

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
To: [Craig Quigley](#)
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | JULY 14, 2017
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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 | JULY 14, 2016

TOP STORIES

TRUMP JR. MEETING: RUSSIAN LOBBYIST CONFIRMS ATTENDANCE.

A former Soviet counter-intelligence official attended a meeting last year with senior aides to President Donald Trump and his son. [Read more.](#)

SENATE REPUBLICANS ARE ONE VOTE AWAY FROM OBAMACARE REPEAL FAILURE. The Senate Republican effort to repeal Obamacare is on the cusp of defeat, with two Republican senators threatening to kill the measure before the Senate can even start debate. [Read more.](#)

DETAILS EMERGE IN SUICIDE OF GOP ACTIVIST WHO SOUGHT HILLARY CLINTON EMAILS. Police say clerk found body of Peter W. Smith who asphyxiated himself in hotel room. [Read more.](#)

SESSIONS SAYS U.S. TO APPEAL LATEST TRAVEL BAN SETBACK TO SUPREME COURT. The Justice Department intends to appeal to the Supreme Court a federal judge's decision to allow grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles and other relatives of people in the U.S. to circumvent the Trump administration's travel ban policy. [Read more.](#)

TRUMP BACKED OFF PUTIN BECAUSE ‘WHAT DO YOU DO? END UP IN A FIST FIGHT?’ President Trump said on Wednesday that he had confronted President Vladimir Putin twice about whether Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election. [Read more.](#)

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

TRUMP’S WAR ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT. President Trump is seeking to radically remodel the State Department in an unprecedented way, according to former officials from administrations of both political parties. [Read more.](#)

DEVOS SAYS SHE WILL REVISIT OBAMA-ERA SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICIES. After a “really emotionally draining day” of meeting with victims and those accused of sexual assault, the education secretary made her first public comments on the issue. [Read more.](#)

TRUMP SAYS HE WANTS VICTORIES – BUT HE ISN’T SELLING THE GOP AGENDA TO VOTERS. When the GOP’s proposed overhaul of the nation’s health-care laws was near death in the House in March, President Trump rallied 10,000 supporters in downtown Nashville and reassured his party’s base. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESS

SENATE REPUBLICANS UNVEIL NEW HEALTH BILL, BUT DIVISIONS REMAIN. Senate Republican leaders on Thursday unveiled a fresh proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. [Read more.](#)

WHERE EVERY SENATOR STANDS ON THE REVISED HEALTH CARE BILL. A real-time count of every Senator’s position. [Read more.](#)

POLITICS

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MAY NOW USE CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PERSONAL HOME SECURITY. Federal regulators ruled this week that all Congressional members may now use money raised from campaign donors to pay for security upgrades at their homes — a change prompted by the shooting last month that wounded House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.). [Read more.](#)

TPP, THE TRADE DEAL TRUMP KILLED, IS BACK IN TALKS WITHOUT U.S. Japan and the 10 other remaining countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership are trying to press ahead without the United States. [Read more.](#)

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE APPROVES DEFENSE POLICY MEASURE; SENATE ACTION STILL NEEDED. Bill's \$696 billion price tag exceeds current spending caps. [Read more.](#)

SMALL DRONES STILL POSING BIG PROBLEM FOR U.S. AIR FORCE BASES. After two incidents where small civil drones invaded U.S. Air Force airspace – and in one event almost collided with an F-22 Raptor – the head of Air Combat Command is clamoring for congressional authorities that would allow him to deal with future incursions of unmanned aircraft. [Read more.](#)

IDA: ARMY LAND-AIR MOBILE TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WILL NOT MEET OPERATIONAL NEEDS. An independent assessment of Army communications modernization efforts -- a half dozen programs that carry a collective price tag of tens of billions of dollars -- concludes the network the service is fielding will not meet operational needs. [Read more.](#)

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE CASTS DOUBT ON TRUMP SPENDING PLAN. President Trump had promised that his mix of tax cuts, deregulation and reductions in wasteful spending would spur economic growth and cure America's ailing fiscal health. [Read more.](#)

BANKS GET A WAKE-UP CALL. J.P. Morgan Chase sparked a selloff in

bank shares with a small downgrade to its expectations. [Read more.](#)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE-ALTERING GASES SPIKED IN 2016, FEDERAL SCIENTISTS SAY. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration attributed the increase in part to the El Nino weather pattern. [Read more.](#)

TECHNOLOGY

DID TRUMP'S DATA TEAM HELP RUSSIANS? FACEBOOK MIGHT HAVE THE ANSWER. If investigators really want to get to the bottom of how foreign propagandists tried to sway voters, the answer may lie within Facebook's servers. [Read more.](#)

APPLE TO BUILD CHINA DATA CENTER TO MEET NEW CYBERSECURITY LAW. The iPhone maker's compliance comes as it faces increasingly regulatory headwinds in China. [Read more.](#)

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TOP STORIES

SEAN SPICER RESIGNS AS WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY. Sean Spicer, the White House press secretary, resigned on Friday morning, telling President Trump he vehemently disagreed with the appointment of New York financier Anthony Scaramucci as communications director. [Read more.](#)

JOHN MCCAIN, REPUBLICAN SENATOR FROM ARIZONA, DIAGNOSED WITH BRAIN TUMOR. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, his office said Wednesday, throwing into doubt when and if he will return to Washington to resume his duties in the Senate. [Read more.](#)

O.J. SIMPSON WINS PAROLE, CLAIMING HE HAS LED A 'CONFLICT-FREE LIFE'. Parole Board members voted unanimously to grant O.J. Simpson parole when he first becomes eligible on Oct. 1, after nine years in state prison

on charges stemming from a 2007 armed robbery in a Las Vegas hotel room. [Read more.](#)

ADMINISTRATION

STATE DEPARTMENT: U.S. TO BLOCK AMERICANS FROM TRAVELLING TO NORTH KOREA. The Trump administration plans to prohibit Americans from traveling to North Korea, the State Department announced Friday, citing serious risks of arrest and imprisonment in the isolated totalitarian state. [Read more.](#)

TRUMP AIDES, SEEKING LEVERAGE, INVESTIGATE MUELLER'S INVESTIGATORS. President Trump's lawyers and aides are scouring the professional and political backgrounds of investigators hired by the special counsel Robert S. Mueller III, looking for conflicts of interest they could use to discredit the investigation. [Read more.](#)

CONGRESS

HOUSE REPUBLICANS TRY TO REVIVE BAN ON PENTAGON TRANSGENDER SURGERIES. Several House Republicans are working behind the scenes to revive a failed effort to bar the Pentagon from funding gender reassignment surgeries for troops. [Read more.](#)

SENATE GOP'S LATEST HEALTH CARE PUSH SPUTTERS. A harsh reality is setting in among Senate Republicans: they're extremely unlikely to repeal Obamacare in the coming days. [Read more.](#)

POLITICS

FORMER CLINTON AND ROMNEY CAMPAIGN STAFFERS JOIN FORCES TO PREVENT ELECTION HACKING. The former managers of Hillary Clinton and Mitt Romney's presidential campaigns are leading a new initiative called "Defending Digital Democracy" in the hopes of preventing a repeat of Russia's 2016 election interference. [Read more.](#)

PRIEBUS ALLY WALSH RETURNS TO RNC. Katie Walsh, a longtime top adviser to White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, is returning to the

Republican National Committee in a senior role. [Read more.](#)

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NAVY ISSUES NEW MQ-25A STINGRAY DRAFT RFP TO INDUSTRY AHEAD OF FINAL RFP IN THE FALL. The Navy issued its latest draft request for proposals for what will be the service's first operational carrier-based unmanned aerial vehicle, U.S. Navy officials confirmed to USNI News on Thursday. [Read More](#)

THESE 12 DEFENSE EXPERTS HOPE TO GUIDE THE PENTAGON FORWARD. Congress has formed a new advisory committee of top defense thinkers, in order to provide a pathway forward for the Department of Defense. [Read More](#)

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

LOW-INCOME EARNERS SEE WEEKLY PAY GAIN FASTER THAN OTHER GROUPS. For the first time in years, pay for the lowest-income Americans is rising faster than for other groups. [Read more.](#)

BANK OF AMERICA CHOOSES DUBLIN AS POST-'BREXIT' EUROPEAN HUB. Bank of America said on Friday that it had chosen Dublin as its future European Union hub, the latest major financial services firm to outline its plans to deal with Britain's departure from the 28-nation bloc. [Read more.](#)

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICAL TCP PLAGUES CALIFORNIA DRINKING WATER. In the Central Valley of California, hundreds of wells that provide water to a million people are tainted with a chemical that some experts say is one of the most powerful cancer-causing agents in the world. [Read more.](#)

THERE'S LITERALLY A TON OF PLASTIC GARBAGE FOR EVERY PERSON ON EARTH. More than 9 billion tons of plastic has been produced since 1950, and the vast majority of it is still around. [Read more.](#)

TECHNOLOGY

YOUTUBE TO REDIRECT SEARCHES FOR IS VIDEOS. YouTube says it will redirect people searching for "violent extremist propaganda" and offer them videos that denounce terrorism. [Read more.](#)

ELON MUSK SAYS HE HAS 'VERBAL' APPROVAL FOR HIS LATEST WILD IDEA. The tech billionaire said he has received "verbal" government approval for The Boring Company — his tunnel venture — to build an underground "hyperloop" connecting New York to Washington, D.C. [Read more.](#)

LYFT WILL LAUNCH SELF-DRIVING CAR RIDES BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. Silicon Valley's steady march toward self-driving cars took another step forward Friday as the ride-hailing company Lyft said its customers will be able to summon a driverless vehicle on some roads by the end of the year. [Read more.](#)