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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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Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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## Notable Headlines

- [Russia says flagship missile cruiser has sunk after explosion off coast of Ukraine](#)
- [Kyiv Rocked by Explosions as Russia Steps Up Attacks](#)
- [GAO completes investigation of the decision to relocate U.S. Space Command](#)
- [Agencies announce plans for more equity in federal programs](#)
- [IARPA posts biomanufacturing RFI](#)

**Market growth:** [How the AI boom created a new market for chip startups](#)

**Less than ideal:** [The FDA's Food Failure](#)

**Upcoming:** [ARCYBER to host machine learning collaboration event](#)

## Budget & Appropriations

[As Republicans push Pentagon over inflation, Austin says FY23 budget is 'robust' \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

Amid sharp questioning from Republican senators over whether the Pentagon had properly factored in rising inflation for its \$773 billion fiscal 2023 budget request, top Defense Department leaders maintained that the money would be enough for its modernization programs and to counter rivals like Russia and China. "This is a robust budget and I think it allows us to get the capabilities that we need to support our operational concepts," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee today alongside Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley and DoD Comptroller Michael McCord. During the hearing, Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said inflation in the realm of 7% or 8% would mean significantly less buying power for the three-quarters of a trillion dollars planned, and he, among others, urged the Biden administration to increase defense spending to keep up. In a letter to Austin, Inhofe and Rep. Mike Rogers, the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, said the Pentagon had inaccurately predicted a roughly 2% inflation rate.

[Biden to push Congress on competition bill](#)

[Manchin and Sinema are coy about reviving parts of the Build Back Better plan. Democrats hope they're not being strung along. \(Business Insider\)](#)

Like Pesci's character Tommy DeVito in the classic mob movie, their legislative agenda seems like it will be "made" into something close to untouchable. But at the last moment, two hitmen execute DeVito — who suddenly realizes he was strung along— and the stalled climate and social bill could face a similar fate at the hands of a pair of centrist holdouts. After last year's total collapse in negotiations, Democrats are now preparing to take a final shot at approving a slimmer climate and healthcare spending bill. "The fact that we haven't been able to come up with something that we can agree on yet — it's just shocking to me," Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia told Insider. "I think we need to get a deal." They face a tricky situation balancing competing demands from Sens. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Joe Manchin of West Virginia. They can't afford to lose either vote in the 50-50 Senate since they must all coalesce behind a bill to pass it over fierce GOP opposition. Manchin sank the House-approved package late last year and Sinema never publicly committed to it.

### **Unfunded Requirements Lists Release by DoD:**

[Marine Corps](#)

[Space Force](#)

[FY 23 CSA UPL](#)

[Navy](#)

[Air Force](#)

[FY 23 CSA UPL 7 APR22 Mil Con summary](#)

[SOCOM FY 23 UFR](#)

[INDOPACOM FY 23 URL](#)

[FY 23 CSA UPL 7 APR 22 ARMY Bin Summary](#)

#### [House appropriators plan June markups on fiscal 2023 bills \(Roll Call\)](#)

The House Appropriations Committee is tentatively planning to take up its fiscal 2023 spending bills in June, teeing up potential floor votes in July, according to people familiar with the schedule. Subcommittees would mark up their 12 annual bills from June 13 to June 22. The full committee would hold its markups from June 22 through June 30. A source familiar with the plans said the dates are tentative and will not be confirmed until an official notice is sent out. A committee spokesperson declined to comment on the schedule. The top four appropriators in the House and Senate, known as the "four corners," are expected to meet shortly after the two-week recess this month to begin discussions aimed at reaching a bipartisan agreement on overall discretionary spending levels for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [Finnish NATO decision coming in 'weeks,' with Swedish choice not far behind \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The clock appears to have started on Finland and Sweden joining NATO. In a joint press conference today, Finnish prime minister Sanna Marin and Swedish prime minister Magdalena Andersson openly discussed the potential for joining the alliance, something that seemed almost impossible just six months ago — before Russia's Vladimir Putin launched an invasion of non-NATO member Ukraine. Marin stated that a decision on membership would come “within weeks, not months,” while Andersson indicated a security review, which is expected to inform any Swedish decision, could be completed earlier than a May 31 target date. In Washington, there is growing consensus among experts and interlocutors with both European countries that NATO membership will happen, with Finland likely making the formal jump in the coming weeks and Sweden following shortly after. Two events from today are likely to throw fuel onto that fire.

### [US Rushes \\$800M In Weapons, Helicopters to Ukraine as Russia Coils for New Offensive Into the Donbas](#)



### [Collins Aerospace Creates Group to Make Hypersonic Weapons, Next-Generation Aircraft \(Defense One\)](#)

Raytheon Technologies' Collins Aerospace has quietly created a new business unit that executives say will allow the company to build critical parts for next-generation military aircraft and hypersonic weapons. Called Advanced Structures, the group is reimagining the way aircraft and weapons are manufactured with new types of composite materials. The technology could make futuristic planes and missiles lighter and able to withstand extreme forces and temperatures, executives said. "This isn't about company synergies or anything like that," Samir Mehta, the group's president, said in an interview. "This is really about taking the industrial capability that exists in one part of the organization, some of the enabling technologies that exist in another part of the organization, and putting them together to help change and to help grow what our aerostructures business can do."

## [DIA sees ‘dramatic’ change in space competition; China, Russia ‘mature’ capabilities](#)

### [Combined Maritime Forces establishes new naval group to patrol Red Sea region \(Defense News\)](#)

The multinational Combined Maritime Forces in the Middle East will stand up a new Combined Task Force-153 to specifically address maritime threats in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The U.S. Navy will lead the task force initially, but will quickly hand leadership over to a regional partner, U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, the commander of U.S. 5th Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command, told reporters in an April 13 call. Cooper, who also leads the Combined Maritime Forces organization, would not directly say the new organization is meant to counter the maritime threats posed by the Iran-backed Houthi forces in Yemen. Rather, he said the April 17 standup of CTF-153 will “strengthen the Combined Maritime Force, which is the world’s largest multinational naval partnership, and ultimately we’ll enhance security and stability in the Red Sea and the region.”

## **Advanced Technologies**

### [INTO THE MILITARY METAVERSE: An empty buzzword or a virtual resource for the Pentagon? \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

But the hype and hope of the metaverse isn’t restricted to the civilian world, and is slowly inching into the Pentagon among leaders both eager to show the military’s technology-forward stance and for those seriously studying the tech’s usefulness. An Army one-star gave a detailed answer on the history of the term metaverse at a conference in December. Contractors boast about augmented and virtual reality technologies that will bring the metaverse to the military. Military simulated training investments are characterized as metaverse research. And that Air Force office dubbed its virtual reality meeting as an early foray into the metaverse — accompanied by NFTs. To understand the future of the military and the metaverse, Breaking Defense spoke with key Pentagon officials, outside experts and representatives from industry. While there are varying levels of enthusiasm, there is a growing agreement that as long as the military enters the virtual world with clear (if augmented) eyes, it could greatly benefit American warfighters in ways ranging from immersive combat planning to hyper-realistic virtual training to truly experiencing weapons systems in ways that have never before been possible.

[Kathleen Hicks warns of ‘substantial decline’ in defense-industrial base competition](#)



[Government action on tech innovation is good news for startups \(Tech Crunch\)](#)

Over the past year strong, bipartisan alignment has emerged between the executive and legislative branches around a set of actions aimed at closing gaps and removing barriers to success, best thought of as the “Critical 4Cs”: Culture, Contracting, Congressional Budget Cycles and Champions. Let’s start with Champions. The American people are fortunate to have two of Silicon Valley’s greatest champions in Deputy Secretary Kathleen Hicks and Under Secretary for Research and Engineering (R&E) and (CTO) Heidi Shyu. They, along with other champions in the Pentagon, fully understand the challenge and have taken concrete steps from the top down to prime the DOD system for innovation.

[This is what cloud-native looks like for the Department of Defense](#)

### [Defense Department drone project takes flight at North Carolina technology institute \(Stars and Stripes\)](#)

Two drone demonstrations took place Wednesday at Emerging Technology Institute where attendees learned of drone technology that can be used to transport items like blood or supplies needed to soldiers on the battlefield. The FVR-90 drone can travel up to 18,000 feet at speeds as high as 65 knots or close to 75 mph, according to Aaron Farber, a chief engineer for the Tactical Unmanned Aerial System Business Area at L3Harris. The drone can carry 20 pounds in its nose area and 10 pounds on each side. "It's a vertical take-off fixed-wing hybrid aircraft that enables long-duration missions," he said.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [Hawaii Approves New Monitoring Wells To Track Red Hill Fuel Pollution \(Honolulu Civil Beat\)](#)

Eight new monitoring wells will be installed around the Navy's Red Hill fuel facility to help officials locate and track contamination that leaked from the complex, the state announced Friday. The Hawaii Commission on Water Resource Management approved a Navy application to install the wells in locations chosen in consultation with the state Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, according to a press release. Thousands of gallons of fuel leaked from the facility last year, likely combining with petroleum from previous releases in Oahu's groundwater. Where that contaminated water may be migrating, experts and regulators don't know, but they hope the new wells will provide some clues. "These wells will add to our existing knowledge of the hydrogeology of the area and provide for long term monitoring of our water resources," said Kaleo Manuel, deputy director of the water commission. "These wells meet (the commission's) construction standards and are designed to protect the environment and water resources."





### [Army Installations Facing Wide Threats](#)

#### [\\$1.3 Billion Hospital, DoD's Newest, Still Without Drinkable Water \(Military.com\)](#)

Water restrictions have continued this week at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, just nine months after the facility opened its doors. As of Wednesday, hospital employees and patients were able to use the water for handwashing and showering, but restrictions continued on its use for drinking or medical needs such as sterilization and surgery after sediment and discoloration was found throughout the facility last week. Employees noticed there was debris in the water in one department on March 25, according to a base press release. Officials thought the problem was limited to that section, but hospital-wide testing found the sediment elsewhere.

#### [Schriever Space Force Base Receives \\$30 Million for New Fitness Center](#)

#### [Doorstep deliveries starting June 1 for these 8 military commissaries \(Air Force Times\)](#)

The Defense Commissary Agency awarded contracts to two veteran-owned companies on April 14 for delivery services. From April 17 through May 31, the contractors will integrate and test their technology with the commissary agency's eCommerce system. The doorstep delivery starts June 1, and the contracts for the pilot program run for 90 days, through Aug. 30, according to contract documents. The doorstep delivery service will be an extension of the current worldwide Click2Go program, where customers order their commissary items online, pay for it and then pick it up at the commissary curbside. This new delivery service will be available for locations within a 20-mile "driven" radius from the eight selected stores. The delivery fee in most cases will be less than \$4.

## Homeland Security

### [Are Smart Buildings the Next Target for Cyberattacks? \(HSToday\)](#)

Smart buildings and IoT sensors and devices have revolutionized the traditional way of living. Smart building benefits like energy efficiency, cost reduction and improved tenant comfort and security have spurred increased demand worldwide — with the number of smart buildings expected to increase 9.9 percent by 2028. Today's smart buildings rely on hundreds to thousands of IoT sensors and computers connected to local servers and the internet to automate functionalities like controlling lighting, climate and elevators, as well as fire detection, video surveillance and badge access. These sensors, used in conjunction with Building Automation System (BAS), provide a mountain of valuable insights and actionable data about building condition and performance. Yet, they often lack basic cybersecurity features, making them prone to cyberattacks. For example, BACnet, the data communication protocol for HVAC control, is deployed in an unencrypted format, making it vulnerable to be exploited by attackers.

### [Suspect in Brooklyn subway train shooting called in the tip that led to his arrest, sources say](#)



### [Homeland Security Prepares to Deploy New Capabilities to Counter Unmanned Threats \(NextGov\)](#)

Maryland-based technical and engineering services provider Amentum landed a five-year contract worth up to \$260 million to produce and deploy prototypes that target emerging and uncrewed air, land, maritime, space and cyber threats for the Department of Homeland Security. “Amentum is providing DHS with a team of proven counter-unmanned systems experts to identify and assess new technologies and processes against evolving threats,” an Amentum spokesperson told Nextgov on Wednesday. “An advantage is the demonstrated flexibility in which we can rapidly respond to evolving requirements, tailored to the government’s mission.” The company has worked with federal agencies since the inception of its legacy arms more than a century ago.

### [ISIS Calls for ‘Social Media Warfare’ to Counter ‘Enchanting’ Influencers and Incite](#)

### [U.S. COVID-19 Cases Rise Again with BA.2 \(WebMD\)](#)

COVID-19 case numbers are trending up in the U.S. once more, with nearly all new infections driven by the growth of the Omicron subvariant BA.2. At the same time, the U.S. hasn’t yet seen a dramatic rise in cases, and COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are still at low levels. Public health officials are watching the numbers to determine what could happen next. “We are certainly seeing the beginning of a surge in new infections,” Anthony

Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN. In an ideal scenario, he said, the U.S. would reach transmission rates that are “low enough” to not disrupt “our daily economic, workplace and social lives.” Until then, Americans have to be prepared to take precautions and calculate their own risks.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### [Linux Foundation, Google Cloud launch Nephio to automate 5G edge sites \(Fierce Wireless\)](#)

The Linux Foundation partnered with Google Cloud and others to create a new open source project called Nephio. It aims to create cloud-native automation and management of 5G networks across multiple edge locations. The project has support from several founding organizations. Interestingly, most of the service provider founders are not based in the U.S. They include Bharti Airtel, Bell Canada, Jio, Orange, Rakuten Mobile, TIM and Telus, to name a few. But none of the big-name U.S. service providers are founding members. Several vendors are getting in at the start as well, including ARM, Casa Systems, Ericsson, F5, Intel, Juniper, Mavenir, Nokia, Parallel Wireless, Vmware and more.

### [California Reveals Its Plan to Phase Out New Gas-Powered Cars by 2035](#)



#### [Maryland approves \\$23M for wastewater infrastructure \(Water World\)](#)

Maryland officials have announced that it has approved more than \$23 million in grants and loans for wastewater infrastructure projects that reduce water pollution and save energy. “These are smart investments to protect public health and the environment,” said Maryland Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. “Moving ahead with the Piscataway sewage treatment plant bio-energy project and upgrading sewer and wastewater treatment systems will help us to green and grow the state’s economy and lead in the race to protect and restore Chesapeake Bay watersheds.” The following projects were approved: Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant Bio-Energy project – Prince George’s County A \$15 million Water Quality State Revolving Loan Fund loan to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, in addition to previous loans of more than \$128 million and a previous \$3 million Energy Water Infrastructure Program grant, will help fund the design and construction of bio-energy facilities at the Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will receive sludge from other WSSC wastewater treatment plants.

#### [High Tech, High Stakes: How Vulnerable to Cyberattacks Is U.S. Water Infrastructure?](#)

#### [Lots of broadband money, but US expansion finds speed bumps \(AP\)](#)

In the remote Vermont community of Victory, Town Clerk Tracey Martel says she's regularly frustrated watching a spinning circle on her computer while she tries to complete even the most basic municipal chores online. "Fast internet would be really good," said Martel, whose community of about 70 was one of the last in Vermont to receive electricity almost 60 years ago. The DSL service she has now works for basic internet, but it can be spotty and it doesn't allow users to access all the benefits of the interconnected world. About 5 miles (8 kilometers) away as the bird flies in the neighboring community along Miles Pond in the town of Concord, a new fiber optic line is beginning to bring truly high-speed internet to residents of the remote area known as the Northeast Kingdom. "I'm looking forward to high-speed internet, streaming TV," said Concord resident John Gilchrist, as a crew ran fiber optic cable to his home earlier this year.

## Biotechnology & Healthcare

### [COVID remains a public health emergency for now, the WHO and Biden administration say \(NPR\)](#)

The World Health Organization and the Biden administration are both saying that COVID-19 remains a public health emergency, even as global deaths from the virus have reached the lowest levels since March 2020. Both the WHO and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services first declared COVID-19 a public health emergency in January 2020. More than two years later, the pandemic situation has improved, but global health experts believe the virus is still a major health threat. More needs to be done before the WHO can lift this designation, the organization's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday during a press conference.



### [Affordable Care Act subsidy cliff hits Southern states hardest](#)

#### [As Medicaid enrollment nears 5.2 million, Florida Supreme Court says it won't review proposed expansion \(Florida Politics\)](#)

After two years of legal wrangling, the Florida high court issued a ruling on proposed Medicaid expansion. A long shot bid aimed at bringing Medicaid expansion to Florida won't be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court, ending two years of legal wrangling. The high court on Thursday dismissed a request to review the proposed constitutional amendment, which is technically still active for the 2024 ballot according to the state elections website even though organizers have not gathered any petition signatures in some time. The decision comes as enrollment in Florida's Medicaid program continues to climb. More than 5.18 million people were in the program as of March 31. Enrollment is at an all-time high due to the pandemic and public health emergency.

### [Open sharing of biotechnology research—transparency versus security](#)

### [Study: How do we reach 'food security? Biotechnology is key \(Genetic Literacy Project\)](#)

Global warming causes a range of negative impacts on plants especially due to rapid changes in temperatures, alterations of rainfall patterns, floods or drought conditions, and outbreaks of pests and diseases. These, in turn, affect crop production reducing the quality and quantity of agricultural produce. Climatic extremes and high population growth significantly increase the world's food demand. Therefore, fulfilling the goal of attaining food security for the present and future generations is of prime importance. Biotechnology enables creating dramatic alterations on crops to withstand stress which is difficult to attain using conventional breeding approaches. It is a viable tool used to improve agricultural production. The development of biotechnological approaches such as genetic engineering, genome editing, RNA-mediated gene silencing armored with next-generation sequencing, and genome mapping have paved the way for precise and faster genetic modifications of plants. Such intensive efforts are currently underway creating desirable crop cultivars to meet the food demand and to support sustainable agricultural productivity for climate change adaptation.

## **Climate & Development**

### [Scientists Stage Worldwide Climate Change Protests After IPCC Report](#)

#### [Battle over carbon capture as tool to fight climate change \(AP\)](#)

Polly Glover realized her son had asthma when he was nine months old. Now 26, he carries an inhaler in his pocket whenever he's out and about in Prairieville, Louisiana, part of Ascension Parish. "He probably needs to leave Ascension quite frankly," Glover says, but he hasn't because "this is his home and this is our family and this is our community." The parish is part of the 85-mile (137-kilometer) span between New Orleans and Baton Rouge officially called the Mississippi River Chemical Corridor, more commonly known as Cancer Alley. The region's air quality is some of the worst in the United States, and in several places along the corridor, cancer risks are much higher than levels considered acceptable by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Glover says the air is "terrible" where she lives, but there's also great biodiversity — osprey, eagles, migratory birds, deer, rabbits, fish and alligators — among the region's lakes, rivers and wetlands. The environmental advocate has been working for 30 years to preserve the place she's loved since childhood.





## [Climate-Reporting Rules Could Let Companies Look Greener Than They Are](#)

### [Backed-up pipes, stinky yards: Climate change is wrecking septic tanks \(WaPo\)](#)

As climate change intensifies, septic failures are emerging as a vexing issue for local governments. For decades, flushing a toilet and making wastewater disappear was a convenience that didn't warrant a second thought. No longer. From Miami to Minnesota, septic systems are failing, posing threats to clean water, ecosystems and public health. About 20 percent of U.S. households rely on septic, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Many systems are clustered in coastal areas that are experiencing relative sea-level rise, including around Boston and New York. Nearly half of New England homes depend on them. Florida hosts 2.6 million systems. Of the 120,000 in Miami-Dade County, more than half of them fail to work properly at some point during the year, helping to fuel deadly algae blooms in Biscayne Bay, home to the nation's only underwater national park. The cost to convert those systems into a central sewer plant would be more than \$4 billion.

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## Next Week's Hearings

Next week Congress is out of session for a state work period that is scheduled to run until April 22.

HASC: **None Listed**

SASC: **None Listed**

Defense Appropriations Subcommittees

**House: None Listed**

**Senate: None Listed**

Homeland Security Committees

**House: None Listed**

**Senate: None Listed**

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