issues. Key findings of the survey include: The Private Sector Remains Skeptical about Government’s Ability to Mitigate Cyber Threats. Despite recent interventions into cybersecurity issues, executives lack faith in the government’s ability to protect them from cyber threats, with 60% of organizations believing that spending on new security tools and services is the most effective way of stopping attacks. On the heels of advanced diplomatic talks between Russia and the USA on mitigating eCrime and ransomware attacks, only 15% of U.S. executives believe that diplomacy effectively stops future cyberattacks. In comparison, 31% believe retaliatory cyberattacks against foreign nations would be effective.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Why large swaths of ‘digital deserts’ are counting on an infrastructure deal \(NBC\)](#)

For years, Rep. James Clyburn has pushed and sponsored legislation to make high-speed internet accessible and affordable nationwide. Now, as the House prepares to vote Thursday on the bipartisan infrastructure deal, the South Carolina Democrat said he hopes for a watershed moment. The sweeping Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a key component of the Biden-Harris administration’s domestic agenda. If passed, the \$1.2 trillion package would make investments in transit, rail, ports, airports, water, roads, the environment and more. Its provisions include \$65 billion in new funding for broadband infrastructure and affordability assistance, with equitable investments targeting populations that need it most.

[5 Midwestern governors agree to create a network to charge electric vehicles \(NPR\)](#)

The governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are joining forces to build a new network for charging electric vehicles. The bipartisan plan aims to improve the region’s economy while also reducing toxic emissions from cars and trucks. The new plan is called REV Midwest — the Regional Electric Vehicle Midwest Coalition. In addition to creating job opportunities and improving public health, its backers say it will help the Midwest compete for both private investment and federal funding. Along with those broad

goals, the plan also promises to make it easier to find charging stations, which could boost adoption of electric vehicles if it eases drivers' concerns about their batteries' range.

[5G Open RAN based Networks to Get Global Collaboration from NTT DATA and Mavenir \(ARC\)](#)

NTT DATA, a global digital business and IT services provider, and Mavenir Systems, Inc. will collaborate globally to provide products, solutions, systems and integration services for 5G networks based on cloud native, open architecture-based systems, including Open RAN to drive openness and virtualization in 5G networks. Through this collaboration, the two companies will combine various IT and telecommunication services, including integration services provided by NTT DATA worldwide, with Mavenir's Open Virtualized RAN (vRAN) solutions and Converged Packet Core to support the adoption of Open vRAN by telecommunications carriers and the realization of Digital Transformation by enterprises and telecom operators using 5G. NTT DATA. Mavenir will provide network services with the added value that open and virtualized 5G networks can bring. In particular, the two companies will prioritize and work closely together on pioneering projects to drive open architecture-based approaches in enabling bigger and broader ecosystems to unlock the true potential of 5G networks.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Elizabeth Holmes goes on trial for Theranos fraud \(Protocol\)](#)

Former Theranos lab director Adam Rosendorff testified Friday that he repeatedly raised the alarm about bad blood tests to then-CEO Elizabeth Holmes, ultimately concluding that the company valued press and funding more than the patients. "I was very enthusiastic working at Theranos in the beginning. Over time, I came to realize that the company really valued PR and fundraising above patient care, and I became very disillusioned," Rosendorff said on the witness stand inside the San Jose courtroom where Holmes' trial on fraud charges began this month. The testimony of the Theranos lab director repeatedly tied Holmes to the problems at the Theranos lab, showing the CEO was well aware of the issues and included directly in complaints about the quality of the tests.

[Democrats' spending bill includes plan to get free health care to uninsured Americans \(NPR\)](#)

Hours after the Supreme Court in 2012 narrowly upheld the Affordable Care Act but rejected making Medicaid expansion mandatory for states, Obama administration officials laughed when asked whether that would pose a problem. In a White House briefing, top advisers to President Barack Obama told reporters states would be foolish to turn away billions in federal funding to help residents gain the security of health insurance. Flash-forward nearly a decade, and it's clear to see the consequences of that ruling. Today, 12 Republican-controlled states have yet to adopt the Medicaid expansion, leaving 2.2 million low-income adult residents uninsured. Tired of waiting for Republican state lawmakers,

congressional Democrats are moving to close the Medicaid coverage gap as they forge a package of new domestic spending that could run as high as \$3.5 trillion over 10 years and would significantly enhance other federal health programs. But the cost is raising concerns within the party, and the competition to get initiatives in the package is fierce.

[Democrats promised to slash drug prices. Now internal clashes are standing in the way. \(WaPo\)](#)

When House Democrats made their pitch for the majority ahead of the 2018 midterms, party leaders focused their message on “kitchen table” economic issues — and one in particular that, according to polls and focus groups, resonated broadly across America’s political divides. “The American people deserve A Better Deal on the cost of prescription drugs,” the midterm platform read, promising an end to pharmaceutical industry price gouging and pledging negotiated prices for Medicare. That plank became the centerpiece of dozens of congressional campaigns — helping Democrats build a robust House majority — and presaged President Biden’s 2020 platform, where he made similar pledges. Now, with Democrats in control of Washington and in the position to deliver, the promises they made to voters are in serious jeopardy.

Climate & Development

[Boston passes new building decarbonization ordinance \(Smart Cities Dive\)](#)

Boston is the latest in a series of municipalities to consider regulations to help mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing or eliminating emissions from buildings. In California, the cities of Berkeley, San Jose, and Oakland have restricted natural gas infrastructure in newly constructed buildings. In August, The California Energy Commission voted to adopt changes to the state building energy efficiency standards that in part encourage the use of electric heat pumps over gas alternatives. Seattle last year updated its building code to ban fossil fuels for heating in new commercial and large multifamily construction. Chicago also recently created a building decarbonization working group that places an emphasis on equity. Meanwhile, Denver announced it is creating a new city role to advance building decarbonization incentives. An earlier version of Boston’s Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) went into effect in 2020, requiring that all residential and nonresidential buildings 35,000 square feet and larger report their annual water and energy usage from the previous year.

[New USDA initiative to help farmers address climate change \(National Hog Farmer\)](#)

Secretary Tom Vilsack outlined key steps to assist U.S. farmers and consumers with current challenges while charting a course toward a long-term, climate-smart future for all of agriculture, in a speech at Colorado State University on Sept. 29. Vilsack announced a new initiative to finance the deployment of climate-smart farming and forestry practices to

aid in the marketing of climate-smart agricultural commodities. Vilsack says USDA is investing in a series of pilot projects, as part of the "Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative," which will provide incentives to implement climate smart conservation practices on working lands and to quantify and monitor the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices. The pilots could rely on the Commodity Credit Corporation's specific power to aid in expansion or development of new and additional markets.

[People under 40 will experience 'unprecedented life' of climate change disasters, study says \(USA Today\)](#)

Under current global climate policies, children born in 2021 worldwide face a dire future of climate disasters with disproportionate rates of flooding, heatwaves, droughts, wildfires and crop failures compared to their grandparents, according to a study published Sunday. The study, published in the journal Science, found that children born in 2021 will on average live on an Earth with seven times more heatwaves, twice as many wildfires, and almost three times as many droughts, river floods and crop failures as people born 60 years ago. "This basically means that people younger than 40 today will live an unprecedented life even under the most stringent climate change mitigation scenarios," lead author Wim Thiery said in a statement. "Our results highlight a severe threat to the safety of young generations and call for drastic emission reductions to safeguard their future."

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