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**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2019 2:50 PM  
**To:** Craig Quigley  
**Subject:** EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | APRIL 26, 2019

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

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THE  
*Roosevelt*  
GROUP

**EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | APRIL 26, 2019**  
**TOP STORIES**

**On the F-35**

***Lost F-35***

Following the crash of an F-35 belonging to the Japanese Air Self-Defense

Force in the Pacific Ocean on April 9<sup>th</sup>, some are raising concerns whether China and Russia could be looking for the wreckage while American and Japanese rescue/recovery crews struggle in their own search . As China and Russia are developing rival aircraft to the F-35, unveiling secrets of the fifth-generation stealth fighter could be a windfall for the U.S. military's near-peer adversaries.

The area in which the [F-35A crashed](#) is estimated to be about 5,000 feet deep. The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force has deployed a rescue submarine, among other vessels, to search the area.

According to the *Air Force Times*, acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan told the press last week, "The Japanese have the lead (in the recovery operation), and we're working very collaboratively with them. And we've got a capability if what they have doesn't prove to be sufficient."

Washington believes the joint Japanese-American recovery effort will locate the remains of the aircraft before China and Russia. The U.S. has chartered a deep sea diving support vessel, the Van Gogh, to assist in locating the aircraft. [Read more here.](#)

### ***F-35 Price Rising***

The F-35's estimated price for research and procurement has increased by \$22 billion in current dollars adjusted for inflation, according to the Pentagon's latest annual cost assessment of major projects. The estimate for operating and supporting the fleet of fighters over more than six decades grew by almost \$73 billion to \$1.196 trillion. [Click here for the full story.](#)

### ***Lockheed's Frustration with the Air Force***

Lockheed Martin is becoming increasingly [frustrated](#) that the U.S. Air Force will not increase its planned purchase of F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, and suggested that growth might come instead from increased interest in Eastern Europe and Asia.

According to Popular Mechanics, the fact that the [Turkey F-35](#) sales are in dire jeopardy, doesn't seem to "ruffle" Lockheed executives much.

In the fiscal year 2020 budget, the U.S. Defense Department plans to buy 78 joint strike fighters for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. However, the Air Force, the F-35's largest customer, requested just 48 F-35As in FY20 and intends to buy only 48 F-35As annually over the next five years—a far cry from the 60 jet buy rate that Air Force officials had previously held as a goal.

Meanwhile, Turkey is set to buy 100 F-35As over the entirety of the program. Turkish companies are also part of the program's industrial base and play a role in sustainment—a complication that neither Hewson nor Possenriede commented on. [Read more here.](#)

## **More Military Technology News**

### ***Coast Guard's New Icebreaker***

VT Halter Marine Inc., a Pascagoula, Mississippi, [shipbuilder](#) has been awarded the contract to build the Coast Guard's long-awaited new [icebreaker](#), an agreement worth up to \$1.9 billion if an additional two ships are optioned.

The Coast Guard announced Tuesday that VT Halter Marine Inc. received the initial \$746 million contract award to design and construct a first-in-class Polar

Security Cutter, the service's first [heavy icebreaker](#) in more than 40 years.

### ***Army Attack Recon Helo***

AVX Aircraft Co. partnered with L-3 Communications Integrated Systems, Bell Helicopter, Boeing, Karem Aircraft and Lockheed Martin-owned Sikorsky have won awards to design a new Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft (FARA) for the U.S. Army over the next year, the service announced April 23.

Only two teams will move forward, at the end of the design phase, to build flyable prototypes of the future helicopter in a head-to-head competition. [Click here for full story.](#)

### ***New NVGs***

Soldiers and Marines recently began the final field evaluation of the new binocular-style [night-vision goggles](#) the Army intends to begin fielding this fall.

The limited-user evaluation, known as a Soldier Touchpoint, will give a small group of Soldiers and Marines the chance to use the new Enhanced Night Vision Goggle-Binocular (ENVG-B) in field conditions at Fort Drum, New York, according to an Army news release.

### ***Chinese Hypersonic Missile?***

Images on Chinese social media appear to show a hypersonic test vehicle that is a likely prototype for a weapon system. The Jia Geng No. 1 rocket, allegedly built for hypersonic research, appears very similar to an American concept for a hypersonic cruise missile (does this really surprise anyone?).

Is this rocket an operational weapon system? No, it's clearly a research project. Furthermore, it's reportedly reusable, and the blistering heat associated with

high speed hypersonic weapons means the Jia Geng No. 1 rocket probably doesn't achieve the really, really high Mach numbers associated with ramjets and scramjets. It's probably more accurate to say it's a research project in support of developing an operational weapon system. The United States, Russia and China are all rushing to field hypersonic weapons. [Click here for the full story.](#)

### ***Russia's Massive Sub***

Russia launched the world's longest submarine, the Belgorod. Designed to support a variety of military missions, including the Poseidon long-range strategic nuclear torpedo, the sub is far larger than anything operated by any other naval force, including the U.S. Navy. The six hundred foot long submarine displaces more water than a World War I battleship and can dive to a depth of 1,700 feet.

The submarine was launched April 23rd, at the Sevmash shipyards in Russia, with Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly watching via satellite.

Officially known as [Project-09852](#), the submarine was originally an Oscar II-class cruise missile submarine that the Russian government ran out of funds to complete. The submarine hull sat unfinished until Moscow decided to complete it as a special mission submarine.

### **Quick Hits**

#### ***Sri Lanka Bombings***

Police in Sri Lanka have warned that more [suspects in the Easter Sunday bombings](#) were on the run, as it emerged that a prominent spice tycoon was

being held on suspicion of helping two of his sons who participated in the attacks on the Christian Churches.

All but one of the nine have been identified and most came from "middle or upper middle class" families. UK officials have told the [BBC](#) they think it is highly likely that the Islamic State group was linked to the bombings—but it remains unclear whether it inspired, planned or directed the attacks.

### ***B-1 Resumes Flying***

The Air Force has resumed flights of the [B-1B Lancer](#) bomber after a nearly month-long stand-down of the fleet.

The B-1B fleet was [grounded by Gen. Timothy Ray](#), commander of Global Strike Command, on March 28 over concerns with the drogue chute system, which corrects the seat's angle to allow an airman to safely eject from the bomber. It was the second time in a year the Air Force grounded the Lancer over an ejection seat issue. B-1Bs will be returned to flight status individually, as inspections and maintenance are finished on them, the command said in Tuesday's news release.

### ***General Grant Statue***

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is finally getting a [statue of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant](#), one of its most famous graduates, who led the Union to victory in the Civil War. It will be unveiled Thursday by the 18th president's great-great grandson, Ulysses Grant Dietz, an art curator at the Newark Museum, in the great state of New Jersey. The statue, by sculptor Paula Slater, presents a hatless Grant in his four-star general's uniform.

### ***Trump Renews Threats to Mexico***

On Wednesday, President Trump renewed his threat to [send more troops](#) to the U.S.-Mexico border following an incident in which Mexican soldiers confronted 2 U.S. personnel and disarmed them. Mexico blamed the incident on confusion, and said it was not looking for confrontation with the U.S.

Earlier this month, two U.S. soldiers in a remote area of Texas were confronted by Mexican soldiers who thought the Americans had crossed into Mexico. The Mexican troops reportedly removed a weapon from one of the American soldiers. U.S. Northern Command, which manages military support for Customs and Border Protection, said the Americans were in a CBP vehicle in a remote area of U.S. territory south of the border wall but north of the actual border.

Mexico has returned 15,000 migrants in the past 30 days, a senior government official said on Tuesday, pointing to an uptick in deportations in the face of [pressure from](#) U.S. President Donald Trump to stem the flow of people north.

### ***Kim Bills U.S. for Otto Warmbier Medical Expenses***

I wish this was a joke, but it's not. The North Korean government presented the United States with a [bill for \\$2 million](#) for the hospital care of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who was held as a prisoner by Pyongyang, and insisted the U.S. sign a pledge to pay the bill before releasing him from their custody in 2017. Warmbier was in a comatose state at the time of his release from North Korean custody and died a few days after returning to the states.

Although the bill was signed, in order to facilitate the release of Warmbier, it remained [unpaid](#) throughout 2017, and according to sources close to the administration, still has not been paid.

Otto's parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, sued North Korea over their son's death and in December were awarded [\\$501 million in damages](#)—money that the Hermit Kingdom will probably never pay.

### **This Day in History**

*757*

Stephen II ends his reign as Catholic Pope.

*1478*

Pazzi conspirators attack Lorenzo and kill [Giuliano de' Medici](#).

*1514*

[Copernicus](#) makes his first observations of Saturn.

*1564*

William Shakespeare is baptized.

*1607*

The British establish a [colony](#) at Cape Henry, Virginia.

*1865*

[Joseph E. Johnston](#) surrenders the Army of Tennessee to General William T. Sherman.

*1865*

Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth [dies](#).

1915

[Second Lieutenant William Rhodes-Moorhouse](#) becomes the first airman to win the Victoria Cross after conducting a successful bombing raid.

1929

The first non-stop flight from England to India is completed.

1931

New York Yankee Lou Gehrig hits a home run but is called out for passing a runner, the mistake ultimately costs him the home run record.

1937

The ancient Basque town of Guernica in northern Spain is [bombed](#) by German planes.

1954

Polio vaccine [trials](#) begin.

1986

The world's worst nuclear disaster occurs at the [Chernobyl](#) power plant in the Soviet Union.

1994

Nelson Mandela wins the [presidency](#) in South Africa's first multiracial elections.

**Look Ahead**

***Monday, April 29***

7:45 AM EDT

Forum: New America, Arizona State University

Topic: Defense

Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center

1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Pavilion Room

8:30 AM EDT

Conference: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Health

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

8:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hill

Topic: Foreign Affairs

The Hill, 1777 F St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The International Academy of Astronautics, the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: Technology

The Hotel at the University of Maryland, 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Md.

10:30 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Falk Auditorium

12:45 PM EDT

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

Topic: Foreign Affairs

SAIS, Bernstein-Offit Building, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 500

1:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Center for a New American Security

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CNAS, 1152 15th St. NW, Suite 950

4:30 PM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: CIA Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

H-405 U.S. Capitol

7:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee

Topic: Suicide Prevention Among Veterans

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

1334 Longworth House Office Building

***Tuesday, April 30***

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: NASA Space Technology Updates  
NASA, 300 E St. SW, Room 6H41

8:30 AM EDT

Conference: The International Academy of Astronautics, the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: Technology

The Hotel at the University of Maryland, 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Md.

8:30 AM EDT

Forum: The National Defense Industrial Association, the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies and the Air Force Association and the Reserve Officers Association

Topic: Defense

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

8:50 AM EDT

Conference: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Health

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

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Homeland Security Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee

2359 Rayburn House Office Building

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: Moran/Berger Nominations

Senate Armed Services Committee

G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSBA, 1667 K St. NW, Suite 950

10:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for a New American Security

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CNAS, 1152 15th St. NW, Suite 950

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: Trump Policies on Border Communities

House Homeland Security Committee, Border and Maritime Security

Subcommittee

310 Cannon House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: NOAA Budget

House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Environment

Subcommittee

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee

Topic: Pending Legislation

House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Health Subcommittee

2253 Rayburn House Office Building

11:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Defense

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

11:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Navy/Marine Corps Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

H-140 U.S. Capitol

12:00 PM EDT

Briefing: The Burn Pits 360 Veterans' Organization

Topic: Health

CVC-200 U.S. Capitol

12:00 PM EDT

Briefing: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Defense

TBA

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Heritage Foundation

Topic: Defense

Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Lehrman Auditorium

1:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: FEMA Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee

2359 Rayburn House Office Building

1:00 PM EDT

News Conference: The Republic of Vietnam Leadership Committee

Topic: Foreign Affairs

National Press Club, 14th and F Streets NW, Zenger Room

1:30 PM EDT

Hearing: House Foreign Affairs Committee

Topic: Global Terrorism Landscape

House Foreign Affairs Committee, Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee

2172 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Briefing: The Center for a Secure Free Society

Topic: Foreign Affairs

902 Hart Senate Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Heritage Foundation

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Allison Auditorium

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Military Medical Malpractice Claims

House Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel Subcommittee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: DHS Cybersecurity Budget

House Homeland Security Committee, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure

Protection Subcommittee

310 Cannon House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: Emerging Technologies in Plastics Recycling

House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Research and Technology

Subcommittee

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee

Topic: FY2020 Budget  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Economic Opportunity Subcommittee  
2253 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee  
Topic: USAID Budget  
Senate Appropriations Committee, State, Foreign Operations and Related  
Programs Subcommittee  
138 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Appropriations Committee  
Topic: VA Budget  
Senate Appropriations Committee, Military Construction, VA and Related  
Agencies Subcommittee  
124 Dirksen Senate Office Building

3:30 PM EDT

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

***Wednesday, May 1***

8:50 AM EDT

Conference: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement  
Topic: Health

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

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House (Select) Intelligence Committee

Topic: National Reconnaissance/National Geospatial Program Budget

HVC-304 U.S. Capitol

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House (Select) Intelligence Committee

Topic: National Reconnaissance/National Geospatial Program Budget

HVC-304 U.S. Capitol

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Labor Department; Veterans Employment and Training Service

Topic: Veterans Employment Programs

Labor Department, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Conference Room C5320,  
Room 6

9:30 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Cybersecurity/Infrastructure Security Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Subcommittee  
2008 Rayburn House Office Building

9:40 AM EDT

Summit: Government Executive

Topic: Technology

Spire, 750 First St. NE

10:00 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The Center for Strategic and International Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue NW

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Defense Budget

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

2359 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: U.S. Military Activity in North/South America

House Armed Services Committee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: DHS Vacancy Effects

House Homeland Security Committee

310 Cannon House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Homeland Security Committee

Topic: DHS Vacancy Effects

House Homeland Security Committee

310 Cannon House Office Building

11:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War International History  
Project

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Fourth Floor

12:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The East-West Center in Washington

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution's Center for East Asia Policy Studies

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Falk Auditorium

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Appropriations Committee

Topic: Army Modernization Programs

House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee  
Topic: Army Modernization Programs  
House Armed Services Committee, Tactical Air and Land Forces  
Subcommittee  
2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Topic: Pending Legislation

House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs  
Subcommittee  
1334 Longworth House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Webinar: The United States Institute of Peace  
Topic: Foreign Affairs

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee  
Topic: Military Construction/Energy/Environmental Programs  
House Armed Services Committee, Readiness Subcommittee  
2212 Rayburn House Office Building

3:00 PM EDT

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

***Thursday, May 2***

12:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Meridian International Center

Topic: Health

Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place NW, Washington D.C.

8:30 AM EDT

Conference: The International Academy of Astronautics, the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Topic: Technology

The Hotel at the University of Maryland, 7777 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Md.

9:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee

Topic: Air Force Acquisition/Modernization Programs

House Armed Services Committee, Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

9:30 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Topic: Women Veterans' Access to Healthcare  
House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Health Subcommittee  
1300 Longworth House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Markup: Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Topic: Pending Nominations  
Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
419 Dirksen Senate Office Building

11:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments  
Topic: Defense  
CSBA, 1667 K St. NW, Suite 950

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Business Council for International Understanding  
Topic: Foreign Affairs  
TBA

12:30 PM EDT

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

1:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Interior Department; office of the Secretary  
Topic: Impact of Ticks on Human Health

Interior Department, Stuart Udall Building, 1849 C St. NW, North Penthouse

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Asia Program

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Foreign Affairs

TBA

7:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: Politics and Prose Bookstore

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Politics and Prose at the Wharf, 70 District Square SW

***Friday, May 3***

8:30 AM EDT

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

Topic: Defense

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: Domestic Nuclear Energy Industry

House Science, Space and Technology Committee, Energy Subcommittee  
Shippingport Borough Municipal Building, Shippingport, Pa.

Have a great weekend!