

Simmons, Ellen

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2018 2:41 PM
To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 16, 2018

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)



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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | NOVEMBER 16, 2018

TOP STORIES

Contested Races and More Congressional Updates

Florida: The race for Florida governor now appears to be over, while the Senate race between Gov. Rick Scott and Sen. Bill Nelson, as well as the agriculture commissioner race, moved on to another recount Thursday.

Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner declared Thursday afternoon that the results from the machine recount of the Senate and agriculture commissioner races met the statutory threshold of 0.25 percent to trigger a manual recount, which is to be completed on Nov. 20.

After the machine recount was complete, Republican Ron DeSantis was still leading Democrat Andrew Gillum by approximately 0.4 percent of all ballots cast, falling short of the margin necessary to qualify for a manual recount. [Read the full rundown here.](#)

Georgia: A federal judge's split-decision ruling Wednesday night energized the campaigns of both Georgia gubernatorial candidates but didn't bring resolution to a bitter race that stretched into its second week.

While U.S. District Judge Steve Jones sided with the Stacey Abrams' campaign, ordering that the secretary of state's office must not certify election results without confirming each county's vote tally includes absentee ballots on which the voter's date of birth is missing or incorrect, he ruled against them on two other points.

The judge will not require counties to accept absentee ballots with incorrect addresses or provisional ballots cast by people who tried to vote in the wrong county, prompting Brian Kemp's campaign to again claim victory. [Read more here.](#)

Arizona: Republican U.S. Rep. Martha McSally [conceded](#) Arizona's U.S. Senate race to Democratic Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema on Monday after the latest vote count showed McSally trailing by more than 38,000 votes out of more than 2.2 million ballots cast. McSally may not have to wait very long, though, to have another opportunity to capture a seat. [Read why here.](#)

Senate & House Leadership: The [three leadership elections](#) that took place Wednesday went largely as expected. Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell was reelected Majority Leader of the Senate and New York Sen Chuck Schumer is again the Minority Leader. Sen. [Joni Ernst](#) of Iowa on Wednesday beat Nebraska's Deb Fischer to win the Republican Senate Conference vice chairmanship, the only contested leadership race in a Senate that will return the bulk of the parties' leaders.

House Republicans have elected [Kevin McCarthy](#), from California, to be their next leader as Paul Ryan steps down and the Democrats seize the House majority. McCarthy beat our Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio for the nomination. He is tasked in the months ahead with charting the party's path back to the majority in 2020. And more immediately, he will oversee [Republicans'](#) efforts to protect President Trump from the expected onslaught of oversight, investigations and even a potential impeachment by newly empowered House Democrats.

Representative Nancy Pelosi asserted [Thursday](#) that she has enough support among her colleagues to become the next speaker of the House, as the first hint of opposition emerged from an Ohio Democrat, Representative Marcia Fudge, who said she is considering a run. [Disgruntled Democrats](#) claim they have 17 names on a letter opposing Pelosi's leadership. They say those signing are pledging to vote against the 78-year-old Californian when the full chamber elects the next speaker on Jan. 3.

California Fires Burn through the State

Fires are scorching their way across the state of California as residents flee and entire towns are burned to ash. At least 63 people have died in the [Camp Fire](#)—the deadliest wildfire in state history and among its most destructive. The fire has torn through the northern town of Paradise, laying waste to some 140,000 acres (nearly 220 square miles). The fire in Northern California is now

at 40 percent containment, a week after it started. Since Nov. 8, it has destroyed 8,756 homes. To get a sense of the immense amount of land the fires cover, [click here](#) for an interactive map.

As of early Friday morning, at least 63 are now dead from the Northern California wildfire and officials say they have a [missing persons list](#) with 631 names on it in an ever-evolving accounting of the missing after the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century.

Russia

The [National Defense Strategy Commission](#), made up of 12 former national security officials and experts, was tasked with evaluating the nation's defenses and reviewing the National Defense Strategy. The Report essentially states that the Trump administration's new National Defense Strategy is [insufficiently resourced](#) and the U.S. runs the risk of a military defeat by China or Russia.

However, new technology developed at Wright-Patterson AFB—home to the Air Force Research Lab—may be the difference between defeat and victory, according to one report. "Wright-Patt has brought the tools that will make it possible to avoid defeat in Europe or Asia," said Loren Thompson, senior defense analyst at Virginia-based Lexington Institute. "Wright-Patt is crucial to avoiding a defeat if there's a World War III." [Read the full story here.](#)

A Russian fighter jet [intercepted a U.S. Navy surveillance](#) plane in an "unsafe" manner in international airspace over the Black Sea on Monday, the Navy said.

The Russian Su-27 made a high-speed pass near the U.S. EP-3 Aries II aircraft, in one instance turning on its afterburners and placing the American aircrew at risk.

According to U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet, the EP-3 was

flying in international airspace over the Black Sea. The Su-27 made two speedy passes by the American plane. The first pass reportedly subjected the Navy aircrew to turbulence as the jet passed in front of the lumbering, 1960s-era turboprop spy plane. The second pass was much more serious, the Navy says. It alleges that the Russian jet turned on its afterburners as it banked away from the American plane. [Read the full story and see videos of the incident here.](#)

Messing with Finland's GPS? Finland's GPS signal was [intentionally disrupted](#) during NATO war games in the Nordic countries over the past few weeks and the culprit could be Russia, Prime Minister Juha Sipilä said on Sunday. Finland is not a NATO member but joined the war games which began last month. On top of that, the [Norwegian Defense Ministry](#) said Tuesday that Russian forces in the Arctic disturbed their GPS location signals as well.

NATO's huge exercise Trident Juncture that included soldiers from 31 countries, was staged in Norway from Oct. 25 to Nov. 7. Finland and Sweden, which are not NATO members, also took part in the drill. [Read more.](#)

Pentagon News

Supersonic bizjets may attract Pentagon interest—if supersonic passenger jets return to the skies, the U.S. military might find a few reasons to lease or even buy a few. This may be of interest to the Pentagon for a few reasons, said Richard Aboulafia, vice president of the Teal Group. A supersonic passenger jet could help hostage-rescue or combat-search-and-rescue teams get on scene in a hurry, or bring senior officials in to help resolve a crisis, Aboulafia said. [Full story here.](#)

Pentagon researchers test 'worst-case scenario' attack on U.S. power grid—the [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency](#) exercise, which took place from Nov. 1 to Nov. 7, was fictional, but it was designed to mimic all the hurdles and

uncertainty of a real-world cyberattack that took out power across the nation for weeks on end—a scenario known as a “black start.” Over the course of the seven-day exercise, more than 100 people gathered on the island, filling every necessary role to mimic an actual black start.

The U.S. Department of Defense “failed” its [first-ever audit](#), released Thursday, according to a senior official. The U.S. defense budget for the 2018 fiscal year that ended on Sept. 30 was \$700 billion. It was unclear what consequences there would be for the failed audit, but defense officials and outside experts have said it may be years before the Pentagon is able to fix its accounting gaps and errors and pass an audit. A 1990 federal law mandated that U.S. government agencies be audited, but the Pentagon had not faced a comprehensive audit until this one was launched in December. [Read more.](#)

The Pentagon wants more money for lasers to defend against missiles and drone swarms—the U.S. military will request more money to develop lasers, microwave beams, and other directed-energy defenses to fight off missiles and drone swarms, the Pentagon’s top weapons engineer said Tuesday. “You’re going to see, in upcoming budgets for missile defense, a renewed emphasis on laser scaling [meaning scaling up the power of lasers] across several technologies,” Michael Griffin, defense undersecretary for research and engineering, said at an event hosted by the Center for Strategic International Studies. [Click here for full story.](#)

New sub in the making? The U.S. Navy is firming up plans for [new, large cruise-missile submarines](#) to replace the four aging Ohio-class SSGNs.

The sailing branch is also working on a new missile for these boats. The combination of new submarines and missiles could help the Navy to restore its overall firepower potential after older subs have decommissioned.

Quick Hits

Amazon plans to build major [new campuses](#) in New York City and next to the Pentagon near Washington DC, and expand its operations in Nashville. The three locations could create some 55,000 jobs in the next two decades. Amazon said it expected to invest about \$2.5B each in New York and Arlington, where the offices are planned to host more than 25,000 "high-paying jobs." It said Nashville, TN would become Amazon's new East Coast hub of operations, creating another 5,000 positions. Another result of this decision is that the two locations have suddenly become solid-gold real estate, as values shoot up.

[Click here to read about that.](#)

Avigdor Lieberman announced Wednesday that he is resigning as Israeli defense minister over an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire that ended the most serious flare-up in violence in more than four years between Israel's military and Palestinians in the Hamas-ruled [Gaza Strip](#). Lieberman termed the cease-fire ending two days of intense fighting "surrender to terrorism," and said he could no longer serve a [government](#) that endorsed it. [The deal](#) comes after hundreds of rockets were fired into Israel from Gaza followed by Israeli airstrikes that flattened buildings throughout Gaza. [More here.](#)

One pilot died in a T-38 training aircraft Tuesday night at [Laughlin Air Force Base](#) in Texas. The aircraft, which is used for training student pilots to fly fighter or bomber jets, crashed about 7:40 p.m. The crash is the second fatal crash of a T-38 at Laughlin in 12 months, coming almost one year after Air Force Capt. Paul J. Barbour was killed. [Read more.](#)

[Stormy Daniels attorney](#) Michael Avenatti was arrested Wednesday in Los Angeles and booked on a felony domestic violence charge, Los Angeles police confirmed. Avenatti, an anti-Trump fixture on the cable news circuit who is exploring a 2020 run for president, was arrested at 2:05 p.m. on the 10000 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, police said. Avenatti, who has denied the

allegation, was booked Wednesday afternoon after police took a report on Tuesday of the alleged incident. He was released on \$50,000 bail. [Read more.](#)

The U.S. on Thursday announced [sanctions](#) against 17 Saudi Arabian officials over the killing of Washington Post contributor Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul. The news followed Saudi Arabia's top prosecutor recommending the [death penalty](#) for five suspects in the murder of the former regime insider who became a critic of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Look Ahead

Saturday, November 17

10:00am: [Conference: The Arms Control Association, Prevent Nuclear War/Maryland and the Goucher College Peace Studies Program](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Goucher College, 1021 Dulaney Valley Road, Kelley Lecture Hall, Baltimore, Md.

Monday, November 19

11:00am: Hearing: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Topic: Effects of Tariffs and Trade Policy on Alabama

University of South Alabama, Student Center Ballroom, 307 North University Boulevard, Mobile, Ala.

Tuesday, November 20

10:00am: [Discussion: The Brookings Institution](#)

Topic: Budget

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Saul/Zilkha Room

In sports, New York Mets pitcher, Jacob deGrom has won the NL Cy Young award (for best pitcher)—Woohoo!! Have a great Thanksgiving!



**Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Resolution 2018-02**

**Resolution of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission supporting
offshore wind development off the coast of Virginia**

Whereas, recent reports by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy have identified the potential for significant economic development opportunities for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Hampton Roads region from the emerging offshore wind industry; and

Whereas, the U. S. East Coast opportunity for offshore wind extends from South Carolina to New England and has a twenty-year buildout potential of 20,000 megawatts of installed capacity (2,000 – 3,000 wind turbines) with the potential to generate over 14,000 jobs in the construction, maintenance, manufacturing and other service related industries; and

Whereas, Dominion Energy contracted in 2017 with a global wind leader, Ørsted Energy of Denmark, to build Coastal Virginia Offshore (CVOW), a two turbine, 12 MW demonstration project located 23.5 nautical miles offshore from the Virginia Beach coastline. The CVOW project is targeted for completion in 2020 and will lay the groundwork for potential large-scale commercial development up to 2,000 MW; and

Whereas, studies of the market opportunities for attracting the offshore wind industry to the U. S. East Coast have identified several unique competitive advantages for Virginia and the Hampton Roads region, including:

- Pro-Business Climate
- America's Largest Shipbuilding Industry
- Unmatched Port Infrastructure
- Congestion-Free Harbor Navigation
- Progressive State Energy Policy
- Zero Air Draft for Ocean-Going Vessels
- High-Quality Workforce
- Abundant Waterfront Land and Infrastructure
- Strategic Geographic Location.

Whereas, offshore wind development offers several opportunities for a better energy future and improved quality of life for Virginia residents, including:

- Reduced Reliance on Out-of-State Electricity by 30%
- Elimination of 3 Million Tons of Carbon Dioxide Pollution per Year
- Powering More than 500,000 Homes with Renewable Energy
- Improving Energy Resiliency and Security

Whereas, planning and development of offshore wind projects undergoes a federally mandated environmental review and permitting process which includes input from all affected stakeholders from the local, state and federal levels including environmental agencies, commercial fishing interests and the Department of Defense; and

Whereas, reports by HRPDC, Reinvent Hampton Roads, the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance and GO Virginia Region 5 have identified the need to diversify the Hampton Roads economy and create higher-paying jobs by working collaboratively as a region and focusing limited resources on target business sectors; and

Whereas, several organizations have adopted resolutions or provided letters of support for the development of offshore wind off the Virginia coast, including the City of Norfolk, the City of Virginia Beach, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Reinvent Hampton Roads and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

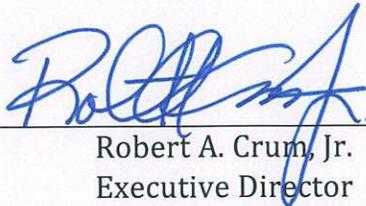
Now therefore, be it resolved that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission hereby:

1. Agrees to support the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy as well as other state, regional and federal agencies to proactively pursue regional economic development efforts related to the offshore wind supply chain.
2. Agrees to support state and regional workforce development agencies in their efforts to develop new and strengthen existing workforce development programs to further advance the offshore wind supply chain.
3. Agrees to support state and regional partners to develop a Virginia offshore wind branding campaign.
4. Agrees to work with federal, state and regional partners and the Hampton Roads Delegation to identify economic development incentives and infrastructure funding programs to promote development of the offshore wind supply chain.

Approved and Adopted by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
this 15th day of November 2018.



Michael J. Hipple
Chair
Hampton Roads
Planning District Commission



Robert A. Crum, Jr.
Executive Director
Hampton Roads
Planning District Commission