

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Friday, February 1, 2019 1:44 PM
To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group. GO RAMS!!!!

Craig R. Quigley
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Executive Director
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757-419-1164 (Mobile)



EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | FEBRUARY 1, 2019

TOP STORIES

Madman Maduro

Waving flags and chanting "freedom," Venezuelans hit the streets again on Wednesday in a [peaceful demonstration](#) against the country's embattled President Nicolas Maduro. The man leading the anti-Maduro fight, Juan Guaidó, head of Venezuela's National Assembly, has been recognized as interim president by the United States, along with Canada, the [European Union](#), the Organization of American States and more than a dozen Latin American nations.

But Maduro still has the firm backing of his international allies, including Russia

and China. Closer to home, Mexico and Cuba are also maintaining relations with his regime.

As U.S. sanctions against Venezuela's state oil company ripple through the market, there's one company with more at stake than most: its Russian counterpart, Rosneft PJSC. Rosneft Chief Executive Officer Igor Sechin has personally spearheaded Russia's support for President Nicolas Maduro's government and over the past five years, the Russian oil company has funneled more than \$7 billion into Venezuela, largely through loans to be repaid in future crude deliveries. [Full story here.](#)

Maduro, who is still (temporarily) in power, mostly because he currently has the backing of most top Venezuelan military officials, originally ordered for all U.S. diplomats to leave the country within 72 hours of the announcement—however has since backtracked on that statement, allowing for them to stay and being open with relations with the U.S.

Maduro has [warned](#) against [U.S. intervention](#), however, stating it would 'be worse for America than Vietnam'. The Trump administration has stated nothing is off the table.

Trump has since found support for his strategy on the South American country on both sides of the aisle. Some are starting to speculate what effect this will have for his 2020 re-election campaign. [Read why here.](#)

Huawei in Hot Water

The Justice Department unleashed criminal charges against Chinese tech giant Huawei, a top company executive and several subsidiaries on Monday, alleging the company stole trade secrets, misled banks about its business and violated

U.S. sanctions. The sweeping indictments accuse the company of using extreme efforts to steal trade secrets from American businesses—including trying to take a piece of a robot from a T-Mobile lab.

The executive charged is Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested in Canada last month. The U.S. is seeking to extradite her, alleging she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran. [More here.](#)

In the indictment, the government says that between June 2012 and September 2014, Huawei repeatedly made efforts to steal information about the design of a T-Mobile robot. Employees of Huawei made recurring attempts to steal information and parts of the robot and were even caught red-handed in the act. Huawei now faces ten counts in federal court: conspiracy to steal trade secrets, attempted theft of trade secrets, seven counts of wire fraud, and obstruction of justice. [Full story here.](#)

The U.S. has officially [requested the extradition](#) of Wanzhou from Canada. Canada said it received the extradition request on Tuesday, according to the WSJ, a day before the deadline for the U.S. to submit the request. Meng was arrested during a stopover in Vancouver, British Columbia, on December 1 on suspicion of breaking U.S. trade sanctions.

Many speculate that although China has repeatedly called the arrest unjust, there is little they can actually do in this situation. Given their eagerness to end the trade war which is encumbering their already lagging economy, it's unlikely that they would arrest any U.S. nationals in retaliation, as they did with Canada.

Military Tech Updates

Army's New Toy: The U.S. Army's mysterious new super-extended long-range gun could sit on an island in the South China Sea and hit Chinese targets hundreds of miles away, smashing artificial islands made from dredged sediment that act as Beijing's military outposts. That's according to Secretary of the Army Mark Esper, who says the fantastical weapon would "open the door" for the other services, blasting enemy defenses before they have a chance to open fire on U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps forces converging on the region.

Esper, quoted in *Task & Purpose* last week, said that the supergun could sit in a "gun pit" on the edge of the South China Sea and blast targets as far as 1,150 miles away. According to the secretary, the gun could destroy Chinese warships and military targets on islands across the South China Sea, destroying air defense sites, radar installations, anti-ship missiles and even air bases. The destruction of these facilities in wartime would allow U.S. air, naval and ground forces to enter the area and wrestle it away from China. [Full story here.](#)

M60 Patton Upgrade? Leonardo proposes an M60A3 tank upgrade solution, providing fleet operators with a cost-effective opportunity to enhance the capabilities of the platform in line with other 3rd generation main battle tanks.

[Read more about the potential upgrade here.](#)

Navy Missile Defense: A top Pentagon official on Tuesday said major upgrades being made to dozens of Navy destroyers to give them new missile defense capabilities will continue, even as Navy leadership bristles at having so many ships tied up hunting for missile launches.

The Navy currently has 38 Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyers in the fleet with missile defense capabilities, he noted, and has plans to convert “all Aegis destroyers to fully missile defense capable” status, meaning 60 ships will be able to perform the missile defense mission by 2023. [Click here for full story.](#)

Quick Hits

Business is Booming: Job growth in January was strikingly robust, the government reported Friday, suggesting the 35-day government shutdown did little to slow economic growth and giving an unexpected lift to a besieged President Donald Trump.

The economy added 304,000 jobs in January, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, up from a revised estimate of 222,000 in December. Average hourly private-sector earnings were up 3.2 percent over the previous year, strengthening the case that the accelerated wage growth observed in recent months was no mere blip. [Read more.](#)

Dual Carrier Order: The U.S. Navy [ordered two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers](#) Thursday, the first time the Pentagon has placed a dual order for these types of ships since the 1980s. The decision to buy two Ford-class carriers simultaneously—which service officials say will save taxpayers \$4 billion—comes as the Navy still faces a host of problems with the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), the first ship in the class. But the service’s head of acquisition said that putting off the decision would have saved less money, because CVN-80 is already under construction. [Full story here.](#)

Missile Treaty: The Trump administration will begin the process of [leaving a key](#)

[nuclear arms control treaty](#) with Russia on Saturday, setting the potential for a new ground-based cruise missile arms race in Europe.

However, administration officials said it will be some time before the Pentagon is able to produce and deploy any new system that would violate the rules of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty. [Click here for more.](#)

Super Bowl: This Sunday, Tom Brady and the Patriots take on Jared Goff and the Rams, in Super Bowl 53. I am sure most of you agree with me that Belichick's evil empire must be stopped. As a New York Jet fan, Brady has subjected me to unfathomable amounts of torment over the years.

This Day in History

1327: [Edward III](#) is crowned King of England.

1587: [Elizabeth I](#), Queen of England, signs the [Warrant of Execution](#) for Mary Queen of Scots.

1861: A furious Governor [Sam Houston](#) storms out of a legislative session upon learning that Texas has [voted](#) 167-7 to secede from the Union.

1942: Planes of the U.S. [Pacific](#) fleet attack Japanese bases in the [Marshall](#) and [Gilbert](#) Islands.

1943: American tanks and infantry are [battered](#) at German positions at [Faid Pass](#) in North Africa.

1944: U.S. Army troops invade two [Kwajalein Islands](#) in the Pacific in [Operation Flintlock](#).

1945: U.S. Rangers and Filipino guerrillas rescue 513 American survivors of the [Bataan Death March](#) from the Cabanatuan POW camp, in what became known as the [Cabanatuan raid](#).

1951: Three [A-bomb](#) tests are completed in the desert of Nevada.

1964: President Lyndon B. Johnson [rejects](#) Charles de Gaulle's plan for a neutral Vietnam.

1965: Reverend [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) and 770 others are arrested in protest against voter discrimination in Alabama.

1968: U.S. troops drive the North Vietnamese out of Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon. This event occurred two days after North Vietnam launched the [Tet Offensive](#).

1968: Photographer Eddie Adams captures one of the most famous [images](#) of the Vietnam War, which greatly contributed to the American public's increasing disillusion with the war.

See more at [History.net](#)

Look Ahead

Monday, February 4

9:00 AM EST

Briefing: [The Arms Control Association](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Tony Fleming: fleming@armscontrol.org | 202-463-8270

Tuesday, February 5

9:30 AM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Andrew Schwartz: aschwartz@csis.org | 202-775-3242

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

10:00 AM EST

Book Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Ryan McKenna: ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org | 202-691-4217

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300
Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Sixth Floor

10:30 AM EST

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee

Topic: VA Electronic Health Record Modernization

Senate Appropriations Committee, Military Construction, VA and Related
Agencies Subcommittee

202-224-7257

Dirksen Senate Office Building

4:00 PM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Andrew Schwartz: aschwartz@csis.org | 202-775-3242

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

Wednesday, February 5

8:00 AM EST

Symposium: [The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association](#)

Topic: Technology

Ben Smith: 703-631-6126

Doubletree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EST

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Defense

Travis Horne: press@atlanticcouncil.org | 202-778-4993

Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor

9:45 AM EST

Discussion: [The Hudson Institute](#)

Topic: Defense

Carolyn Stewart: cstewart@hudson.org | 202-974-6456

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

10:00 AM EST

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: DOD's Counterterrorism Approach

House Armed Services Committee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EST

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: DOD's Counterterrorism Approach

House Armed Services Committee
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EST

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: Worldwide Threats

Senate Armed Services Committee

202-224-3871

216 Hart Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EST

Meeting: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Topic: Organizational Meeting

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

202-224-4751

342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

1:00 PM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

Topic: Telecommunications

Andrew Schwartz: aschwartz@csis.org | 202-775-3242

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

2:00 PM EST

Book Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Africa Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Ryan McKenna: ryan.mckenna@wilsoncenter.org | 202-691-4217

WWC, One Woodrow Wilson Plaza, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300

Pennsylvania Avenue NW

2:00 PM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Andrew Schwartz: aschwartz@csis.org | 202-775-3242

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

2:30 PM EST

Discussion: [The Foundation for Middle East Peace](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

info@fmep.org | 202-835-3650

Middle East Institute, 1319 18th St. NW, Second Floor Ballroom

Thursday, February 7

8:00 AM EST

Forum: [U.S. Navy Amphibious Warship Industrial Base Coalition](#)

2168 Rayburn House Office Building (Gold Room)

10:15 AM EST

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: U.S. Africa/Southern Command

Senate Armed Services Committee

202-224-3871

G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

11:30 AM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments](#)

Topic: Defense

202-331-7990

CSBA, 1667 K St. NW, Suite 950

6:30 PM EST

Book Discussion: [Busboys & Poets](#)

Topic: Foreign Affairs

202-387-7638

Busboys & Poets, 2021 14th St. NW

Friday, February 8

10:00 AM EST

Discussion: [The Center for Strategic and International Studies](#)

Topic: Defense

Andrew Schwartz: aschwartz@csis.org | 202-775-3242

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

10:00 AM EST

Discussion: Center for Strategic and International Studies

2nd Floor Conference Center

Center for Strategic & International Studies

1616 Rhode Island Ave, NW

1:00 PM EST

Meeting: Defense Department; Office of the Secretary

Topic: Vietnam War Commemoration Events

Marcia Moore: marcia.l.moore12.civ@mail.mil | 703-571-2005

241 18th St. South, Room 101, Arlington, Va.

Have a glorious weekend!

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 11:04 AM
To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | JANUARY 25, 2019

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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Executive Director
Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
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757-419-1164 (Mobile)



EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | JANUARY 25, 2019
TOP STORIES

Government Shutdown

The government shutdown is still hovering over our country like a black cloud. We are around a month into it—and neither side is budging. Though President Trump has offered concessions such as temporary protections to illegal immigrants in exchange for border wall funding—Pelosi does not seem willing to accept *any* deal whatsoever. Over 800,000 federal workers are now going to miss a second paycheck because of the lack of solutions plaguing our divided government.

A [pair of votes](#) in the Senate on Thursday could have led to new negotiations to reopen the federal government. [Neither](#) of the [Senate bills](#)—one pushed by Republicans, the other by Democrats—passed though. But the votes mark the first movement in the chamber this year to break the budget impasse that triggered the shutdown and signal a possible path toward compromise.

Military Technology Updates

It appears the American defense industry has been busy as of late, as there are many updates this week.

SLMG: Sig Sauer demonstrated its potent [new lightweight machine gun](#) on Sunday. This is a weapon that Sig officials say is very similar to the light MG the firm is developing to participate in the U.S. Army effort to replace the M249 squad automatic weapon.

With its recently unveiled .338 Norma Magnum, the belt-fed MG was part of the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) show. It also comes in

7.62mm. The Sig Sauer Lightweight Machine Gun, or SLMG, weighs in at 20 pounds and, with a foldable stock, is significantly lighter than the current M240B, 7.62mm machine gun. [Read more here.](#)

Sig Sub Machine Gun: Since we're talkin' Sig Sauer, they are now offering a powerful 5.56mm version of its popular, ultra-compact [Rattler personal defense weapon](#). Sig's original Rattler was introduced last year in .300 Blackout. The company also revealed its new ultra-compact [MPX Copperhead](#) at the SHOT show in Las Vegas. They are pitching the gun hard toward the U.S. civilian market as a 9mm "pistol," but its select-fire version should attract interest from military and law enforcement units. It looks particularly well suited as an option for the U.S. Army's requirements for a new, super small submachine gun.

F-22 3-D Printed Part: The U.S. Air Force has printed and installed a new titanium replacement piece for the F-22 Raptor stealth fighter. The Pentagon hopes this is the start of big things to come, as additive manufacturing could allow for newer, stronger parts for aging aircraft produced in less time.

The piece in question is a fairly minor part—a bracket installed in a kick panel in the F-22 cockpit. Originally made from aluminum, the parts are replaced 80 percent of the time during Raptor maintenance. According to Hill Air Force Base, the new replacement part is made from titanium powder and uses a laser-based powder bed fusion process to build the part layer by layer. [Read more about this part here.](#)

F-35 ICBM: Over the next six months, the Defense Department will weigh whether to develop a new weapon for the F-35 fighter that will enable it to strike down an intercontinental ballistic missile in the early stages of flight. [Full story here.](#)

Navy's New Ship Killer: The U.S. Navy is moving ahead with plans to bolster the firepower of its littoral combat ships, adding new capabilities to the vessels that will improve their lethality and survivability in a conflict. Plans are underway to equip the LCS with the [Naval Strike Missile](#), an over-the-horizon anti-ship missile made by the Norwegian company Kongsberg Defence and Raytheon."

Electric Therapy: Hundreds of vets have tried out an experimental new treatment that could change how the world addresses mental disorders. Electric therapy is curing Navy SEALs of PTSD and could restructure brain science.

[Read about this development here.](#)

Venezuela

Latin American nations moved quickly to recognize Venezuela's Juan Guaidó as the nation's president, further isolating President Nicolás Maduro. Recognition of Guaidó as acting president came after President Donald Trump tweeted his support for Guaidó, who heads the National Assembly. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro is under unprecedented pressure after the U.S. and other nations recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the country's rightful head of state and protests against the ruling regime expanded. [Read more here.](#)

Nicolás Maduro said on Wednesday he was further [breaking diplomatic relations](#) with the United States, after the Trump administration recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the South American country's interim president. Maduro has ordered U.S. diplomats out within 72 hours and will close the U.S. embassy and consulate.

In addition to that, Russia on Thursday warned the United States not to intervene militarily in Venezuela, saying such a move would trigger a catastrophic scenario. China has similarly voiced concern in regards to American intervention in Venezuela.

Unfortunately—what happens next in Venezuela, appears to hinge on the actions of the country's military. For now, high-ranking officials remain supportive of Maduro's government—it is unclear where the mid-ranking officers' affiliations lie. [More here.](#)

Quick Hits

Paul Whelan: Family members of Paul Whelan, who is currently held in Russia on charges of spying, said Tuesday that they are convinced he "was entrapped and is not guilty of espionage."

Earlier Tuesday, a Russian judge [refused to release](#) Whelan on bail after a brief hearing during which Whelan was confined to a metal-reinforced glass cage amid tight security. Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said Whelan was on a spy mission when he was detained in a Moscow hotel room Dec. 28. Whelan could face up to 20 years in a Russian prison if convicted of espionage. [Full story here.](#)

Chinese Bugs? Transit officials in Washington, D.C., are concerned that their next subway cars might be bugged.

This was the revelation on the front page of the *Washington Post* recently. Cybersecurity experts wonder: If a state-owned Chinese company wins a contract to supply the city's Metro system with new cars, might they come with

devices installed to surveil U.S. public officials?

Worse, might they be programmed to stop working, crash or even shut down the entire system? [Click here for the full story.](#)

NATO: The U.S. House of Representatives passed [legislation](#) Tuesday evening that seeks to bar President Donald Trump from withdrawing from NATO amid renewed concerns over his commitment to the 29-nation military pact.

In a [bipartisan 357-22 vote](#), the Democrat-led lower chamber sent the Senate the NATO Support Act, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to withdraw from the 70-year-old alliance. Twenty-two Republicans voted no, while 28 Republicans and 26 Democrats did not vote.

Russian Trust in Putin: Public trust in President Vladimir Putin has fallen to its [lowest level](#) in 13 years, according to a Russian state pollster, a setback for the Kremlin which works hard to burnish Putin's image as a wise father-of-the-nation-style leader. [Read more.](#)

This Day in History

1533: [Henry VIII](#) marries [Anne Boleyn](#).

1787: Small farmers in Springfield, Massachusetts led by [Daniel Shays](#), revolt against tax laws. Federal troops break up the protesters of what becomes known as [Shay's Rebellion](#).

1915: [Alexander Graham Bell](#) in New York and [Thomas Watson](#) in San Francisco make a record telephone transmission.

1919: The [League of Nations](#) plan is [adopted](#) by the Allies.

1943: The last German airfield in [Stalingrad](#) is captured by the Red Army.

1951: The U.S. Eighth Army in [Korea](#) launches [Operation Thunderbolt](#), a counter attack to push the Chinese Army north of the Han River.

1955: Columbia University scientists develop an [atomic clock](#) that is accurate to within one second in 300 years.

1972: Nixon airs the eight-point [peace plan](#) for [Vietnam](#), asking for POW release in return for withdrawal.

1984: President Reagan [endorses the development](#) of the first U.S. permanently-manned space station.

See more at [history.net](#)

Look Ahead

Monday, January 28

8:45 AM EST

Summit: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

enquiry@iqpc.com | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EST

Conference: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

idga@idga.org | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EST

Discussion: [The Brookings Institution](#)

The Brookings Institution, Saul/Zilkha Room, 1775 Massachusetts Ave. NW

11:45 AM EST

Event: [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#)

allie@fdd.org

Foundation for Defense of Democracies, 1800 M Street NW, Suite 800, South Tower, Washington, D.C., 20036

7:30 PM EST

Discussion: [The Intelligence and National Security Alliance](#)

Topic: Defense

Toya Cribbs: tcribbs@INSAonline.org

Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2800 South Potomac Avenue, Arlington, Va.

Tuesday, January 29

9:00 AM EST

Conference: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

idga@idga.org | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EST

Summit: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

enquiry@iqpc.com | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

10:00 AM EST

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Alejandra Paulovich: Alejandra.Paulovich@va.gov | 202-461-6016

Dial-in: 800-767-1750; access code, 78128#

Topic: Geriatric/Extended Care Programs for Veterans

12:30 PM EST

Discussion: [Revitalizing Nuclear Security in an Era of Uncertainty](#)

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington,
DC 20004

Wednesday, January 30

8:45 AM EST

Summit: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

enquiry@iqpc.com | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EST

Conference: [The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement](#)

Topic: Defense

idga@idga.org | 800-882-8684

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va.

Thursday, January 31

8:00 AM EST

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Holly Krull: holly.krull@va.gov | 202-632-8522

Topic: VA's Biomedical Laboratory/Clinical Science Research

3:00 PM EST

Discussion: The Aspen Strategy Group

The Aspen Institute: Smith Conference Room 2300 N. St NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20037

Friday, February 1

7:30 AM EST

Discussion: Air Force Association

Topic: Issues Facing the Air Force

300 First St. SE

8:00 AM EST

Seminar: [The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies](#)

Topic: Defense

Bridget Dongu: bdongu@afa.org | 703-247-5818

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

10:00 AM EST

Discussion: Center for Strategic and International Studies

Center for Strategic and International Studies 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20036