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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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- [GOP appropriators blast Air Force plan to jettison 250 planes](#)
- [Online posts reveal suspected gunman spent months planning racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket](#)

Worth highlighting: [We Finally Have a Federal Fiber Broadband Plan](#)

A look inside: [The Great Transcontinental Chip Race](#)

Latest announcement: [Pentagon CIO stands ground on December timeline for JEDI follow-up](#)

Budget & Appropriations

[Fed's Powell vows to raise rates as high as needed to kill inflation surge \(Reuters\)](#)

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Tuesday pledged that the U.S. central bank would ratchet interest rates as high as needed to kill a surge in inflation that he said threatened the foundation of the economy. "What we need to see is inflation coming down in a clear and convincing way and we're going to keep pushing until we see that," Powell said at a Wall Street Journal event. "If we don't see that, we will have to consider moving more aggressively" to tighten financial conditions. "Achieving price stability, restoring price stability, is an unconditional need. Something we have to do because really the economy doesn't work for workers or for businesses or for anybody without price stability. It's the bedrock of the economy really." Acknowledging the possible "pain" that controlling inflation might cause in terms of slower economic growth or higher unemployment, Powell said there were "pathways" for the pace of price hikes to ease without a full-blown recession.

[Congress OKs Latest \\$40B to Help Ukraine Repulse Russia](#)

[DoD space acquisition agencies 'de-conflicted' 2024 budget requests, a first \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The new(ish) Program Integration Council (PIC) scored a victory in the run up to the Defense Department's fiscal 2024 budget request, for the first time coordinating the five-year planning

documents for future space acquisition among its interagency members, the head of Space Force's acquisition command said on Wednesday. And while this may sound like boring budgetary geekery, it is a major bureaucratic muscle movement that will help the Pentagon to get a grip on streamlining national security space acquisition — an issue of deep concern in Congress and one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Space Force in the first place. And it will be music to the ears of many on Capitol Hill. Lt. Gen. Michael Guetlein, director of Space Systems Command (SSC), told the Center for Strategic and International Studies on Wednesday that the PIC members — which include SSC, Space Development Agency, the Missile Defense Agency, the Space Rapid Capabilities Office, the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office and the National Reconnaissance Office — had “de-conflicted” their inputs to the fiscal 2024 Program Objective Memorandum (POM).

[‘An insult to working people’: Democrats struggle with next tax move](#)



[Republicans split on adding semiconductor tax breaks to competition bill \(Roll Call\)](#)

An effort to add bipartisan tax incentives for U.S. semiconductor manufacturing to a larger economic competitiveness package is running into divisions among House Republicans. The top-ranking GOP member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, is among those who believe giving tax breaks to chipmakers is too narrow an approach as Congress aims to get the U.S. on better footing in sectors where China leads. But Republicans who proposed the semiconductor tax credits want to see swift action, citing an urgent need for the country to attract semiconductor plants. “I just don’t see the need for a tax title if it ... just favors a single industry,” Brady said Friday in a brief interview. The Senate Finance Committee’s highest-ranking members — Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Michael D. Crapo, R-Idaho — are leading the push to add tax provisions to the competitiveness package as 107 lawmakers embark on the conference

process to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of legislation on the subject. The effort kicked off with a public meeting Thursday in which disagreement on potential tax additions emerged.

Aerospace & Defense

[Navy says it will lose millions by not committing to 10 destroyers in upcoming contract \(Defense News\)](#)

The U.S. Navy doesn't want to promise to buy too many ships in the next five years, in case it can't follow through due to budget or supply chain constraints. But its unwillingness to guarantee work to shipbuilders will cost the sea service millions of dollars in the long run, a top official told Defense News. The Navy needs more Flight III Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, as the cruisers begin to exit the fleet and the Flight I DDGs near the end of their planned service lives. A number of lawmakers have said they're open to funding three new destroyers a year compared to the expected two a year, something industry — the Ingalls Shipbuilding yard in Mississippi and the General Dynamics Bath Iron Works yard in Maine, plus their suppliers — would welcome. But the Navy only has two a year in its near-term shipbuilding plans.

[Space Force targets 2027 for resilient on-orbit posture initial capability](#)

[A Swedish Compromise Won't Solve NATO's Turkey Problem \(Defense One\)](#)

Four years ago, during the ISIS wars, Turkey frustrated U.S. commanders by fighting with America's Western-friendly proxy partners—the Kurd-led Syrian Democratic Forces—and by playing cozy with Russia. During a visit to Syria, a top general told me that despite the Turkish autocrat, his racist views of the Kurds, and his nuclear geopolitics, it's better in the long run to have Turkey in the NATO alliance than outside it. Is NATO still sure about that? Times have changed since Turkey was causing trouble for U.S. special operators in the Syria sandbox. So have the stakes. On Wednesday, Sweden and Finland did the once-unthinkable by giving up their semi-neutrality and formally applying for NATO membership. It's a monumental shift that would bring more than 10 million Swedes, 5 million Finns, and 330,000 square miles of territory under the alliance's nuclear umbrella and its Article V treaty-level obligation to defend it. Hours later, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan single-handedly blocked NATO from fast-tracking Sweden and Finland's membership.

[Pentagon's high-level group to aid Ukraine is rooted in Iraq and Afghanistan fight](#)

[Turkey's Leader Says 'No' to Sweden and Finland's NATO Bid \(Military.com\)](#)

Turkey will oppose Sweden and Finland joining NATO, the country's president flatly stated in a video released Thursday. "We have told our relevant friends we would say 'no' to Finland and Sweden's entry into NATO, and we will continue on our path like this," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a group of Turkish youth in the video for Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, a national holiday. Turkey's approval of Finland and Sweden's application to join the Western military alliance is crucial because NATO makes decisions by consensus. Each of its 30 member countries has the power to veto a membership bid.

Advanced Technologies

[The US Military Is Building Its Own Metaverse \(Wired\)](#)

ON MAY 10, two fighter pilots performed a high-altitude proto-metaverse experiment. A few thousand feet above the desert of California, in a pair of Berkut 540 jets, they donned custom AR headsets to connect to a system that overlaid a ghostly, glowing image of a refueling aircraft flying alongside them in the sky. One of the pilots then performed a refueling maneuver with the virtual tanker while the other looked on. Welcome to the fledgling military metaverse. It isn't only Silicon Valley that's gripped by metaverse mania these days. Just as tech companies and corporations are scrambling to develop strategies for virtual worlds, many defense startups, contractors, and funders are increasingly talking up the metaverse, even if its definition and utility aren't always clear. The key technologies needed for the metaverse—augmented and virtual reality, headmounted displays, 3D simulations and virtual environments built by artificial intelligence—are already found in the defense world. The result is a lot less polished, cutesy, and spacious than Mark Zuckerberg's virtual world vision, but that's partly the point. And there's a good chance that the underlying tech could take off, even if it stutters in the civilian realm.

[The Pentagon Is Closing in on 'Ethical' AI Implementation](#)

[ARRW Flies at Hypersonic Speeds in First Successful Test \(AF Magazine\)](#)

The Air Force conducted its first successful test of the Air-launched Rapid Response Weapon, or

ARRW, on May 14, snapping a streak of three consecutive failed tests and giving the beleaguered hypersonics program a much needed boost. Off the coast of Southern California, the AGM-183A ARRW separated from the wing of a B-52H Stratofortress, according to an Air Force release, then its booster ignited and burned for an “expected duration,” flying at hypersonic speeds—at least five times the speed of sound. The 419th Flight Test Squadron and the Global Power Bomber Combined Test Force from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., executed the test. “The test team made sure we executed this test flawlessly,” Lt. Col. Michael Jungquist, 419th FLTS commander and GPB CTF director, said in a statement. “Our highly-skilled team made history on this first air-launched hypersonic weapon. We’re doing everything we can to get this game-changing weapon to the warfighter as soon as possible.”

[Defense Innovation Unit picks designs for space nuclear propulsion demo](#)

[Navy creates Unmanned Surface Vessel Division to expedite integration of unmanned systems \(Defense News\)](#)

The Pacific Fleet has stood up Unmanned Surface Vessel Division One to expedite the integration of unmanned surface vessels. The unit will manage unmanned surface vessel experimentation for medium and large unmanned surface vessels like the Sea Hunter and the Sea Hawk, both of which will participate in anti-submarine warfare missions. The Pacific Fleet’s Naval Surface Force held a ceremony May 13 establishing the command at Naval Base San Diego. “To meet the challenges of the 21st Century, we must continue to innovate the surface force,” Cmdr. Jeremiah Daley, the commanding officer of the unit, said in a Navy news release. “USVDIV One will accelerate the delivery of credible and reliable unmanned systems in conjunction with increasingly capable manned platforms into the fleet.” Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Forces, was also present at the ceremony and described the command as a “catalyst for innovation as we employ unmanned surface capabilities in the Pacific Fleet.”

Military Installations & Communities

[State shows ‘disturbing’ fuel contamination plume maps from Red Hill spills \(Hawaii News Now\)](#)

Six months after the Navy’s tainted water crisis went public, the state has released new maps showing the underground movement of the contamination. For the first time, the public is seeing Department of Health maps of the plume of petroleum contamination based on Navy data. It shows the plume before last year’s fuel spills, during the height of the last year’s spill and what it looks like today. “I was shocked, speechless just to see the extent of the contamination and how severe it was was really quite startling,” said Marti Townsend, former director of the Sierra Club of Hawaii. “The contamination in the water supply existed before November 2021, it endures now

and while the intensity has decreased, it's clear that the plume is spreading towards the west," she added.

[News 3 looks into 'forever chemicals' reported at Hampton Roads military bases](#)

[Veterans to Get Improved Access to Mammograms Through Bills Headed to Biden's Desk \(Military.com\)](#)

Veterans, including those who may be at increased risk for breast cancer because of their service near burn pits, could have better access to breast cancer screenings under a pair of bills that cleared Congress this week. The House on Wednesday night voted 418-0 to approve the Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments, or SERVICE, Act, which would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct mammograms for all women who served near burn pits or other toxic exposures, regardless of symptoms, age or family history. The chamber also voted 419-0 to pass the Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options, or MAMMO, for Veterans Act, which would require the VA to craft a strategic plan to improve breast imaging services within a year, create a three-year pilot program of tele mammography for veterans in areas where the VA does not offer in-house mammograms, and expand veterans' access to clinical trials through partnerships with the National Cancer Institute.



[Despite Housing Troubles Plaguing Sailors, Navy Determined to Spend](#)

Money on Shipyards

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NAMES LEAD FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (Ritz Herald)

In March, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced the establishment of a Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee to address suicides in the U.S. military. Yesterday, the department announced that Dr. Gayle Iwamasa of the Department of Veterans Affairs will lead the committee. Iwamasa will lead a team of nine, which includes an expert on sexual assault and suicide, an epidemiologist, an expert on substance abuse, retired military personnel, a public health expert and a retired military chaplain. “The committee members are in Washington this week to begin their work and in July they will start visits to the installations that were named in the onsite installation evaluation report back in March,” Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a briefing today. “The review of these initial installations will yield recommendations for the department that can be applied across our force.”

Homeland Security

PERSPECTIVE: Modern Port Operations Must Consider Cybersecurity from the Start (HSToday)

The concerning level of shipping congestion off the U.S. coast, along with recent global supply chain disruptions, is evidence that U.S. ports are in desperate need of technological modernization. Ports are the nexus in complex supply chains, yet many of the largest dockyards in the world continue to struggle with disruptions and fluctuations in volume and congestion. Connectivity is essential to modernizing our ports and preparing for increased supply chain demand. Connected devices like sensors, cameras, and navigation systems stand to enhance everything from unloading time to equipment uptime for an industry that contributes over \$150 billion to the nation’s economic growth annually, according to a study for the Transportation Institute. The resounding message is clear: port and terminal operators, who are undertaking much-needed digital modernization efforts, must simultaneously implement improved cybersecurity capabilities that are designed and “built-in” to the industrial network infrastructure from the start.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$33 Million in FEMA Funding Opportunities for Dam Safety, Applications Open May 16



A tactical to strategic effect (right, upper, back box) means a viral agent can be expected to produce an effect end point that is tactical, operational, or strategic with lower-tier outcomes inclusive. By examining the relationship and interconnectivity of the tunable factors, it is possible to determine the desired effects. Conversely, it is possible to identify the levels of the tunable factors to achieve the desired effect level.

[US set to remove 5 groups from foreign terrorism blacklist](#)

[DHS Secretary Mayorkas Promises 'Every Available Resource' After Buffalo Attack to 'Combat Violent Extremism as One' \(HSToday\)](#)

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement reacting to the Buffalo mass shooting late Sunday that the Department of Homeland Security is “devoting every available resource to combat all forms of terrorism and targeted violence to keep our communities safe and secure.” Payton Gendron, 18, of Conklin, N.Y., allegedly drove about 200 miles to a Tops grocery store in Buffalo and initially opened fire on people in the parking lot Saturday before entering the store and continuing to shoot. Ten people were killed and three were wounded. The shooting was livestreamed via a helmet camera on Twitch, which promptly removed the video. In a 180-page manifesto posted online in conjunction with the attack, the author identifies himself as Gendron and calls himself a populist, fascist, white supremacist, antisemite, and racist while detailing his belief in the “white genocide” anti-immigrant conspiracy theory. The writer credited Christchurch terrorist Brenton Tarrant with having the greatest influence on his radicalization, and said he

subsequently “found other fighters, like Patrick Crucius, Anders Breivek, Dylann Roof, and John Earnest” and took inspiration from them as well.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[5G Technology and the IoT Introduce New Regulatory and Security Concerns for Developers \(JDSupra\)](#)

Over the last several years, the proptech movement has become entrenched in the lexicon of the real estate industry as developers use the term as a catch-all term for using technology in the construction of new commercial buildings and begin planning for Smart Cities. The various technologies incorporate wireless sensors, broadband service and other cloud-based applications to reduce energy costs, improve transportation and enhance security. At the same time, the introduction of these technologies increases the likelihood that property owners will need to incorporate an extra layer (or two) of due diligence when incorporating these services. Not only do many Internet of Things (IoT) devices use wireless spectrum to communicate with other devices, but recent actions by the Federal government have led to the prohibition of certain equipment manufactured in China. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has primary responsibility over devices that use wireless spectrum and also implements federal policy with respect to devices that may implicate national security concerns.

[California's electrical grid has an EV problem](#)



[China in talks with automakers on EV subsidy extension \(Reuters\)](#)

China is in talks with automakers about extending costly subsidies for electric vehicles (EV) that were set to expire in 2022, aiming to keep a key market growing as the broader economy slows, three people familiar with the matter said. The move by policymakers comes as the world's second-biggest economy has slowed sharply - and auto sales along with it - after cities led by Shanghai imposed tight COVID-19 lockdowns from March. The curbs have shut stores, disrupted supply chains and slashed spending, including on new homes. Government departments including the Ministry of Information and Industrial Technology (MIIT) are considering a continuation of subsidies to EV buyers in 2023, said the people, who declined to be named as the discussions were private. China's expensive incentive programme has been credited with creating the world's largest EV market. Since the subsidies began in 2009, some 100 billion yuan (\$14.8 billion) has been handed out to buyers including commercial fleet operators up to end-2021, according to an estimate by Shi Ji, an auto analyst with China Merchants Bank International.

[Brightline high-speed train arrives at new OIA station for the first time](#)

[Texas approves \\$28M for water infrastructure \(WaterWorld\)](#)

The Texas Water Development Board has approved financial assistance totaling \$28,611,956 for water, wastewater, and flood projects. The funds come through a mixture of grants and loans, and will go toward the following projects: The City of Socorro — \$10,097,281, The City of Jacksonville — \$5,919,000,

The City of Ennis — \$3,456,790, North Hunt Special Utility District — \$3,275,000, Greater Texoma Utility Authority — \$2,160,000, The City of Strawn — \$2,001,900, M&M Water Supply Corporation — \$1,269,700, The City of Kennedale — \$432,285.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

["Fashionably late" Novavax is confident approval is coming \(Axios\)](#)

Officials at Novavax say they're confident their COVID-19 vaccine will receive an emergency use authorization from the FDA early next month, CNBC reports. Why it matters: The Maryland company received \$1.6 billion from the federal government to speed the development of the shots early during the pandemic but has yet to make it to the U.S. market. Yet its protein-based COVID vaccine — which uses moth cells to produce shots — has been slowly gaining favor in the EU and the U.K.

The biotech's request for authorization is scheduled for a review on June 7 by a key FDA advisory committee. Be smart: While Novavax is "fashionably late to the COVID-19 vaccine party," as FiercePharma put it last month, it could be well-positioned as the pandemic drags on and questions about the durability of other vaccines remain.

[Massachusetts is competing for ARPA-H biomedical research center](#)

[States Want To Integrate Medicare And Medicaid, But They Need Federal Resources And Flexibilities \(Health Affairs\)](#)

Over the past decade, state and federal policy makers have worked to better integrate Medicare and Medicaid benefits, financing, and administrative processes to improve care for the more than 12 million people in the United States dually eligible for these programs. Federal legislation and rulemaking have made it possible for states, health plans, and providers to develop several integrated care models: the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), state-based demonstrations under the federal Financial Alignment Initiative, and programs in which Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNPs) are closely aligned with Medicaid managed care plans. But despite federal policy actions and state investments, only about 12 percent of full-benefit dually eligible individuals were enrolled in an integrated care program in 2020.

[Proposed NIH budget boost spending for experimentation, examines lower grant funding for minority scientists](#)

[Americans are more stressed about money than ever, and it's hurting our mental health \(NBC\)](#)

Americans are more stressed about money than they've ever been, according to the American Psychological Association's latest Stress In America Survey. "Eighty-seven percent of Americans said that inflation and the rising costs of everyday goods is what's driving their stress," said Vaile Wright, senior director of health care innovation at the American Psychological Association. More than 40% of U.S. adults say money is negatively impacting their mental health, according to Bankrate's April 2022 Money and Mental Health report. "I was in debt off and on all of my 20s and early 30s," Tawnya Schultz, founder of The Money Life Coach, told CNBC. "I was in this debt cycle of trying to get out of debt, paying off debt, getting back into it. And I was just tired of feeling like I could never get out of it or feeling like I was always going to have debt."

Climate & Development

[How Climate Change Fuels Global Hunger \(Foreign Policy\)](#)

As global emissions continue to surge, setting the world on a course to barrel past critical climate targets, the planet is rapidly becoming a place of brutal extremes—one of record heat waves, torrential rain, and searing droughts. It's a troubling prospect, one that is especially catastrophic for already vulnerable populations around the world. Climate change is a leading cause of hunger, second only to conflict, according to the World Food Program, and the deepening climate crisis threatens to plunge millions more people into food insecurity. With climate change, extreme weather events like drought have become more frequent and intense. The vast majority of people facing hunger—roughly 80 percent—reside in regions that are susceptible to these climate extremes, which can then impact food production, availability, and accessibility. Take East Africa, where climate change has helped fuel a devastating drought that has ravaged populations already strained by the pandemic's aftershocks and prolonged conflict. The result has been dire: An estimated 3 million livestock have been killed while harvests have been destroyed. Every 48 seconds, a person is estimated to be dying of starvation in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, according to a new report by Oxfam and Save the Children.

[Four key climate change indicators break records in 2021](#)

[Climate change is driving migration to U.S. and making it more dangerous \(Yale\)](#)

In some areas of Latin America, the effects of climate change are worsening poverty, food insecurity, and civil unrest — and driving migration. “You’ve got people who are fleeing places like western Mexico because of droughts,” says Jason De León of the University of California, Los Angeles. “They’re fleeing places like Honduras because of the intensity and frequency of these super hurricanes that are just devastating these places and making it unlivable.” De León says some migrants head north, hoping to find safety and a better life in the U.S. Many of them are undocumented and attempt to cross the border illegally. It’s a dangerous journey through the desert. “You’ve got people who are walking for several days across this barren landscape with few water sources,” he says. “They’re facing oftentimes extreme heat, so they’re losing water at a high rate, and they’re not able to replenish that.” In the past decade, thousands of people attempting to cross the U.S. border have died in the desert.

[The U.S. pledged billions to fight climate change. Then came the Ukraine war](#)

[Need a dose of climate optimism? Look to Charlottesville business collaborative \(Energy News Network\)](#)

As warnings about escalating climate disasters proliferate, it’s tempting to pull the bedcovers up — way high — and stay in the dark. Aware of that urge to hide, a nimble Charlottesville nonprofit has an antidote for the disheartened. The Community Climate Collaborative, or C3, is inviting Virginians to peek at its early success in weaning local businesses from fossil fuels. Together, 16 members of the Green Business Alliance pledged last spring to cut their carbon pollution by 45% by the end of 2025. Just a year in, the alliance is upward of halfway there — already achieving a 28% reduction. Thus far, calculations reveal that members have stopped spewing the equivalent of 4,800 metric tons of carbon dioxide, which translates to removing 1,000 cars from roadways for a year. “C3 is tiny, but we’re trying to contribute,” emphasized Coles Jennings, the nonprofit’s director of corporate sustainability. “There’s just too much urgency to the problem.”

Next Week's Hearings

HASC: None Listed

SASC:

- Thursday, May 26th at 9:30AM EST: [Nomination – Cavoli, For reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe](#)
 - Witnesses:
 - General Christopher Cavoli

Defense Appropriations Subcommittees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Homeland Security Committees

House:

- Tuesday, May 24th at 9AM EST: [Examining DHS' Efforts to Improve Processing for International Visitors](#)
 - Witnesses:
 - Mr. Carlos Martel, Director of Field Operations, Los Angeles Field Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Karen R. Burke, Federal Security Director, Nevada, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Ms. Kate Wik, Chief Marketing Officer, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
 - Ms. Rosemary Vassiliadis, Director of Aviation, Clark County Department of Aviation

Senate: None Listed

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