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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

## What happened this week and what's to come

October 29, 2021

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Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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## Notable Headlines

- [House Republicans raise concerns over federal vaccine mandate for employees](#)
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- [L3Harris awarded \\$121 million to upgrade Space Force weapons](#)
- [Space Development Agency cancels, then reissues reworked satellite solicitation](#)
- [What is and isn't in Biden's infrastructure framework — and where it goes from here](#)

**Debatable Name Change:** [The future Meta \[Facebook\] wants](#)

## Budget & Appropriations

# PROPOSED SENATE NDAA AMENDMENTS

Worth Knowing About as of Oct. 29, 2021

**SA 3883: DISBURSEMENT OF FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING FUNDS FOR EGYPT TO FOREIGN MILITARY SALES TRUST FUND**

**SA 3904: STUDY ON EMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY SPOUSES.**

**SA 3888: TERMINATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR**

**SA 3907: REPORT ON EFFECTS OF SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP SHORTAGE.**

**SA 3889: SENSE OF SENATE ON PROVISION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO BALTIC COUNTRIES**

**SA 3910: BRIEFING ON EXPANDED SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS CAPABILITY.**

**SA 3892: STANDARDS FOR RESPONSE ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CONTAMINATION FROM PFAS**

**SA 3911: LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE ARMS TRADE TREATY.**

**SA 3897: DEFENSE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK.**

**SA 3901: ADVANCED BATTLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

**SA 3903: MATTERS CONCERNING CYBER PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.**

**FULL AMENDMENT TEXT  
AVAILABLE HERE**

[Dems head into weekend without agreement \(POLITICO\)](#)

House Democrats left the building divided Thursday night, after Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) had to scratch plans for a vote on the Senate-passed infrastructure bill amid progressive opposition for a second time in less than a month. Progressives were triumphant, but the rest of the Democratic caucus was seething. “I think it’s wholly apparent that today was not a success,” said Virginia Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.), who has been touting both the infrastructure bill and the Democrats social spending plan on the campaign trail for gubernatorial candidate Terry McCauliffe who faces a tight race Tuesday. “Because people choose to be obstructionists, we’re not delivering these things to my state or to the rest of the country,” the swing-district Democrat added. “I guess we’ll just wait, because apparently failing roads and bridges can just wait in the minds of some people.”

### **What's inside Democrats' draft reconciliation package (POLITICO Pro)**

**Clean energy tax credits:** A heavy chunk of the draft text is devoted to clean energy tax incentives, echoing what advanced out of the House Ways and Means Committee earlier this year by establishing "base" credits that would increase five-fold for any facility that meets prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements. **Domestic manufacturing:** The bill also hopes to bring renewable energy manufacturing to the U.S. with tax credits for the fabrication of solar and wind components, which are currently overwhelmingly made overseas. **Sustainable aviation fuels:** The draft includes a refundable tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel beginning at \$1.25 per gallon for blenders that supply fuel with an at least 50 percent life cycle estimate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in comparison with petroleum-based jet fuel. **Carbon capture and removal:** The draft bill also includes a bolstered and extended 45Q tax credit, which offers increased tax credits for direct air capture and point-source carbon capture. **Methane fee:** The draft text includes a methane fee that would begin at \$900 per ton for emissions reported in 2023. **Civilian Climate Corps:** The bill appropriates \$4.28 billion to the Department of Labor for a climate workforce focused on climate resilience and mitigation — which constitutes the Civilian Climate Corps in all but name. **Fossil fuels:** The text would also repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program that was included in the 2017 tax legislation signed into law by former President Donald Trump. **Electric vehicles:** The measure would provide \$1 billion for zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure, including \$200 million tagged specifically for infrastructure in rural communities and \$200 million for hydrogen fueling stations. **Transmission:** The draft bill includes \$2 billion for grants and loans to build new transmission lines and upgrade old ones with the aim of making the grid more resilient and enabling the integration of clean energy. **Resilience:** The draft bill would give \$6 billion to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to spend on resiliency work for coastal communities, and \$1 billion for work to restore Pacific salmon and steelhead populations, which have been plagued by drought, predators and dams. **Drinking water:** The draft measure would provide \$9 billion for programs to remove lead from the nation's drinking water systems, supplementing the \$15 billion in the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

## **Aerospace & Defense**

### [Don't Assume the US Will Fight China and Russia One at a Time \(Defense One\)](#)

China and Russia last week conducted their first-ever joint naval patrol in the western Pacific following a combined exercise in the Sea of Japan, highlighting the deepening defense cooperation between America's preeminent competitors. While U.S. military planners have long hoped and often assumed that any conflicts with China and Russia might come one at a time, that assumption is increasingly questionable and even dangerous. If the Biden administration is to develop an effective 2022 National Defense Strategy and build the U.S. defense capacity and capability that American interests require, the administration must jettison outdated assumptions and recognize that the United States could confront Chinese and Russian military forces simultaneously. Anyone skeptical of this claim should consider Joint Sea 2021, an annual combined naval exercise that China and Russia conducted on October 14-17. The Russians contributed an Udaloy-class antisubmarine destroyer, two Steregushchy-class corvettes, two coastal-type minesweepers, a Kilo-class diesel-electric attack submarine, and a missile boat. China sent a Type 055 large destroyer, which reportedly served as the command ship, plus a Type 052D destroyer, two Type 054A frigates, a diesel submarine, and a supply ship. A naval aviation contingent comprising 12 Chinese and Russian fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters also participated. The exercise apparently marked the first time a Chinese heavy destroyer and anti-submarine warfare aircraft have participated in an exercise abroad.

### **Slow response worry military's No. 2 (Politico Pro)**

The military's outgoing second-ranking officer has some parting warnings: China's quickening pace to overtake the U.S. in hypersonic weapons is real (and he has some numbers to back it up), and America's current approach likely won't be able to catch up. "What you need to be worried about is that in the last five years, maybe longer, the United States has done nine hypersonics tests," Gen. John Hyten told reporters at a Defense Writers Group meeting on Thursday. "In the same time ... the Chinese have done hundreds." "Single digits versus hundreds is not a good place," added Hyten, who before he retires next month engaged in a wide-ranging discussion on a host of challenges, including new tech, nuclear weapons and the militarization of space. 'That's too long': A major frustration is what he sees as a slow timeline for the pace of Pentagon development and acquisition programs. A case in point is the new effort that's identified over 200 advanced technologies to put on a path to rapid fielding. "That's pretty awesome. That's good," Hyten said. "On the not-so-good side is that the funding is going to be in the [fiscal 2023] five-year budget plan. That's too long." "We've got to find a way to adjust that': The glacier-like pace of the budgeting process simply won't cut it. "When 2023 rolls around, the odds of us having a budget in October '22 are not real good," Hyten said. Even when it gets passed, "then the money has to actually flow and so you're talking about the middle of calendar year 2023 before we get there, so almost two years from now, even though we know what we want to do. We've got to find a way to adjust that."

### [New series sheds light on Air Force Basic Military Training \(Military Times\)](#)

When potential military recruits consider a life in service, questions about basic training are typically among the first asked. While there are resources aplenty, particularly for

Army basic training and Marine Corps boot camp, the Air Force's barrier to entry is slightly more enigmatic. In an effort to provide transparency to would-be airmen about what they're getting into, the service is releasing an eight-episode YouTube series that follows five recruits on their journeys from civilian to service member. "The docuseries is an unprecedented look into the Air Force's only Basic Military Training at JBSA-Lackland," according to a statement from Air Force Public Affairs. The episodes will share never-before-seen footage from BMT, filmed through the eyes of their five subjects. The service's production crew chronicled these trainees' experiences beginning in their hometowns and ending at graduation.

## Advanced Technologies

### [How Facebook Failed the World \(Defense One\)](#)

In the fall of 2019, Facebook launched a massive effort to combat the use of its platforms for human trafficking. Working around the clock, its employees searched Facebook and its subsidiary Instagram for keywords and hashtags that promoted domestic servitude in the Middle East and elsewhere. Over the course of a few weeks, the company took down 129,191 pieces of content, disabled more than 1,000 accounts, tightened its policies, and added new ways to detect this kind of behavior. After they were through, employees congratulated one another on a job well done. It was a job well done. It just came a little late. In fact, a group of Facebook researchers focused on the Middle East and North Africa had found numerous Instagram profiles being used as advertisements for trafficked domestic servants as early as March 2018. "Indonesian brought with Tourist Visa," one photo caption on a picture of a woman reads, in Arabic. "We have more of them." But these profiles weren't "actioned"—disabled or taken down—an internal report would explain, because Facebook's policies "did not acknowledge the violation." A year and a half later, an undercover BBC investigation revealed the full scope of the problem: a broad network that illegally trafficked domestic workers, facilitated by internet platforms and aided by algorithmically boosted hashtags. In response, Facebook banned one hashtag and took down some 700 Instagram profiles. But according to another internal report, "domestic servitude content remained on the platform."

### [DISA director announces agency reorganization \(C4ISRNET\)](#)

The Defense Information Systems Agency earlier this month underwent a major reorganization, according to its director. "The reason that we did the reorganization on 1 October, the reason we did the strategy on 1 October was to align the strategy, the resources and the organizational structure and design all around the same priorities," Lt. Gen. Robert Skinner, director of DISA, said during a keynote presentation as part of TechNet Cyber in Baltimore Oct. 27, also referring to the organization's new strategic plan. "Is it 100 percent? No. But where it's not, we're continuing to move forward."

### [Meet the tech companies that don't keep secrets \(Protocol\)](#)

This week as journalists pored over the Facebook Papers, it became increasingly clear that the social media giant has been harboring serious secrets. While Facebook attempted to release some internal documents before the press could, the company's defenses were no match for Frances Haugen. But what if in today's tech world, the best defense against all the scrutiny and criticism is no defense at all? Sam Corcos, co-founder and CEO of health startup Levels, believes the greatest weapon a company has against criticism is transparency. Corcos, for one, has nothing to hide. A self-proclaimed open book, he carries his personal philosophies on transparency into the way he governs his company. "When you can see on the inside, we're not hiding anything," he told Protocol. "We're not holding anything back." Levels is one of a few tech companies that live by the notion of radical transparency. The company posts weekly team meetings, strategy documents and investor updates online, where you can see everything from revenue numbers and fundraising targets to hiring plans and web traffic, albeit with a 12-month delay.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [Why thousands of Afghans are still on US military bases \(Vox\)](#)

He wore the outfit in Nimroz, after he delivered the last drips of intel to the Afghan Air Force on the Taliban's position. He wore it as he drove toward Kabul on roads blasted by IEDs. He wore the outfit for the five days it took him to fight his way inside the Hamid Karzai International Airport. He wore it on his flight to Qatar, and then started to feel shy about the way he might smell on another crowded flight to Washington, DC. He wore it when he waited for hours in line for his first meal at Fort Pickett. Another day, about 15 in total, in the same clothes: a perahan tunban, traditional Afghan clothes consisting of a long dress shirt and trousers, and reddish sandals, gray foam leaking from the heel. "That's too hard for a person," he said, a little more than a month after his evacuation. "If you take everything from him in a few minutes, if a person worked for eight years or six years, gets everything for his family, and you leave it behind, and you just come out by one pair of clothes, that's hard. That's really hard." Sadat, a former linguist for the US and British governments, is one of about 53,500 Afghan evacuees staying at eight US military installations across the country. About half of them are children. Some have been there for weeks, and many may be there for weeks more. More people are still arriving, including about 3,000 currently living on bases overseas in Europe and the Middle East, according to recent data from the Department of Homeland Security.

### [Windstream Wholesale Federal Brings Unique Fiber Builds to More U.S. Military Bases \(Release\)](#)

Windstream Wholesale Federal, a leading provider of advanced optical solutions, announced today that it is building fiber connections that will bring diverse, high-bandwidth DWDM services to a number of U.S. military installations. The builds will be lit by the company's state-of-the-art Intelligent Converged Optical Network (ICON). The new fiber

connections include pathways to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, completed earlier this year, as well as to the Defense Logistics Agency in Columbus, Ohio, and the Philadelphia Navy Yard, both of which are scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2022. “The Windstream Wholesale network continues to expand to meet the growing data transport needs of our government customers,” said Joe Scattareggia, executive vice president of Windstream Wholesale. “These new fiber builds to U.S. military bases will provide the federal government with vendor diversity, more competitive bids, and customized solutions featuring significantly greater bandwidth, including our market-leading 400 Gigabit services. We are bringing the Windstream Wholesale Fast and Flexible approach to our government agencies.” Windstream Wholesale Federal currently provides fiber network connections to a number of U.S military installations, including Scott Air Force Base, Mechanicsburg Naval Depot, Fort Knox, and Fort Campbell.

#### [50,000 military families in 38 privatized housing communities see new ownership \(Military Times\)](#)

A month later, Liberty Military Housing announced it now owns the privatized housing at 30 military installations — home to more than 36,000 military families — previously owned by Lincoln Military Housing. Lincoln sold the company to its employees, and the name change reflects the new, employee-owned company. The exit of Clark from the military housing arena is one example of the deeper work being done to improve military family housing and hold companies accountable, said Army Gen. Edward M. Daly, the head of U.S. Army Materiel Command, in an interview with Military Times. AMC was tasked two years ago with overseeing Army family housing and addressing rampant problems with mold, rodent infestations and families’ frustration with Army leadership’s inaction. Similar problems were being experienced by families across the services. “We put some very, very harsh downward pressure on Clark because they were a failing partner,” Daly said. “We exposed their weaknesses and, quite frankly, I didn’t think they were committed to supporting soldiers and their families. And I told them that.”

## Homeland Security

#### [U.S. in Talks to Pay Hundreds of Millions to Families Separated at Border \(WSJ\)](#)

The Biden administration is in talks to offer immigrant families that were separated during the Trump administration around \$450,000 a person in compensation, according to people familiar with the matter, as several agencies work to resolve lawsuits filed on behalf of parents and children who say the government subjected them to lasting psychological trauma. The U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services are considering payments that could amount to close to \$1 million a family, though the final numbers could shift, the people familiar with the matter said. Most of the families that crossed the border illegally from Mexico to seek asylum in the U.S. included one parent and one child, the people said. Many families would likely get smaller payouts, depending on their circumstances, the people said. The American Civil Liberties Union,

which represents families in one of the lawsuits, has identified about 5,500 children separated at the border over the course of the Trump administration, citing figures provided to it by the government. The number of families eligible under the potential settlement is expected to be smaller, the people said, as government officials aren't sure how many will come forward. Around 940 claims have so far been filed by the families, the people said.

[Congress may ban ransomware payments, Senate Homeland Security chairman says \(MarketWatch\)](#) Lawmakers have not ruled out legislation that could ban private companies from making ransomware payments, Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, said Tuesday. "It's a possibility that we ban [ransomware payments]," the Michigan Democrat said during an Washington Post Live event. "I'm not closing the door on that." Peters pointed to a \$100 million Cyber Response and Recovery Fund, included in the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed by the Senate over the summer, as a step toward reducing the number of companies who feel compelled to make ransomware payments. "We have to right now be focused on working with companies to understand that there are alternatives to paying a ransom, particularly if they get assistance from the federal government and look at the federal government as a partner," Peters said. The FBI already recommends that companies do not pay ransoms to criminals who hack their computer networks, but private entities are free to ignore this advice under current law.

[Wyoming Office of Homeland Security says the state is at risk of cyber attacks \(Wyoming Public Media\)](#)

The U.S. is facing one of the most significant surges in cyberattacks in recent years. In the face of growing threats to individuals and businesses in the state, Mikki Munson with the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security is warning the public to be cyber conscious. "Cybercriminals, they don't discriminate. They target vulnerable computer systems. Regardless of whether you're part of a large corporation, a small business, or you're just an everyday home user. And cyber security is really a shared responsibility, which we all play a role in... But just really creating that awareness and, and just being incredibly suspicious when you're online that not everybody's there to help you," she said. As the nation marks cybersecurity awareness month, Mikki added that while the state has built a coalition to address growing cyber threats, everyone still needs to act responsibly online. "Limit what you share online. Think before you click. Don't open attachments or email addresses that you don't know. Don't use free open Wi-Fi to check your bank account," she said. She advises businesses to develop good networks with resilient firewalls and reliable backups of critical documents they can access in the event of a cyber attack.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### [House punts on infrastructure, passes highway bill extension \(Roll Call\)](#)

Both the House and Senate Thursday moved to extend the 2015 surface transportation law through Dec. 3 after House Democrats fell short in securing enough progressive votes to pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill that represents a cornerstone of President Joe Biden's domestic agenda. Progressives have tied their support for that bipartisan bill, which would reauthorize federal highway programs for five years, to a larger package of Biden's domestic priorities, including child care and climate change. The extension would allow the government to sustain highway and transit programs through Dec. 3. Even before the House voted 358-59 to extend the authorizing law, the Senate agreed by unanimous consent to deem the measure passed, once it gets to the Senate, if it's identical to a Senate version.

### [Revolutionary Autonomous Cargo Transportation Company, Evocargo Inks Agreement with Roads & Transport Authority \(Yahoo Finance\)](#)

As part of a long-term strategy to ramp up its presence in the global and regional smart logistics market, autonomous cargo transportation company, Evocargo announces a cooperation agreement with Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) to showcase and initiate trials of Autonomous Logistics via its unmanned all-electric Hydrogen vehicles. Mr. Andrei Bolshakov, Founder and Chief Business Development Officer, Evocargo International Holdings Limited said, "We have ambitious targets to create awareness of smart logistics service provided by full-size unmanned vehicles EVO.3 (N3 class) and EVO.1 (N1 class), which significantly impacts the logistics industry. With UAE being the best place to develop new business connections and potential clients, our cooperation with RTA of Dubai offers us an ideal platform to highlight our latest Autonomous innovations in Smart Logistics service."

### [Report: Farms Need Broadband – and Not Just to the Farmer's House \(Telecompetitor\)](#)

Farms need broadband – and not just to the farmer's home, but more broadly to fields and outbuildings, according to a new report from Benton Institute for Broadband & Society sponsored by United Soybean Board. The report includes a wide range of data points to back up this assertion and offers several recommendations for how to get broadband where it is needed. The farm office, located in the home or another building, is the operation center of the farm and many of the tasks completed therefore require substantially greater upload speeds than a typical residence, the report, titled "The Future of American Farming: Broadband Solutions for the Farm Office, Field and Community," notes. "By nature, precision agriculture produces large amounts of data, including shape files and drone or satellite imagery," the author wrote.

## **Biotechnology & Healthcare**

### [Leadership Hasn't Done Enough to Protect Patients at the VA, Watchdog Says \(Military.com\)](#)

Last summer, a veteran in Las Vegas died by suicide two hours after he was discharged from a Department of Veterans Affairs inpatient mental health facility, despite having told a family member while he was hospitalized that maybe he "should just die." An investigation found that the facility failed to address the patient's complaints and didn't flag him as high risk. Furthermore, the facility didn't fully examine the circumstances that led to the death and never listed it as a "sentinel event" -- in effect, hiding the death from scrutiny up the leadership chain, according to the VA's Office of Inspector General. In the past five years, the Veterans Health Administration has grappled with several high-profile patient safety issues, including the murder of seven veterans at a Clarksburg, West Virginia, VA hospital; an alcoholic pathologist who went unchallenged on his job, resulting in 3,000 diagnostic errors; and a VA gynecologist who made graphic and lewd comments to patients while conducting pelvic examinations.

#### [Walmart Says It Was Blindsided by Its Ouster from Tricare Network \(Military.com\)](#)

Days before Tricare pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts announced that Walmart is leaving the Tricare network, the retail giant had inked a "multi-year" deal to remain, according to a company spokesman. The spokesman said late Friday that Walmart was "surprised" to learn that its pharmacy contract had been terminated, adding that the company and Express Scripts signed an agreement Sept. 30 for it to remain in the network. "We value our Tricare and [Defense Department] customers and are disappointed in Express Script's [sic] decision and we have requested more information from them to understand their decision," Luke Kleyn, a vice president at Walmart, said in an email to Military.com. "We have asked Express Scripts to honor the agreement we both recently signed."

#### [House Republicans raise concerns over federal vaccine mandate for employees \(FNN\)](#)

Top Republicans on the House Oversight and Reform Committee have a wide variety of unanswered questions about the Biden administration's federal vaccine mandate for employees and contractors, with the deadline to comply with the policy just weeks away. Rep. James Comer (Ky.), the full committee's ranking member, and Rep. Jody Hice (Ga.), the top Republican on the government operations subcommittee, described a list of concerns with the Biden administration's federal vaccine mandate, which they detailed Wednesday in a letter to the Office of Personnel Management, General Services Administration and Office of Management and Budget. Under the federal vaccine mandate, employees must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 22, though the date at which they must physically receive their shots in order to observe the two-week waiting period is Nov. 8. The agencies briefed the committee earlier this month on their plans to implement and enforce the president's federal vaccine mandate, Comer and Hice said. But they still have questions.

## Climate & Development

### [What's at stake at the COP26 climate summit? Here's a guide to the make-or-break issues \(NBC\)](#)

World leaders are under huge pressure to outline how they plan to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change at one of the most important diplomatic summits in history. The major climate event, known as COP26, will take place in Glasgow, Scotland from Sunday through to Nov. 12. It was initially scheduled to be held last year but was delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Diplomats and world leaders have sought to downplay expectations of success in the run-up to the summit, although a position paper of more than 100 developing countries representing more than half of the world has insisted there can be “no more excuses for unfulfilled promises.” To have any chance of capping global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the aspirational goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement, the world needs to almost halve greenhouse gas emissions in the next 8 years and reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

### [Latest National Climate Plans Still Fall Far Short, U.N. Report Warns \(NYT\)](#)

The latest plans by the nations of the world to tackle climate change over the next decade fall far short of what's needed to avert a dangerous rise in global temperatures, according to a United Nations report released Tuesday. In the run-up to a major U.N. climate summit in Glasgow next week, a number of governments have updated their pledges under the Paris climate agreement to do more to curb their planet-warming emissions between now and 2030. They include Argentina, Britain, Canada, the European Union, South Africa and the United States.

### [Maryland grants aim to reduce flooding, improve climate resilience \(Bay Journal\)](#)

Until recently, the West River United Methodist Center had a problem. The 45-acre retreat and camp facility in Shady Side, MD, south of Annapolis, had a mile of waterfront on a popular Chesapeake Bay river. But there was no beach to speak of, with limited access to the water for swimming or wading. The result is an 885-foot “living shoreline” with a cobble beach to replace the crumbling bulkhead. There's also a newly engineered wetland to capture stormwater runoff, where shrubs and plants can soak up some of the collected rainfall. The project is the first of 22 projects, funded to date by the DNR under a “resiliency through restoration” initiative launched in 2017, to break ground. Its aim is to help communities and individual landowners adapt to the threats to property and life posed by climate change. “We work with local communities to provide funding for them to better understand their flood risk and their climate risk and also to address that risk,” said Nicole Carlozo, a resiliency planner in the DNR's Chesapeake and Coastal Service.

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