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To: Craig Quigley
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MAY 17, 2019

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

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EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MAY 17, 2019
TOP STORIES

Iran

In a busy week, U.S. officials have said they believe Iranian combat divers were behind the attacks on four oil tankers near the Persian Gulf last weekend. The

state department has also ordered all non-essential personnel out of Iraq amid the rising tensions, and the Trump administration has continually denied the rumors that the U.S. was preparing to send 120,000 troops to the Middle East.

On Wednesday, Hossein Salami, the recently appointed head of Iran's IRGC [boldly stated](#), "We are on the cusp of a full-scale confrontation with the enemy...this moment in history, because the enemy has stepped into the field of confrontation with us with all the possible capacity, is the most decisive moment of the Islamic revolution."

Also on Wednesday, Iran's Defense Minister decided that there had not been any incendiary public statements for 24-hours, and so he therefore proclaimed that Iran will "defeat the American-Zionist front," adding that "today, the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at the peak of defense-military preparedness to counter any threat or act of aggression."

On Thursday, Iran's foreign minister [slammed](#) mounting U.S. sanctions as "unacceptable," though he affirmed his country's commitment to the international nuclear deal that appears strained amid the heightened tensions.

All in all, it is imperative to keep in mind that assembling combat power into the region doesn't mean war is imminent. It probably signifies what U.S. officials state it does—that the U.S. military is getting better positioned—in the case of war. After all, the United States has also repositioned quite a lot of new firepower to Russia's doorstep, but nobody thinks Trump is about to start a war with Russia. Nor in Korea, where earlier in Trump's presidency, the military repositioned firepower and buzzed the peninsula with long-range bombers. In 2017, the U.S. was not about to strike North Korea, nor were they in 2018 when Trump bragged about having a bigger nuclear button than Kim Jong-un. Just

like now, the president beefed up forces, but said clearly he didn't want war, and neither did anyone in the Pentagon. [Click here for the full article.](#)

China

Last week, President Trump increased [tariffs](#) on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods. China responded with a new round of its own tariffs.

The White House has [initiated](#) a two-pronged assault on China: barring companies deemed a national security threat from selling to the U.S., and threatening to blacklist Huawei Technologies Co. from buying essential components. President Trump signed an [executive order](#) barring U.S. firms from using telecom equipment made by companies deemed to pose a national security risk on Wednesday. The order did not specifically identify any country or company, but U.S. officials have previously labeled Huawei a "threat" and lobbied allies not to use Huawei network equipment in next-generation 5G networks.

The move was [instantly welcomed](#) by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, who called it "a significant step toward securing America's networks." The U.S. had already restricted federal agencies from using Huawei products and has encouraged allies to shun them, while Australia and New Zealand have both blocked the use of Huawei gear in 5G networks.

Huawei and other Chinese technology companies have long been suspected of stealing information and essentially spying for the Chinese government, and the development of a Huawei-based global 5G could have disastrous national security implications for nations around the world.

Capping off the two topics of China and Iran, an important aspect in the chaotic world of international relations, is the fact that the Sino-Iranian relationship advances Chinese interests—and particularly when Washington tries to turn the screws on Tehran. [Click here for the full article from Defense One.](#)

Quick Hits

Growing Importance of the Arctic

The State Department will soon have a permanent presence in Greenland for the first time since the 1950s. Greenlandic and American interests have long been intertwined: The Arctic island is the home of the northernmost U.S. military base. It also housed some of the Cold War-era Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, since an ICBM inbound from Russia would likely pass over its massive area. In 1940, when the Nazis invaded Denmark, the U.S. acted to preserve the Danish colony's independence, knowing that Greenland would have served as an excellent refueling station for German bombers on their way to New York.

However, in the region most affected by climate change, the rapidly warming Arctic might soon become the next South China Sea. Ice-free Arctic shipping lanes could become “the 21st century’s Suez and Panama Canals,” officials warn. The Arctic Ocean could “transform into a new South China Sea, fraught with militarization and competing territorial claims....Russia is already leaving snow prints in the form of army boots.” This is a reference to its Arctic military expansion since 2014. [Click here for the full story.](#)

Search for Missing F-35 Fighter Jet Called Off

The U.S. has ended participation in the [search for a Japanese F-35 Joint Strike Fighter](#). The fighter went missing approximately one month ago during a routine training flight over the Pacific Ocean. A joint U.S./Japanese recovery effort located the plane's flight data recorder but the pilot remains missing.

At some point after May 3rd, searchers found part of the missing aircraft's cockpit and the flight data recorder. According to the *Japan Times*, parts of the aircraft were recovered at a depth of 1,500 meters—or 4,900 feet—below the surface of the ocean. The cockpit data recorder was recovered but was heavily damaged and reportedly lacked a storage device that recorded speed or altitude data. The pilot's remains have still not been found.

Trump Immigration Plan

Thursday afternoon, President Trump unveiled a new immigration plan during a speech in the White House rose garden. The plan is designed to move from a family-based system toward an employment and skills-based system. It will revamp the points system for U.S. citizenship applications to create a higher-income and more highly educated pool of people receiving citizenship, officials said.

The plan's second major point would create infrastructure that includes taking on illegal immigration by financing the construction of a border wall in "designated and prioritized areas." Officials also said that that infrastructure section would pertain to creating new security at points of entry and inspecting all goods and people coming into the country. [Read more here.](#)

B-17 Documentary

Last but not least, film maker Erik Nelson—whose work includes Werner

Herzog's *Grizzly Man*, Discovery Channel's *Unsolved History* series and numerous World War II documentaries, including Anne Frank's Holocaust—has been developing a groundbreaking documentary using restored, never-before-seen film, on the famous B-17 Flying Fortress.

The film has been compared to Peter Jackson's recent *They Shall Not Grow Old* WWI documentary/film.

Cold Blue, is set to release nationwide on May 23, with a one-night theatrical screening. [Click here to read more about this exciting news.](#)

This Day in History

1630

Italian Jesuit [Niccolo Zucchi](#) sees the belts on Jupiter's surface.

1681

[Louis XIV](#) sends an expedition to aid James II in Ireland. As a result, England declares war on France.

1756

Britain declares war on France, commencing the [7 Years' War](#). Two years earlier, a group of soldiers from the British colony of Virginia, under the command of a Lieutenant Colonel named George Washington, engaged a group of French troops who were interloping from New France (present day Canada) into territory the British considered theirs—commencing the directly correlated [French and Indian War](#), in the New World. According to some, the 7 Years' War was actually the [first world war](#) witnessed by history.

1792

Merchants form the [New York Stock Exchange](#) at 70 Wall Street.

1863

Union General Ulysses Grant continues his [push](#) towards Vicksburg at the Battle of the [Big Black River Bridge](#).

1875

The first [Kentucky Derby](#) is run in Louisville.

1881

[Frederick Douglass](#) is appointed recorder of deeds for Washington, D.C.

1885

Apache chief Geronimo [breaks out](#) of an Arizona reservation, sparking panic among Arizona settlers.

1940

Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium and begins the [invasion of France](#).

1954

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules for school integration in [Brown v. Board of Education](#).

1973

The Senate Watergate Committee [begins](#) its hearings.

1987

In the Persian Gulf, an American guided missile frigate [USS Stark](#) is struck by 2 Exocet missiles fired by an Iraqi aircraft; only one detonates, but 37 Sailors are killed and 21 are wounded. Whether the launch was deliberate or a mistake is still debated.

See more at [Historynet.com](#) and [History.com](#)

Look Ahead

Saturday, May 18

8:00 AM EDT

Event: Aerospace Industries Association

Topic: Student Rocket Competition

Location: 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA 20198

Monday, May 20

8:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Energy Department; National Nuclear Security Administration

Topic: NNSA Nuclear Programs

Energy Department, 1000 Independence Avenue SW

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Office of the Secretary

Topic: Military Health Updates

Defense Health Headquarters, 7700 Arlington Boulevard, Pavilion Salons B
and C, Falls Church, Va.

10:00 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences
(INFORMS)

Topic: Government Operations
2043 Rayburn House Office Building

12:30 PM EDT

Discussion: The Henry L. Stimson Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Stimson Center, 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW, Eighth Floor

4:00 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

5:00 PM EDT

Briefing: Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Topic: Prospects for Afghan Peace

SVC-217 U.S. Capitol

5:00 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

5:30 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

6:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Hudson Institute

Topic: Defense

Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

Tuesday, May 21

8:05 AM EDT

Discussion: The Air Force Association

Topic: Defense

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

8:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Energy Department; National Nuclear Security Administration

Topic: NNSA Nuclear Programs

Energy Department, 1000 Independence Avenue SW

8:55 AM EDT

Symposium: George Mason University and the Armed Forces Communications
and Electronics Association

Topic: Defense

GMU Johnson Center, 4477 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative and the
United States Institute of Peace
Topic: Technology
USIP, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW

9:30 AM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee
Topic: National Defense Authorization Act
232-A Russell Senate Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee
Topic: Transportation Infrastructure and Climate Change
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Foreign Affairs Committee
Topic: Russia's Foreign Political Influence
2172 Rayburn House Office Building

10:30 AM EDT

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

11:00 AM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee
Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The East-West Center in Washington

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Armed Services Committee and House Veterans' Affairs

Committee

Topic: Military and Veteran Suicide

2118 Rayburn House Office Building

2:00 PM EDT

Hearing: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Topic: Coast Guard/Maritime Transportation Programs Budget

2167 Rayburn House Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Hearing: Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Topic: GAO Annual Duplication Report

342 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:30 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

G-50 Dirksen Senate Office Building

3:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Woodrow Wilson Center's Environmental Change and
Security Program

Topic: Environment

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

3:30 PM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

232-A Russell Senate Office Building

Wednesday, May 22

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Navy Department

Topic: Marine Corps University Academic Standards

Marine Corps University, 2076 South St., Quantico, Va.

8:30 AM EDT

Summit: Government Executive Media Group

Topic: Government Operations

Kimpton Hotel Monaco, 700 F St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Symposium: George Mason University and the Armed Forces Communications
and Electronics Association

Topic: Defense

GMU Johnson Center, 4477 Aquia Creek Lane, Fairfax, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Markup: Senate Armed Services Committee

Topic: National Defense Authorization Act

222 Russell Senate Office Building

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Commerce Department; Bureau of Industry and Security

Topic: Commerce Information Systems Trade Export Controls

Commerce Department, 14th St. between Constitution and Pennsylvania

Avenues NW, Room 3884

10:00 AM EDT

Hearing: House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

Topic: Energy Budget

2318 Rayburn House Office Building

1:00 PM EDT

Meeting: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board

Topic: Military Nuclear Facilities Safety Recommendations

Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, 625 Indiana Avenue NW, Suite 700

6:00 PM EDT

Lecture: The Heritage Foundation

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Lehrman Auditorium

Thursday, May 23

8:00 AM EDT

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

Topic: Defense

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Defense Department; Navy Department

Topic: Marine Corps University Academic Standards
Marine Corps University, 2076 South St., Quantico, Va.

8:30 AM EDT

Meeting: State Department

Topic: International Trade Law and Commercial Judgments
State Department, 600 19th St. NW, Annex SA-17 Building, Room B1-302

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Commerce Department; Bureau of Industry and Security

Topic: Commerce Information Systems Trade Export Controls
Commerce Department, 14th St. between Constitution and Pennsylvania
Avenues NW, Room 3884

11:00 AM EDT

News Conference: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Topic: Environment

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Signature Flight Support, 1
General Aviation Drive, Hangar 7

Friday, May 24

8:30 AM EDT

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

Topic: Defense

Capitol Hill Club, 300 First St. SE

10:00 AM EDT

Event: The U.S. Naval Academy

Topic: Defense

U.S. Naval Academy, Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, Annapolis, Md.

Have an incredible weekend!