

**From:** Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 11, 2019 3:45 PM  
**To:** Craig Quigley  
**Subject:** EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MARCH 8, 2019

**Ladies & Gentlemen, my apologies for sending this out so late; this ended up in my spam folder for reasons I will never understand! 8 March edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group is found below.**

**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)**



**EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MARCH 8, 2019**  
**TOP STORIES**

**Is the Age of Aircraft Carriers Coming to a Close?**

***Mattis vs. the Navy***

The aircraft carrier is a token symbol of American power, granting the U.S. the ability to rapidly deploy tactical air power and project its influence anywhere on the globe, in a rapid period of time. However, given the recent developments of anti-ship missiles, hypersonic weapons, intricate satellites and more, some are beginning to speculate whether or not the age of the aircraft carrier is in its twilight.

Just several weeks ago it was reported that the Navy had placed an astounding double order for two new Ford-class aircraft carriers to be built. However, now it has been reported that the supercarrier, USS Truman, will possibly be out of service far earlier than previously expected, as apparently the Navy does not plan on refueling (replacing the nuclear core) of the ship and decommissioning it instead—in an effort to save money. This move will more than likely be blocked by [congress](#). Retiring Truman halfway through her planned service life would shrink the carrier fleet from 11 to 10 in the mid-2020s. The move could save the Navy \$30 billion over a 25-year period, Breaking Defense estimated.

Last year, then-Secretary of Defense James Mattis and his staff had a bitter argument with U.S. Navy leadership over the future of the aircraft carrier and whether or not it would still be as relevant in 20 years. Ultimately the Navy got its way and the order was placed. Read more about the interesting debate

[here](#).

### ***Looming Torpedo Threat***

In other related news, the Navy has recently shed light on a series of top-secret tests for a system they were developing to protect the prized aircraft carriers from the all too real threat of torpedoes. The bad news—it was a complete failure.

The U.S. Navy has canceled its anti-torpedo defense system and will remove the systems from the five aircraft carriers that have them installed, the Pentagon's Office of the Director of Test and Evaluation said in a [report](#) on Tuesday.

Essentially, the report said that over 5 years the program made some progress in finding and knocking down incoming torpedoes, but not enough. Data on the reliability of the systems remains either thin or nonexistent. This leaves the U.S.

Navy's surface ships with almost no defense against a submarine's primary anti-surface weapon at a time when the service says that Russia's and China's submarine fleets have rapidly grown to pose a major threat to U.S. ships. Keep in mind China has been openly discussing sinking American aircraft carriers. Read the full story, and how a joint military exercise with a French submarine revealed just how shockingly problematic this can be, [here](#).

### ***Speaking of China and Aircraft Carriers...***

For all the Chinese talk about the futility of American carriers—it now has plans to match the U.S. Navy, after all. China could soon [build four nuclear aircraft carriers](#) to bolster its presence in the South China Sea, a plan that could increase the risk of maritime clashes, experts say.

Chinese military experts said this week Beijing wants to deploy six aircraft "battle groups" to sea by 2035, and four of the six will be nuclear-powered, the [South China Morning Post](#) reported Wednesday.

## More China News

### ***Chinese State-Backed Hackers at it....Again***

It has been reported that Chinese [hackers](#) have targeted more than two dozen universities in the U.S. and around the globe, as part of an elaborate scheme to steal research about maritime technology being developed for military use, cybersecurity experts and current and former U.S. officials said.

The University of Hawaii, the University of Washington and Massachusetts Institute of Technology are among at least 27 universities in the U.S., Canada and Southeast Asia that Beijing has targeted, according to iDefense, a cybersecurity intelligence unit of Accenture Security.

The research, to be published this week, is the latest indication that Chinese cyberattacks to steal U.S. military and economic secrets are on the rise. The findings, reviewed by [The Wall Street Journal](#), name a substantial list of university targets for the first time, reflecting the breadth and nature of the cyber campaign iDefense said dates to at least April 2017.

### ***B-52s over South China Sea***

The U.S. Air Force flew B-52H Stratofortress long-range bombers through the [disputed South and East China Seas](#) on Monday.

"Two B-52H bombers took off from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and

participated in routine training missions, March 4, 2019," U.S. Pacific Affairs told ABC News, explaining that while one bomber "conducted training in the [vicinity](#) of the South China Sea," the other trained near Japan in cooperation with the U.S. Navy and Japanese forces.

While the U.S. [routinely sends bombers](#) in the vicinity of the South China Sea, Monday's flight was the first involving a nuclear-capable B-52 since November.

The flights came just [three days](#) after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during a visit to Manila in the Philippines, said the United States is committed to ensuring the South China Sea remains open to all kinds of navigation and that "China does not pose a threat" of closing disputed sea lanes. Pompeo assured the Philippines that America will come to its defense if its forces, aircraft or ships come under armed attack in the South China Sea, the first such public U.S. assurance in recent memory.

### ***On the Topic of China and the Philippines...***

The last development comes since it has recently come to light that the Philippines is very worried about the escalating tensions in the South China Sea. It fears the U.S. may bring it into a "shooting match" with China, a conflict it does not want to take part in.

The 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty with Washington, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said, needed to be re-examined to clear ambiguities that could cause chaos and confusion during a crisis. He cited China's aggressive seizure in the mid-1990s of a Philippine-claimed reef, saying "The U.S. did not stop it."

Furthermore, the lack of action to stop China's build-up of artificial islands, claiming water claimed by the Philippines in the last 10 years, have our Filipino

allies wary that the U.S. is committed to protecting Filipino interests. [Read more here.](#)

Tensions only continue to rise in the South China Sea as China [continues to militarize the region](#) and attempts to claim international waters as their own territory—while the U.S. refuses to back down.

### **Military Technology Updates from This Week**

#### ***F-15X***

The U.S. Air Force wants more fighters—but it didn't necessarily want the F-15X and it didn't intend to buy any in the upcoming fiscal 2020 budget, its top two leaders confirmed Thursday.

It has been [reported](#) that the decision to buy new F-15X aircraft was essentially forced upon the Air Force. According to sources, the Pentagon's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Office was a key backer of the F-15X and was able to garner the support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Read why some experts claims that adding these 4<sup>th</sup> Generation aircraft over the original goal of exclusively adding F-35s, is a [step-backwards](#).

#### ***Army's New Armor***

U.S. Army equipment officials will soon begin fielding a new combat helmet designed to give soldiers 100 percent greater protection against head trauma injuries on the battlefield. The new Integrated Head Protection System, or IHPS, will replace the Enhanced Combat Helmet in close-combat units.

The new helmet offers the same ballistic protection against rifle bullets as the ECH but doubles the amount of protection against blunt impact or trauma to a soldier's head, according to Alex DeGroot, lead engineer for head protection.

[Read more here.](#)

Additionally, the Army is getting close to approving a new lightweight body armor plate with a "shooter's cut" to provide close-combat forces with greater mobility in combat. [Read more about the game-changing body armor here.](#)

### ***Sidekick Drone***

The U.S. Air Force is trying out a new sidekick. Along with contractor Kratos Defense, the service test-flew the [XQ-58A Valkyrie](#) on March 5 at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona. The prototype drone, meant to test the viability of unmanned "sidekick" drones for manned combat planes, got its test flight just a week after Boeing Australia unveiled its own "Loyal Wingman" unmanned aircraft.

### ***Cold War Assault Breaker Revamp***

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is researching new long-range smart weapons designed to devastate attacking enemy forces, buying time for the U.S. to send reinforcements in a hypothetical future engagement.

The program, known as "Assault Breaker II," mirrors a Cold War era program designed to stop Soviet armored spearheads poised to roll into Western Europe. The effort would consist of a combination of long-range sensors and bombers loaded with smart weapons designed to seek out and destroy tanks, ships and other enemy systems. [Read more about the interesting plan.](#)

### ***Double Edged Sword?***

The Army is moving quickly to adopt new technologies, however, sometimes it comes with public relations hitches. After *Quartz* published an article claiming “The U.S. Army Wants to Turn Tanks Into AI-Powered Killing Machines,” the Army is altering its request for information for its [ATLAS](#) project, in order to better underscore that the program will follow Defense Department policy on human control of lethal robots. They are also drafting talking points to further the new emphasis.

The new Advanced Targeting and Lethality Automated System (ATLAS) seeks to give ground combat vehicles the ability to “acquire, identify, and engage targets at least 3X faster than the current manual process.

”The robot’s ability to identify, target and engage doesn’t mean “we’re putting the machine in a position to kill anybody,” an Army official told Defense One.

[Click here for the full article.](#)

## **Quick Hits**

### ***AI & Civil War Vets***

Using AI, Kurt Luther, a Virginia Tech assistant professor of computer science, hopes to connect contemporary people with Civil War relatives they might not have ever known about, using the [Civil War Photo Sleuth](#).

Launched on August 1st, 2018, the site is off to a strong start. According to a press release, 600 users have contributed more than 2,000 Civil War photos to the Photo Sleuth within the site's first month, with around 1,000 of them unidentified. From the unknown, the Photo Sleuth's algorithms have been able to identify 100 of them. Luther estimates over 85 percent of these proposed

identifications were correct. [Read about how this website works here.](#)

### ***Pakistani F-16s***

The U.S. is looking into reports that Pakistan used their American-made F-16 jets during the aerial engagement with Indian forces last week. The reason why this matters is the usage of them in this encounter potentially violates the terms of use dictated by the U.S. when Pakistan purchased the fighters.

The Indian Air Force claims Pakistan indeed did use the F-16 fighter jets, while Pakistan has maintained that they were not in the operation—though it hasn't specified what military equipment was involved. [Click here for more.](#)

### ***Guaido vs. Maduro***

A defiant [Juan Guaido](#) returned home to Venezuela on Monday despite concerns that he might be detained. In his return, he urged supporters at a rally to intensify their campaign to topple the government of Nicolas Maduro.

Maduro's position becomes seemingly weaker by the day, as more and more of his supporters melt away. Just this past week, [567](#) of his soldiers defected to Columbia. Many speculate the latest mass defection comes as a result of Maduro opting to block international aid from entering the country.

Meanwhile back in Washington, President Trump's special representative for Venezuela [pledged on Thursday](#) that Washington would "expand the net" of sanctions on the South American nation, including more on banks supporting Maduro's government.

### **This Day in History**

1618: [Johannes Kepler](#) discovers the third [Law](#) of Planetary Motion.

1853: The first bronze [statue](#) of Andrew Jackson is unveiled in Washington, D.C.

1862: On the second day of the [Battle of Pea Ridge](#), Confederate forces, including some Native American troops, under General Earl Van Dorn surprise Union troops, but the Union troops still win the battle.

1862: The Confederate ironclad [CSS Virginia](#) (formerly USS Merrimack) is launched.

1880: President Rutherford B. Hayes declares that the United States will have jurisdiction over any canal built across the Isthmus of Panama.

1917: Russia's [February Revolution](#) begins, the first step in their transition to Communism.

1941: Martial law is proclaimed in Holland in order to extinguish any anti-Nazi protests.

1942: Japanese troops [capture](#) Rangoon, Burma.

1943: Japanese forces attack American troops on [Hill 700](#) in Bougainville. The battle will last five days.

1945: Phyllis Mae Daley receives a commission in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. She will become the first African-American nurse to serve duty in World War II.

1954: France and Vietnam open talks in Paris on a treaty to form the state of Indochina.

1957: Egypt re-opens the [Suez Canal](#) to commercial shipping, following the Israeli occupation of it.

1961: Max Conrad circles the globe in a record time of eight days, 18 hours and 49 minutes in Piper Aztec.

1965: More than 4,000 [Marines land](#) at Da Nang in South Vietnam and become the first U.S. combat troops in Vietnam.

1970: The Nixon administration discloses the deaths of 27 Americans in Laos.

1971: Ali battles Frazier for heavyweight championship in what is dubbed "[the fight of the century](#)".

2014: Malaysia Airlines flight [vanishes](#) with more than 200 people aboard.

See more at [Historynet.com](http://Historynet.com)

**Look Ahead**

***Sunday, March 10***

4:00 PM EDT

Panel: Aerospace Industries Association

Topic: "Flying cars, Supersonic Jets, Space Tourism & Beyond: Aerospace in  
2050"

WeDC House at Banger's, 79 Rainey Street, Austin, TX 78701

***Monday, March 11***

7:00 AM EDT

Conference: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Day 1  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania  
Avenue Northwest

7:45 AM EDT

Conference: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW

8:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The National Defense Industrial Association Science and  
Engineering Technology Division  
Topic: Defense  
NDIA, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, Va.

10:45 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

12:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The American Bar Association

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Arent Fox LLP, 1717 K St. NW

1:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The United States Institute of Peace

Topic: Foreign Affairs

USIP, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW

4:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Intelligence and National Security Alliance and the National  
Security Institute

Topic: Technology

George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School, 3351 Fairfax Drive,  
Room 121, Arlington, Va.

4:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's History and Public Policy Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

5:40 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Topic: Vitiello/Cuffari Nominations

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
S-216 U.S. Capitol

6:00 PM EDT

Film Screening: The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of  
Advanced International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

SAIS, Rome Building, 1619 Massachusetts Avenue NW

***Tuesday, March 12***

7:00 AM EDT

Conference: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Day 2  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania  
Avenue Northwest

7:30 AM EDT

Conference: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW

8:30 AM EDT

Conference: The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association  
Topic: Defense  
The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield, Va.

8:55 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement  
Topic: Defense

Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: State-Foreign Operations Appropriations

House Appropriations Committee, State, Foreign Operations and Related  
Programs Subcommittee

TBA

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Program

House Homeland Security Committee, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure  
Protection Subcommittee

310 Cannon House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: Engineering a Sustainable Bioeconomy

House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Research and Technology  
Subcommittee

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Topic: Pending Nominations

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and House Veterans' Affairs  
Committee

Topic: Veteran Service Organizations Legislative Presentation  
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee | House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

News Conference: The Veterans Affairs Department and Sanford Health

Topic: Health  
National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Military Personnel Policy  
House Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel Subcommittee  
2212 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee  
Topic: DOD's Artificial Intelligence Initiatives  
Senate Armed Services Committee, Emerging Threats and Capabilities  
Subcommittee  
232-A Russell Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
Topic: U.S. Postal Service Sustainability  
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee  
342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

3:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

***Wednesday, March 13***

8:00 AM EDT

Conference: The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association  
Topic: Defense  
The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield, Va.

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Undersecretary for Policy  
Topic: National Security Issues Regarding 5G Technology  
The Pentagon

8:00 AM EDT

Conference: McAleese/Credit Suisse  
The Sphinx Club, 1315 K St. NW

8:45 AM EDT

Forum: Nextgov  
Topic: Health

8:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement  
Topic: Defense  
Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Army Department  
Topic: Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington National Cemetery, Welcome Center, Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Workshop: The Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Defense  
Threat Reduction Agency Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for  
Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the Air Force Institute for  
National Security Studies  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Military Activity in Europe  
House Armed Services Committee  
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Meeting: National Archives and Records Administration; Information Security  
Oversight office

Topic: National Industrial Security Program Policy Matters  
NARA, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, McGowan Theater

11:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Heritage Foundation

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Lehrman Auditorium

12:30 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of  
Advanced International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

SAIS, Nitze Building, 1740 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Kenney Herter  
Auditorium

12:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The American Institute for Contemporary German Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

AICGS, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 700, Conference Room

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Military Ops Resiliency/Climate Change  
House Armed Services Committee, Readiness Subcommittee  
2212 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

3:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center Kennan Institute for Advanced  
Russian Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

***Thursday, March 14***

8:00 AM EDT

Conference: The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association

Topic: Defense

The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield, Va.

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Undersecretary for Policy

Topic: National Security Issues Regarding 5G Technology

The Pentagon

8:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 South Orme St., Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The International Business Machines Corporation

Topic: Government Operations

Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Air Force FY2020 Seapower/Projection Forces

House Armed Services Committee, Seapower and Projection Forces

Subcommittee

2212 Rayburn House Office Building

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Army Department

Topic: Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery, Welcome Center, Arlington, Va.

9:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Air Force Association's Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

Topic: Budget

AFA, 1501 Lee Highway, Fourth Floor Board Room, Arlington, Va.

11:45 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute and the Fissile Materials Working Group

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

1:00 PM EDT

Meeting: State Department

Topic: U.S. Withdrawal from Universal Postal Union

American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue NW, Board Room

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: The Future of the Army in an Era of Great Power Competition

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

6:00 PM EDT

Forum: The Association of the United States Army

Topic: Institute for Land Warfare Strategic Issues

AUSA, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Sullivan Conference and Event Center,  
Arlington, Va.

***Friday, March 15***

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Defense

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The National Defense Industrial Association Space Division

Topic: Important issues to the Air Force Space Command and Air Force

Boeing, 929 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington, Va.

See more on [PoliticoPro.com](http://PoliticoPro.com)

**From:** Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2019 2:13 PM  
**To:** Craig Quigley  
**Subject:** EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MARCH 15, 2019

**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)**



**EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MARCH 15, 2019**  
**TOP STORIES**

**DOD Rolls Out FY20 Budget Proposal Overview**

On Tuesday, the Department of Defense unveiled its budget proposal for fiscal year 2020.

One main theme that can be taken away from the proposal is that of a shift towards [great power competition](#) against near-peer adversaries such as China and Russia. Since the end of the Cold War, defense strategy has hinged on the unipolar world order with the U.S. as an unquestioned global hegemon. However, with recent militarization, modernization and technological advances at the hands of China and Russia—we are entering a very different period of

time.

The men and women in uniform will certainly be happy with the new proposed budget, as it includes a [3.1% pay raise](#).

### ***Space Force***

Another main facet of the request was funding for nearly 830 military service members and civilians to staff the [Space Force](#) headquarters at the Pentagon, the Space Development Agency and U.S. Space Command.

As previously disclosed, the Pentagon is requesting \$72.4 million in fiscal 2020 to bring together manpower and resources at the headquarters level and \$2 billion over five years to fund the Space Force.

A memo, signed out by acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan March 12, immediately stood up the SDA as a new office under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering [Mike Griffin](#). The office will be directed by [Fred Kennedy](#), the current director of the Tactical Technology Office, which falls under the purview of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. [Read more here](#).

### ***Air Force***

The Pentagon is asking for 17 more aircraft than it received in 2019, for a total of 380. A quick tally shows the number of fighter jets and unmanned aerial vehicles the services are asking for is down slightly, while the number of helicopters is up. Also, the Air Force is purchasing [eight F-15X's](#) to replace some of the older F-15C's, which would not last the required service time which is into the 2030's.

The F-15 buy has been raising eyebrows, however, given the AF strategy of using multiple types of aircraft, including fighters, to penetrate adversary airspace—not just solely 5<sup>th</sup> generation fighters . As AF Chief of Staff General Goldfein put it, “the F-35 is the quarterback,” referencing its unmatched ability to fuse mission information and its ability to head inter-mission capability.

### ***Light Attack***

The Air Force is requesting [\\$35 million](#) in its fiscal 2020 budget to continue the effort with a more expansive set of airframes that could involve drones and jets.

It plans to buy [six light attack aircraft](#)—three Sierra Nevada-Embraer A-29 Super Tucanos and three Textron AT-6B Wolverines—for continuing experiments toward a potential light attack aircraft program, on which the Air Force would partner with other countries.

The AF plans to put some at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and some with Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, Florida, the service's top general said Wednesday. [Read more.](#)

Click [here](#) to see the official DOD FY20 Budget Request Documents.

Click here for a quick [overview](#) and [5 take-aways](#).

## **Military Technology Updates**

### ***Classified Navy Drones***

Within the Navy’s budget rollout, \$400 million was requested for two large

unmanned surface vessels to be purchased in 2020, with 10 total to be purchased across a five-year projection known as the future year defense program. But it was not immediately clear what exactly the Navy was buying two of, since no program of record exists for a large unmanned surface vessel (or LUSV).

Navy officials now say the request is an outgrowth of Project Overlord, which first surfaced in 2017, with a draft solicitation outlining a program that would take existing autonomy technologies and integrate them into large and medium unmanned surface vessels with some heady ambitions: an autonomous ship capable of carrying up to 40 tons of payload, and operate in up to sea-state five independently for 90 days without a crew for maintenance, while following all rules of navigation and obstacle avoidance.

The elevation of Project Overlord program from science project to fast-tracked acquisition reflects both the Navy's growing confidence in its ability to make the technology work and the urgency it feels to field technologies that can combat a growing threat from anti-access area denial technologies designed to keep the Navy's powerful strike arm far from the shores of potential adversaries. Full story here. [Full story here.](#)

### ***Army's Small Ground Robot Competition***

The U.S. Army has chosen Waltham, Massachusetts-based QinetiQ North America to produce its new small ground robot following a head-to-head competition with Boston-based Endeavor Robotics.

The service awarded a production contract for up to \$152 million to QinetiQ on March 11, for its Common Robotic System—Individual or CRS-I program, which is its first small-sized (less than 25 pounds) ground robot program of

record, according to an Army statement from Fort Benning, Georgia. Fort Benning is the birth place of the capability requirements for CRS-I.

Ultimately, follow-on contracts and options could amount to roughly \$400 million for roughly 3,000 robots. [More here](#).

### ***AI For the Future of Armored Fighting Vehicles***

Israeli defense contractor Rafael's new promo for the company's Advanced Suite for Armored Fighting Vehicles is something to behold. The clip is a vision of how automation, sensors, new self-defense technologies, and giant screens could revolutionize the way soldiers fight from armored vehicles and reduce the stress of battle.

The system extends situational awareness by allowing the soldiers to see threats, waypoints, objectives and other items of interest superimposed upon the giant screens in an augmented reality-style view. This includes not only items programmed into the mission profile or identified by the crew or vehicle AI, but also info shared by other friendly forces. This could allow the crew to race to pile on (or avoid altogether) an otherwise unseen enemy force. Click [here to see more](#) on how this revolutionary concept may very well be the future of warfare.

### ***DOD's Jet Bike?***

JetPack Aviation, a startup that launched preorders for recreational versions of [a flying personal vehicle](#) in March 2019, has proposed a jet bike, capable of running on kerosene or diesel.

Jetpack Aviation has previously made a flying machine—a jetpack. In November 2015, the company released a video of a jetpack flight around Ellis

Island.

The proposed speeder will be available to civilian markets as well. It is listed as having a top speed that exceeds 150 mph, a ceiling of more than 15,000 feet and a flight time of 20 minutes. The specifications for the military concept expand the flight time to possibly 30 minutes, and include the option to fly autonomously. The military model, as sketched out, would also be able to use Jet A fuel.

Given the limitations of its weight capacity, noisiness, and short distance before needing to refuel, if the speeder does happen to catch the Pentagon's eye, it would likely be involved in advanced scouting or rapid response cavalry missions.

### **Navy Under Chinese Cyber Siege**

According to an internal Navy report sent to Secretary Richard Spencer, and leaked to the Wall Street Journal, the Navy and its contractors are currently under [cyber siege](#) and are hemorrhaging national security secrets.

A 57-page internal Navy review provided to the Wall Street Journal paints a dire picture regarding an ongoing cyber war pitting hackers against the sea service.

The attackers include Chinese government hackers—who have exploited critical flaws in U.S. cyber security to steal [troves of national security secrets](#) from the defense industry. Hackers from Iran and Russia have also done considerable damage as well.

Furthermore, U.S. Navy captains and admirals nominated for higher ranks are [vulnerable](#) to cyber attackers—which is why the service stopped publicly announcing their promotions last year, the chief of naval operations said Wednesday.

It has long been known that, particularly China, has been stealing American defense secrets, as evidenced by many cases of mysteriously identical weapon systems, aircraft or vehicles. The question is how to stop it, given that we are heading toward an era of great power competition against China. Should there be consequences for Chinese state-backed hackers stealing American military secrets?

### **Venezuela in Crisis**

As of Tuesday, the situation in Venezuela continued to unravel as the state entered its 4<sup>th</sup> day of [blackout](#), after a massive power grid failure.

The lack of power has forced citizens to visit a [polluted river](#) in Caracas to fill bottles of water, while long lines formed at gas stations. The Guardian reports opposition leaders in the country say at least 21 people have died because of the blackouts. The oil industry has also been hit hard by the lack of power.

However, on Thursday, Venezuela's information minister said that the huge power outage that has left most of the country dark for a week has been [completely restored](#). The power failure left many homes without running water and caused chaos in hospitals, as well as disrupting places of work and schools. At its worst, 19 of 23 states were affected, and the capital Caracas was blanketed by darkness.

Meanwhile, the U.S. [has withdrawn all remaining diplomatic personnel](#) from its embassy in Caracas, as the crisis in Venezuela deepens.

### **Wreck of Historic USS Wasp Discovered**

Over the last several months we have seen several famous WWII shipwreck discoveries, most recently the USS Hornet, because—well—history is awesome. As it turns out, all of these were discovered by the same diving team—who have just discovered another marvelous find, the USS Wasp.

[Wasp was sunk](#) in late 1942 by a Japanese submarine, while covering the U.S. Marine Corps landings at Guadalcanal. The carrier, lost for nearly 80 years, was found in almost 14,000 feet of water.

At the onset of the war, the U.S. was severely limited in regards to its Pacific naval strength, while the Japanese Imperial Forces--on the other hand--were spreading across the Pacific. To stop this hemorrhaging, the U.S. created Operation Watchtower, a joint air-land-sea operation in the Solomon Islands, designed to land U.S. Marines and Army troops to evict the Japanese and set up airbases. Securing the Solomons would halt Japan's southern advance towards Australia and New Zealand, while setting the groundwork for the beginning of a counteroffensive to push the Japanese all the way back to their home islands.

On, September 15, 1942, the Wasp was struck by 6 Japanese torpedoes while partaking in the invasion. It sank after 8 hours—in the attack, 176 were killed and 366 wounded, out of a total crew of 2,162. Click [here](#) for the full article.

## Quick Hits

### ***SecAF Wilson Stepping Down***

U.S. Secretary of the Air Force [Heather Wilson](#) said in a letter to President Trump that she plans to resign from her post in late May.

Wilson has been named as the sole finalist to be the next president of the University of Texas at El Paso, a position that the system's regents will vote on after a state-required waiting period of 21 days. She said she will resign after getting the job. [Read more here](#).

### ***National Emergency***

The Senate approved a [resolution to terminate](#) President Trump's national emergency declaration at the U.S.-Mexico border, putting Congress on a path to its first veto confrontation with the Trump administration. 12 GOP senators voted against Trump's declaration. This is expected to become Trump's first veto in office.

### ***Taiwan Makes Fighter Request for U.S.***

Taiwan has requested a fleet of new fighters from the United States, but it didn't specify a type, leaving it up to the U.S. to recommend an option, according to defense officials.

Speaking at a separate event, the head of the Taiwanese Air Force Command Headquarter's Planning Division, Maj. Gen. Tang Hung-an, confirmed this, citing for reporters the recently submitted letter of request to the U.S. to buy a batch of fighter jets.

He was quoted by news outlet, Focus Taiwan, as saying that “the F-15, F/A-18, F-16 and even the F-35 are all among our options, as long as the jets help to strengthen our air defense capabilities.” [Click here for the full story.](#)

### **This Day in History**

44: [Julius Caesar](#) is [assassinated](#) by high-ranking Roman Senators.

1493: Christopher Columbus returns to Spain after his first voyage to the New World.

1820: Maine is [admitted](#) as the 23rd state.

1862: [General John Hunt Morgan](#) begins four days of raids near the city of Gallatin, Tennessee.

1864: [The Red River Campaign](#) begins as the Union forces reach Alexandria, Louisiana.

1892: New York State unveils the new automatic ballot voting machine.

1903: The British complete the [conquest](#) of [Nigeria](#).

1916: General [John Pershing](#) and his 15,000 troops [chase](#) Pancho Villa into Mexico.

1917: Russian Czar Nicholas II [abdicates](#).

1934: Henry Ford restores the \$5-a-day wage.

1939: Germany [occupies](#) Bohemia and Moravia, Czechoslovakia.

1944: [Cassino](#), Italy is destroyed by Allied bombing—a mission my grandfather, Lt. George V. Cuzzolino participated in.

1955: The U.S. Air Force unveils the first self-guided missile.

1967: President Lyndon Johnson names Ellsworth Bunker as the new ambassador to Saigon. Bunker replaces Henry Cabot Lodge.

1991: Four Los Angeles police are charged in the beating of Rodney King.

See more at [Historynet.com](http://Historynet.com)

## **Look Ahead**

***Monday, March 18***

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Topic: Foreign Affairs

AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Auditorium

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

10:00 AM EDT

Seminar: The East-West Center in Washington

Topic: Foreign Affairs

East-West Center in Washington, 1819 L St. NW

10:30 AM EDT

Book Discussion: New America

Topic: Foreign Affairs

New America, 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900

10:30 AM EDT

Workshop: The George Washington University Elliott School of International  
Affairs

Topic: Foreign Affairs

GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Lindner Family Commons, Room 602

11:45 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The International Spy Museum

Topic: Foreign Affairs

International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW

***Tuesday, March 19***

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Office of the Secretary; Undersecretary of  
Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Topic: Women in the Services

Marriott Residence Inn - Pentagon City, 550 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: Georgetown University

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Georgetown University, 3700 O St. NW, Lohrfink Auditorium

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CEIP, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

9:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The United States Institute of Peace, the Atlantic Council and the

Embassy of Ukraine

Topic: Foreign Affairs

USIP, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Defense

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

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The International Institute for Strategic Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

IISS, 2121 K St. NW, Suite 801

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

10:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Defense Undersecretary for Personnel and  
Readiness; Defense Department Military Family Readiness Council

Topic: Military Children Mental Health Medical Record Policies

The Pentagon, Library and Conference Center, Room B6

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CEIP, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of International  
Affairs

Topic: Foreign Affairs

GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Lindner Family Commons, Room 602

11:00 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The Cato Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Avenue NW, F.A. Hayek Auditorium

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Foreign Affairs

TBA

2:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Polar Institute, and Georgetown  
University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

3:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The National Endowment for Democracy

Topic: Foreign Affairs

NED, 1025 F St. NW, Suite 800

3:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Environmental Protection Agency

Topic: Environmental Homeland Security

***Wednesday, March 22***

8:00 AM EDT

Forum: The Center for Strategic and International Studies and the National  
Security Space Association

Topic: Defense

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Undersecretary for Research and Engineering

Topic: Future of U.S. Military Superiority

Executive Conference Center, 4075 Wilson Boulevard, Floor 3, Arlington, Va.

8:00 AM EDT

Event: 2019 Directed Energy Summit

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania  
Ave. NW

8:45 AM EDT

Summit: The Defense Strategies Institute and the Roosevelt Strategic Council

Topic: Technology

Mary Gates Learning Center, 701 North Fairfax St., Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Commerce Department; National Institute of Standards and  
Technology

Topic: Information Security and Privacy  
Symantec, 700 13th St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department  
Topic: VA National Academic Affiliations  
811 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 4040

11:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor

11:00 AM EDT

Meeting: State Department  
Topic: International Maritime Issues  
Coast Guard Headquarters, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE, Room  
7M15-01

12:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of International  
Affairs

Topic: Foreign Affairs  
GWU, Marvin Center, 800 21st St. NW

3:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of International  
Affairs

Topic: Technology  
GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Harding Auditorium, Room 213

3:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

5:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs  
CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

***Thursday, March 21***

7:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The U.S. Navy Memorial

Topic: Defense  
U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

8:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Defense  
CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Undersecretary for Research and Engineering  
Topic: Future of U.S. Military Superiority  
Executive Conference Center, 4075 Wilson Boulevard, Floor 3, Arlington, Va.

8:45 AM EDT

Summit: The Roosevelt Strategic Council  
Topic: Technology  
Mary Gates Learning Center, 701 North Fairfax St., Alexandria, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission  
Topic: China-Russia Axis Implications  
TBA

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Commerce Department; National Institute of Standards and  
Technology  
Topic: Information Security and Privacy  
Symantec, 700 13th St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board  
Topic: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety  
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 7019

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department  
Topic: VA National Academic Affiliations  
811 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 4040

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

9:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Office of the Secretary; Defense Undersecretary  
for Research and Engineering  
Topic: Defense Innovation  
The Pentagon

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Heritage Foundation  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Lehrman Auditorium

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council  
Topic: Defense  
Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St. NW, 12th Floor

11:45 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute  
Topic: Foreign Affairs

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

12:15 PM EDT

Discussion: New America

Topic: Foreign Affairs

New America, 740 15th St. NW, Suite 900

1:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The George Washington University Elliott School of  
International Affairs

Topic: Homeland Security

GWU Elliott School, 1957 E St. NW, Lindner Family Commons, Room 602

5:15 PM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Social Issues

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

6:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land  
Warfare

Topic: Defense

AUSA, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Sullivan Conference and Event Center,  
Arlington, Va.

***Friday, March 22***

9:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The United States Institute of Peace

Topic: Foreign Affairs

USIP, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

Have a great weekend, beware the Ides of March!!