

From: Morgan, Neil
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2019 3:35 PM
To: Schott, Heather; Vance, Sarah
Subject: Fwd: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MAY 24, 2019

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Date: May 24, 2019 at 2:54:47 PM EDT
To: Craig Quigley <cquigley@hrmffa.org>
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | MAY 24, 2019

Ladies & Gentlemen, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group. Stay safe this weekend, and remember to remember.....

**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 | MAY 24, 2019
TOP STORIES**

Update on Iran Tensions

According to officials, the Pentagon is presenting a request that would [send](#) 5,000 to 10,000 [additional troops](#) to the Middle East as a deterrence factor, amid inflated tensions with Iran.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford [briefed the House and Senate](#) Tuesday on President Trump's Iran strategy, including recent intelligence of an increased Iranian threat and the U.S. reaction to it, the deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group and B-52 bombers and the ordered departure of non-emergency personnel from Iraq.

On Sunday, a rocket was fired into Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, landing [less than a mile](#) from the U.S. Embassy. There were no injuries and no group claimed responsibility, but the rocket was believed to have been fired from east Baghdad—which is home to Iran-backed Shiite militias.

All Things China

War for Talent

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is prioritizing efforts to catch up in its capacity to find, attract and retain talented people. If the U.S. military is to keep the upper hand, it needs to promptly increase its own efforts. Recent military reforms by the PLA have been focusing on recruiting higher quality personnel, shifting from their historic quantity over quality mindset. For America, on the other hand, demographic trends are swaying against us, making it harder for the military to recruit. [Click here to read this fascinating commentary on what we need to do as a nation to combat this alarming issue.](#)

War for Naval Superiority

China now has more warships than the United States Navy. The People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN), informally known as the Chinese Navy, recently hit a landmark number of 300 ships—thirteen more than the U.S. Navy.

However, don't let the headline fool you—although the U.S. Navy has thirteen fewer ships than the Chinese Navy, by total ship tonnage it actually outweighs the Chinese Navy by a considerable margin. America's navy weighs roughly three million tons more than China's—an enormous advantage. The average U.S. warship is much, much larger than its Chinese counterpart, making them more capable in their assigned missions and capable of sailing far from home.

Furthermore, the U.S. Navy has 11 aircraft carriers, 10 amphibious-assault ships, etc.

Comparing the U.S. and Chinese navies is like comparing apples and oranges, but China is starting to build apples too, and at its current rate of naval construction, the country could have a fleet to match the U.S. Navy in a few decades. [Full story here.](#)

Slipping Economy?

China has reported its slowest economic growth in nearly three decades, a historic slowdown amid weakened domestic demand and a tense trade war with the United States. Figures released by the China Institute for Employment Research at Renmin University in Beijing show the supply of jobs in western China, including Chongqing, fell by an alarming 77% in the fourth quarter of last year compared to the same period in 2017. One region particularly devastated, has been the city of Chongqing, [click here to read more about this.](#)

Huawei Saga Continues

A growing number of global companies—including Panasonic and chip maker ARM—are [ceasing their business](#) dealings with Huawei after the Chinese tech giant was placed on the U.S. entity list, which bans American companies from doing business with it unless the government gives them explicit permission.

Google has barred Huawei from some updates to the Android operating system, meaning new designs of Huawei smartphones are set [to lose access to](#) some Google apps and a string of American chipmakers, including Intel, Qualcomm and Micron have ceased sales.

When ZTE received the same treatment in 2018 [for violating American sanctions](#) on Iran, it was brought to the brink of ruin. It survived only because Trump intervened, claiming it was a favor to Xi Jinping.

Industry experts have questioned Huawei's claims minimizing the impact of moves that make it hard for the company to do business with American firms. As the trade war with China continues—we shall see how Trump's strategy works, not only for the U.S. but for the entire world, as the two largest economies slug it out.

Military Technology Updates

Funding for AI

On Tuesday—Senators Martin Heinrich, D-New Mexico; Rob Portman, R-Ohio; and Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii—proposed a bill that would create a national artificial intelligence strategy and invest some \$2.2 billion in advancing the tech over the next five years. The Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act aims to help the U.S. stay ahead of global competitors like China that are vying to dominate the international AI market.

In February, the Trump administration released a national artificial intelligence strategy that called on agencies to ramp up investments in AI research and explore other ways to advance the tech across society. Heinrich credited the administration for making AI a national priority and said the latest proposal would provide the resources and government-wide coordination needed to “preserve [the country’s] technological edge...The legislation is intended to mesh with the White House strategy, not negate it.” It is clear this bill comes as a response to ever-increasing efforts by China to claim global dominance in this spectrum—something that could mean catastrophic results for the U.S. and many other states. [Read more here.](#)

Lasers

The U.S. Navy’s Director of Surface Warfare is ready to bet the farm on using lasers to shoot down missiles. The outgoing head of the Chief of Naval Operations’ surface warfare directorate, Rear Adm. Ron Boxall, said the Navy is going to get its High Energy Laser and Integrated Optical-dazzler with Surveillance system (HELIOS) on the Hawaii-based destroyer Preble in 2021.

HELIOS, a 60-kilowatt laser with room to grow to 150 kilowatts, is being developed by Lockheed Martin, which also produces to the Aegis combat system on the DDG. The laser is going to be fully integrated into the combat system as well as the power system, Boxall said. [Click here for more.](#)

Weapons Controlled by the Mind?

The Department of Defense’s research and development wing (DARPA) is working on technology to read and write to the human brain. The focus isn’t on mind control but rather machine control, allowing the human brain to directly [send instructions](#) to machines. The goal of the process is to streamline thought

control of machines to the point where humans could control them with a simple helmet or head-mounted device, making operating such systems easier.

Stryker Companies Chosen by Army

The U.S. Army has picked [five companies](#) to come up with designs to integrate a new weapon system on the Stryker combat vehicle, according to a May 23 announcement. The service awarded design integration study contracts—no more than \$150,000 each—for the Stryker Medium Caliber Weapons System (MCWS) lethality program to General Dynamics Land Systems, Kollsman Inc., Leonardo DRS, Raytheon and Pratt & Miller Engineering and Fabrication Inc.

The companies have to come up with integration designs using a government-furnished XM813 gun on a government furnished Stryker DVH A1 hull. The MCWS program will be carried out in two phases that will culminate in equipping a Stryker DVH A1 brigade in fiscal year 2022, according to the Army.

University of Hawaii Lab

The Navy has awarded the University of Hawaii a new contract for its defense-related Applied Research Laboratory—this one worth up to \$77.2 million over five years.

The task order contract is for research, development, engineering and test and evaluation for programs throughout the Department of Defense, with \$777,710 in funding expected to be obligated in fiscal 2019 as part of an initial delivery order, according to a May 13 contract notice. [More here.](#)

Quick Hits

Next SecAF?

President Donald Trump has named his nominee to be the next Secretary of the Air Force. Trump announced via Twitter on Tuesday that [Barbara Barrett](#), a former diplomat and businesswoman, is his pick to be the service's 25th secretary.

As chairwoman of the Aerospace Corporation's Board of Trustees, Barrett oversaw a "\$1 billion federally funded research and development center for national security and military space systems," according to her biography page on the Committee for Economic Development website. She has also "advised five American presidents on trade and defense policy," and served as ambassador to Finland under President George W. Bush. [Click here for more.](#)

NDAA in the Works

The Senate Armed Services Committee has marked up its draft of the annual [defense authorization bill](#) this week while the House Appropriations Committee advances its own work on the annual defense spending plan.

Both pieces of legislation are key parts of the annual military budget, which is not expected to be finalized by lawmakers until later this fall. But the work completed this month will set the baseline of debate for much of the summer, establishing defense spending topline for the Republican-controlled Senate and Democrat-controlled House.

Russian Bombers Intercepted

On Monday, USAF F-22s [intercepted](#) a total of four Tupolev Tu-95 bombers and two Su-35 fighters entering the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). The Russian bombers and fighters remained in international airspace and at no time did the aircraft enter United States or Canadian sovereign

airspace.

Tension between the U.S. and Russia remains high, and such aerial encounters have not been uncommon in recent years. NORAD said it has "intercepted an average of approximately six to seven Russian sorties entering its ADIZ since Russia resumed long range aviation patrols in 2007."

Expect tensions to [remain high](#) as Syria remains a hot issue, along with the interference in the 2016 elections and Russia's financial/military support for Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro. On top of that, it is clear they intend to interfere with the 2020 elections.

British PM Announces Resignation

UK Prime Minister Theresa May announced her [resignation](#) in an emotional speech on Friday, finally bowing to intense political pressure over the failure to deliver her signature policy—Britain's [withdrawal](#) from the European Union. May said it would be fall to her successor to find consensus where she could not, and urged all sides to compromise.

One leading candidate to replace her is Boris Johnson, the former Foreign Secretary who commands significant support among grassroots members of the party.

This Day in History

1543

[Nicolaus Copernicus](#) publishes proof of a sun-centered solar system. He dies on this day, just after publication.

1610

[Sir Thomas Gates](#) institutes "[laws divine moral and marshal](#)," a harsh civil code for Jamestown.

1624

After years of unprofitable operation, Virginia's charter is [revoked](#) and it becomes a royal colony.

1689

The English Parliament passes the [Act of Toleration](#), protecting Protestants. Roman Catholics are specifically excluded from exemption.

1738

Methodism is [established](#), as a reform movement led by [John Wesley](#) and other young laymen and members of the clergy of the Anglican Church, or Church of England.

1775

John Hancock [elected](#) president of the Second Continental Congress.

1764

Boston lawyer [James Otis](#) denounces "taxation without representation," calling for the colonies to unite in opposition to Britain's new tax measures.

1798

Believing that a French invasion of Ireland is imminent, Irish nationalists [rise up](#) against the British occupation.

1844

Samuel Morse taps out the [first telegraph](#) message.

1861

[General Benjamin Butler](#) declares slaves to be the contraband of war.

1863

[Bushwackers](#) led by Captain William Marchbanks attack a Federal militia party in Nevada, Missouri.

1864

The [Battle of North Anna](#) continues as Union General Ulysses S. Grant pounds away at Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, in an engagement along the North Anna River in central Virginia, which had begun the day before.

1878

The first American bicycle race is held in Boston.

1883

The Brooklyn Bridge [opens](#) over the East River, connecting the cities of New York and Brooklyn.

1930

Amy Johnson becomes the first woman to fly from England to Australia.

1935

The MLB holds [first night game](#), where the Cincinnati Reds defeat the Philadelphia Phillies 2-1. Though, this came 5 years after the first baseball game under lights was played by a minor league team in Iowa. Another

interesting note is that the Chicago Cubs were the last franchise to host a night game, in 1988, and to this day continue to play the majority of their games during daytime.

1941

The pride of the Royal Navy, British battleship Hood, is [sunk](#) by the feared German battleship Bismarck. There are only three survivors. Bismarck, which was damaged in the battle, is eventually hunted down and sunk 3 days later.

1951

[Willie Mays](#) begins playing for the New York Giants.

1961

Civil rights activists are arrested in Jackson, Mississippi.

See more at historynet.com and history.com

Look Ahead

Saturday, May 25

9:00 AM EDT

Event: Rolling Thunder

Topic: Defense

Location: 22nd St. and Constitution Avenue NW

10:00 AM EDT

Event: The U.S. Naval Academy

Topic: Defense

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

Sunday, May 26

9:00 AM EDT

Event: Rolling Thunder

Topic: Defense

Location: Lincoln Memorial, 2 Lincoln Memorial Circle NW. or as noted

8:00 PM EDT

Event: PBS

Topic: Social Issues

Location: West Front Lawn U.S. Capitol

Monday, May 27

9:00 AM EDT

Event: The City of Falls Church, Va.

Topic: Defense

Location: City Hall, 300 Park Avenue, Falls Church, Va.

9:00 AM EDT

Event: The Friends of the National World War II Memorial

Topic: Defense

Location: National World War II Memorial, 17th St. between Constitution and Independence Avenues NW

9:00 AM EDT

Event: Rolling Thunder

Topic: Defense

Location: National World War II Memorial, 17th St. between Constitution and Independence Avenues NW, or as noted

10:30 AM EDT

Event: Arlington National Cemetery

Topic: Defense

Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

1:00 PM EDT

Event: The United States Navy Memorial

Topic: Defense

Location: U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Memorial Plaza

1:00 PM EDT

Event: The City of Alexandria, Va. Office of the Arts

Topic: Arts

Location: Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria, Va.

1:00 PM EDT

Event: The National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Topic: Defense

Location: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 5 Henry Bacon Drive NW

2:00 PM EDT

Event: The American Veterans Center

Topic: Defense

Location: Intersection of Constitution Avenue and Seventh St. NW

Tuesday, May 28

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: TBA

Wednesday, May 29

8:45 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

9:00 AM EDT

Forum: The Association of the U.S. Army Institute of Land Warfare

Topic: Defense

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

9:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Auditorium

9:00 AM EDT

Meeting: State Department

Topic: International Maritime Regulation

Location: Coast Guard Headquarters Building at St. Elizabeth's, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE, Evans Conference Center, Room 6i10-01-a

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Joseph Dunford

Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Falk Auditorium

10:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Brookings Institution

Topic: Defense

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

6:30 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The International Spy Museum

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: International Spy Museum, 700 L'Enfant Plaza SW

Thursday, May 30

8:55 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The Technology Training Corporation

Topic: Defense

Location: Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford St., Arlington, Va.

10:00 AM EDT

Book Discussion: The National Press Club

Topic: Defense

Location: NPC, 14th and F Streets NW, Conference Rooms

12:00 PM EDT

Briefing: The Business Council for International Understanding

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: TBA

1:30 PM EDT

Conversation: Center for a New American Security

Location: Center for a New American Security

1152 15th Street NW | Suite 950

2:00 PM EDT

Book Discussion: The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: CEIP, 1779 Massachusetts Avenue NW

2:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

Friday, May 31

8:55 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: The Technology Training Corporation

Topic: Defense

Location: Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford St., Arlington, Va.

Have a great weekend!