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To: Craig Quigley
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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 – AUGUST 16, 2019

TOP STORIES

North Korea Calls Off Peace Talks

[North Korea has rejected further peace talks with South Korea](#) following a

speech given by South Korean President Moon Jae-in in which he promises the reunification of the Korean peninsula by 2045. On the same day, North Korea launched two projectiles that landed in the waters off the east coast of the peninsula. The projectiles seem to match previous tests of North Korea's KN-23, a hypersonic short-range ballistic missile designed to evade missile defense systems. In addition to the South Korean rhetoric which North Korea views as provocative, North Korea's hostilities are assumed to be due to joint military exercises held this month between the U.S. and South Korea.

New Intel Chief Takes Over

Joseph Maguire took over as [acting Director of National Intelligence](#) when Dan Coats stepped down Thursday, August 15. Going forward, Maguire will need to navigate various intelligence agencies, as well as support a president who has repeatedly criticized the intelligence community. President Trump still has not nominated a permanent director to replace Maguire. It is predicted that Maguire will have issues getting things done, since acting directors aren't seen as staying in the position long-term. Although Maguire is in the mix for being nominated for the permanent position, it has not been formally announced. It will likely be several weeks before a permanent replacement could be confirmed, since the Senate doesn't return until September 9.

President Trump Interested in Buying Greenland

President Trump wants to purchase Greenland from the Danish government, however, the [island's government says it's not for sale](#). He has asked White House aides to look into the matter to research feasibility. Greenland is an

autonomous Danish territory and is home to Thule Air Base, the U.S. military's northernmost base. Thule Air Base acts as a radar and listening post, featuring a Ballistic Missile Early Warning System that can warn of incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles and reach thousands of miles into Russian territory.

Freed Iranian Oil Tanker

Gibraltar has released an Iranian oil tanker that was detained last month due to suspicions of sanction-busting. The tanker was released on the condition that the ship would not discharge cargo in Syria, which is under EU sanctions. The tanker, Grace 1, was carrying Iranian oil. When captured by the U.K. territory in early July, a standoff with Tehran ensued. The U.S. tried to stop the release, causing Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to condemn the U.S. for its actions. The [release of Grace 1 points to a possible resolution](#) between Britain and Iran.

The Effects of Tensions between Japan and South Korea

South Korea and Japan are both American partners in the mission to combat China's growing power in the Pacific. However, since October, tensions have formed between the two countries, rising quickly in the last few weeks. [America's long-term strategy in the region is in jeopardy](#) if the two countries cannot cooperate.

On August 1, Seoul was removed from Japan's "white list," marking the first time a country has been removed from Tokyo's list of trade partners. Following

the news, Seoul removed Tokyo from its own “white list.” The trade war is harmful to both economies, however, now there is talk of harm to intelligence sharing as well. South Korea is threatening to terminate an intelligence sharing agreement known as the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA). This agreement allows information sharing about North Korea signed in 2016. Critics of the move claim there is no benefit to terminating the agreement, and it seems that South Korea has taken a step back from the claim.

Traditionally, the U.S. has stepped in to de-escalate tensions. Defense Secretary Mark Esper reportedly has urged Japan and South Korea to maintain the agreement. Nonetheless, it seems that neither nation wants to back down, though South Korea has said that if Japan wants to peacefully continue cooperation, it would happily oblige. The U.S. must think of the effects of these tensions in relation to its national security and influence with other powers in the region.

ROBPilot Completes Test Flight

The U.S. Air Force has completed a two-hour test flight of a robot kit, [ROBPilot](#), that can turn virtually any plane into a self-piloting drone. Planes and drones are very expensive, some being more expensive than many types of civilian sport aircraft, therefore this ground-breaking technology could save the Department of Defense large sums of federal funding. This system can convert a general aviation aircraft, like the Cessna or Piper, into an unmanned aerial vehicle and then return it to its original piloted configuration. The U.S. Air Force Research Lab has partnered with DZYNE Technologies to produce the system.

This Day in History

1513

Henry VIII of England and Emperor Maximilian defeat the French at Guinegate, France, in the Battle of the Spurs.

1858

U.S. President James Buchanan and Britain's Queen Victoria exchange messages inaugurating the first transatlantic telegraph line.

1896

Gold is discovered in the Klondike of Canada's Yukon Territory, setting off the Klondike Gold Rush.

1987

Astrological alignment of sun, moon and six planets marks what believers maintain is the dawning of a New Age.

1988

IBM introduces artificial intelligence software.

1990

Iraq orders 2,500 Americans and 4,000 British nationals in Kuwait to Iraq, in the aftermath of Iraq's invasion of that country.

Look Ahead

Monday, August 19

7:30 AM EDT

Forum: Technology Policy Institute, Day 2

Topic: Tech

Location: St. Regis Aspen Resort, 315 E Dean St, Aspen, CO 81611

9:30 AM EDT

Meeting: Health and Human Services Department; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Topic: CMS Outpatient Payment Updates

Location: CMS Single Site Campus, 7500 Security Boulevard, Auditorium, Baltimore, Md.

1:00 PM EDT

Webinar: The American Bar Association

Topic: Defense

Tuesday, August 20

7:30 AM EDT

Forum: Technology Policy Institute, Day 3

Topic: Tech

Location: St. Regis Aspen Resort, 315 E Dean St, Aspen, CO 81611

7:55 AM EDT

Conference: The Digital Government Institute

Topic: Government Operations

Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place NW

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: Veterans Health Care Research

Location: 20 F St. Conference Center, 20 F St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, Day 1

Topic: Homeland Security

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

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems, Day 1

Topic: Unmanned Systems

Location: 2660 Woodley Rd NW

12:00 PM EDT

Discussion: The East-West Center in Washington

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

2:45 PM EDT

Discussion: The Atlantic Council

Topic: Foreign Affairs

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

3:00 PM EDT

Discussion: Foundation for Defense of Democracies

Topic: Defense Strategy

Location: 1800 M Street NW, Suite 800, South Tower

Wednesday, August 21

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: Veterans Health Care Research

Location: 20 F St. Conference Center, 20 F St. NW

9:00 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, Day 2

Topic: Homeland Security

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

9:00 AM EDT

Conference: Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems, Day 2

Topic: Unmanned Systems

Location: 2660 Woodley Rd NW

9:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

11:00 AM EDT

Discussion: The Hudson Institute

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400

11:30 AM EDT

Discussion: The Meridian International Center

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Location: UAE Embassy, 3522 International Court NW

1:00 PM EDT

Webinar: The Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Topic: Foreign Affairs

Thursday, August 22

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: Veterans Health Care Research

Location: 20 F St. Conference Center, 20 F St. NW

8:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

8:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement, Day 3

Topic: Homeland Security

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

10:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Justice Department; Foreign Claims Settlement Commission

Topic: Iraqi Foreign Claims and World War II Guam Loyalty Act

Location: Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, 441 G St. NW, Room 6234

Friday, August 23

8:00 AM EDT

Meeting: Veterans Affairs Department

Topic: Veterans Health Care Research

Location: 20 F St. Conference Center, 20 F St. NW

8:50 AM EDT

Summit: The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement

Topic: Defense

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

Have a great weekend!

The Executive Insight Brief is a compilation of articles of interest prepared by the The Roosevelt Group research team. This information is provided for

situational awareness. Items are chosen to highlight trends and issues in the news and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of The Roosevelt Group.

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