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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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Notable Headlines

- [Jan. 6 committee plans to ask Ginni Thomas, wife of Justice Thomas, to testify](#)
- [Leaders pledge arms and EU path for Ukraine in Kyiv visit](#)
- [Biden to Visit Saudi Arabia and Meet Crown Prince, NBC Reports](#)
- [Federal Reserve raises interest rates by 0.75%, most since 1994, amid effort to slow inflation](#)
- [Yellowstone National Park closed as flooding strands tourists, leaves 'severely damaged' infrastructure](#)

A useful overview: [What weapons has Ukraine received from the US and allies?](#)

Budget & Appropriations

[Appropriations Committee Releases Fiscal Year 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Funding Bill \(House\)](#)

The House Appropriations Committee today released the fiscal year 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which will be considered in subcommittee tomorrow. The legislation funds Military Construction projects and veterans' benefits, health care, and other programs. In total, the bill provides \$314.1 billion, an increase of \$29.5 billion – more than 10 percent – above 2022. Of this amount, discretionary funding for programs such as veterans' health care and military construction totals \$150.5 billion, an increase of \$23 billion above 2022. The legislation: Supports our veterans with investments in health care, including targeted investments that advance women's health, mental health, and homelessness assistance; rebuilds our infrastructure with strong investments to construct critical facilities on military installations, including family housing and childcare centers, and build, repair, and retrofit Veterans Affairs facilities; and protects our national security with investments to respond to the challenges posed by Russian and Chinese aggression.

[DoD confronting 'Valley of Death,' other innovation bottlenecks](#)

[House conservatives propose balancing budget in 7 years with \\$16.6T in cuts \(The Hill\)](#)

The Republican Study Committee (RSC), the largest conservative caucus in the House, on

Thursday released its annual model federal budget proposal, which the committee says would balance the federal budget in seven years and advance socially conservative measures. Dubbed the “Blueprint to save America,” the group projects that over 10 years, its fiscal year 2023 model budget would cut federal spending by \$16.6 trillion more than current Congressional Budget Office projections, if taxes and spending remain generally unchanged. Those cuts would not include military spending, which would be boosted by 5 percent. It would also cut taxes by \$3.9 trillion over a decade. The group says the proposal would balance the federal budget in seven years, two years longer than last year’s model budget, which proposed \$14 trillion in cuts over 10 years.

[Why racial justice organizations are calling on Congress to reinstate the enhanced child tax credit](#)

[House Democrats rebuke calls to raise spending in defense bill \(Defense News\)](#)

House Democrats sided with the Biden administration Tuesday, offering a \$762 billion fiscal 2023 defense spending bill in an initial draft released by the Appropriations Committee. The initial legislation provides a \$32 billion increase over the FY22 defense budget, but rejects calls from Republicans and some centrist Democrats to raise the FY23 budget by 3% to 5% above historic inflation rates. Beyond the more than \$40 billion in supplemental funding Congress has appropriated this year for Ukraine and its neighbors, House Democratic appropriators would meet the White House’s budget request for \$300 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. The fund pays for training, equipment, lethal assistance, logistics support, salaries and intelligence support for Ukrainian forces.

Aerospace & Defense

[Space Force says DARC software on track, following GAO concerns \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Space Force says risks in its effort to develop software for a new radar to survey deep space are actually decreasing — some six months after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) fretted that it was “immature” and potentially a source of program delay. The ground-based Deep Space Advanced Radar Capability (DARC) is being developed to improve the service’s ability to track satellites and dangerous space junk in Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO, at the outer edge of Earth’s orbit), including in the bright daytime when satellites usually elude radar. The end goal is three sites — one in the Indo-Pacific, one in Europe and one in the United States. The Space Force’s acquisition arm, Space Systems Command (SSC), successfully demonstrated last December a small-scale version of DARC at White Sands Missile Field in New Mexico. Northrop Grumman in

February won a contract worth \$341 million to develop the first site in the Indo-Pacific, via the Space Enterprise Consortium, which is managed by the National Security Technology Accelerator (NSTXL).

[Pratt & Whitney wins \\$4.4 billion contract for F-35 engines](#)

[US Pledges More Weapons to Ukraine, But Milley Warns 'The Numbers Clearly Favor The Russians' \(Defense One\)](#)

The U.S. is sending an additional \$1 billion in arms to Ukraine, including more howitzers, Javelins, long-range munitions, and Harpoon anti-ship systems. But Russia's slow advance in the east is raising the larger question of whether those new weapons will be enough—and arrive fast enough—to make a difference. The Harpoons will be truck-launched, a variant the U.S. military does not have. The Pentagon worked with industry to create the new coastal-defense version, which will fire missiles provided by European partners from U.S. launchers, said a defense official who briefed reporters at the Pentagon said Wednesday. The latest tranche brings total U.S. military aid offered to Ukraine to \$5.6 billion since the Feb. 24 invasion and \$6.3 billion since the start of the Biden administration. It includes no drones.

[Successful ground test paves way for SDA laser satellite interlinks: Northrop](#)

[Air Force using AI to improve weather models for military planning \(Defense News\)](#)

The Department of the Air Force is using artificial intelligence to augment weather predictions and better understand environmental conditions in places where the U.S. military may be headed. Deputy Chief Information Officer Winston Beauchamp told the UiPath TOGETHER Public Sector conference on June 14 that the technology is improving forecasting abilities and providing valuable insights for planning and operations. "Using AI, we've been able to enhance our weather models to take data that we don't have ground-based sensors to collect, and extrapolate and interpolate between those data points to come up with weather predictions over parts of the world," he said. While poor weather predictions in civilian life can translate to soaked shirts or sunburns, lackluster or dated models for the military can prove far more disastrous.

Advanced Technologies

[Northrop Grumman demonstrates Mynaric laser terminals for military constellation \(Space News\)](#)

Northrop Grumman, one of three companies selected to deliver 42 satellites for a U.S. military low Earth orbit constellation, announced June 14 it completed a ground demonstration of laser terminals that will be used to send and receive data in space. For the demonstration, Northrop Grumman teamed with laser terminal manufacturer Mynaric and space avionics provider Innoflight. The companies tested high-rate encryption and decryption across an optical link. Optical inter-satellite links are one of the key technologies required for the Transport Layer communications network to be built by the Space Development Agency. SDA in 2024 plans to start deploying the Transport Layer Tranche 1 — a mesh constellation of 126 satellites made by Lockheed Martin, York Space Systems and Northrop Grumman. “The demonstration validated compatibility between commercially developed laser communication and secure U.S. government encryption hardware,” said Blake Bullock, vice president of communication systems and strategic space systems at Northrop Grumman.

[Lawmakers propose ‘Technology Competitiveness Council’ to champion US innovation](#)

[DoD software deliveries are lagging behind industry standards \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Pentagon is still struggling to deliver working software for its weapon systems in a timely matter, with programs lagging behind commercial standards that call for deliveries as frequently as two weeks, according to a new watchdog report. In its annual Weapon System Annual Assessment, released June 8, the Government Accountability Office surveyed 59 Major Defense Acquisition Projects (MDAPs) and Middle Tier Acquisition (MTA) programs and found the department needs to rapidly increase delivery of software to a majority of those programs. The report comes a few months after Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks approved a new software modernization strategy outlining three key objectives the Pentagon wants to achieve, including turning its 29 software factories into one overarching department-wide “ecosystem” to rapidly acquire and deliver software at speed.



[Lynchburg tech firm to build America's first mobile nuclear microreactor for DOD](#)

[HII develops unmanned launch and recovery system for amphib ships \(Defense News\)](#)

HII has combined its expertise in building ships and unmanned vessels to create a launch and recovery system that will allow the U.S. Navy's amphibious fleet to serve as unmanned motherships. Amphibious ships will grow more lethal as unmanned technology further matures, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. David Berger has said at multiple conferences in recent months. The adversary won't be able to see into ships' internal well decks, he has said, leaving it to guess what weapons or platforms lie within. HII builds amphibious vessels at its Ingalls Shipyard and makes unmanned vessels through its newly renamed Mission Technologies division. And now the American shipbuilder has a prototype system that will pair the two, thanks to an internal research and development project that was successfully demonstrated on a surrogate boat in the Pascagoula River on June 8, a company news release said Monday.

Military Installations & Communities

[Navy Unit Transfers Into Space Force, Becomes 10th Space Operations Squadron \(Air Force Magazine\)](#)

More than a dozen satellites and the Navy unit that operated them transferred into the Space Force on June 6, when the Naval Satellite Operations Center became the 10th Space Operations Squadron. The switch marked the first of several space-focused units transferring from the Army and Navy over to the Space Force, a process that began as soon as the new service stood up in December 2019. After months of discussion, the Space Force announced in September 2021 a list of 15 Army and Navy units that would transfer over, units that contained 319 military and 259 civilian personnel. Later that month, the Space Force announced it would welcome 215 military and 259 civilian personnel from those units.

[The Navy Fires Fourth Commander in Seven Days](#)

['Forever Chemicals' Linked to Hundreds of Military Bases Are Unsafe at Any Level, EPA Warns \(Military.com\)](#)

The "forever chemicals" that may have contaminated water at hundreds of military installations are more dangerous than previously thought and could be harmful in even minuscule amounts, according to a new warning by the Environmental Protection Agency released Wednesday. The agency issued the new assessment that the chemicals known as PFAS, which were widely used in the military's firefighting foam as well as more broadly for non-stick commercial products, could cause health problems in drinking water at levels "near zero and below EPA's ability to detect at this time." The warning ramps up the urgency of the potential widespread contamination the Pentagon is grappling with at 700 active bases, National Guard facilities, shuttered installations and other properties. In December, Congress ordered the agency to deal with the issue, but full testing and cleanup of PFAS groundwater pollution in military communities is expected to take years.

[First Case of Monkeypox Among Active-Duty US Service Members Diagnosed in Germany](#)

[There's a disturbing trend of animal cruelty reports at multiple US military bases \(Task & Purpose\)](#)

An airman charged with five counts of animal cruelty at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota on Monday is the latest in a spate of recent alleged animal cruelty incidents happening at military bases around the country. Other allegations include soldiers shooting cats with blow darts at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; airmen shooting prairie dogs at Minot with blow darts; and reports of mutilated cats appearing at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

“We are greatly saddened by the circumstances of this case and will continue to work with our local civil authorities to ensure an appropriate resolution,” said Abigail Kinder, Community Relations Advisor for Minot, about the airman being charged with animal cruelty. “Until the case has been decided by civil authorities, it is premature to comment on any potential additional actions by leadership.” The airman being charged is Airman 1st Class Jim Michael Velez Diaz, 21. Katelynn Marie Mercier, 19, was also charged, though she is not a member of the military.

Homeland Security

[Homeland Security funding proposals include \\$334M boost for CISA \(FedScoop\)](#)

Proposed budget legislation for the Department of Homeland Security will provide a \$334.1 million boost to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency if it passes in its current form. Lawmakers on the Department of Homeland Security subcommittee will tomorrow mark up draft fiscal 2023 funding legislation before it is considered by lawmakers on the full House Appropriations Committee. Under the proposals, CISA will receive \$2.93 billion, \$417.1 million more than its request, split among cyber and infrastructure security, emergency communications, integrated and risk management operations, stakeholder engagement and requirements, and mission support. Lawmakers cited increased cyberattacks and threats to critical infrastructure — particularly in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and encroachment in the Arctic — as the reason for the additional funding. But CISA’s mission set, under the direction of Chris Krebs and now Jen Easterly, has been expanding in spite of the agency’s newness.

[Mass Shootings Are a Homeland Security Risk](#)



[US Army to double cyber corps strength as focus shifts from counterinsurgency \(C4ISRNET\)](#)

The U.S. Army will double the size of its active-duty cyber forces by the end of the decade

as the Pentagon shifts its focus from counterinsurgency and prepares for future fights with technologically savvy opponents, officials said. Growth in Cyber Mission Force teams and electronic warfare companies and platoons will boost the strength of the cyber corps from around 3,000 personnel to “just over” 6,000, an Army spokesperson said June 13. Across active duty, reserves and National Guard, the cyber branch will expand to more than 7,000 people, up from 5,000. “You will continue to see the growth of our cyber branch, as we proliferate cyber-electromagnetic activities, capabilities,” Army Lt. Gen. John Morrison, deputy chief of staff, G-6, said in a discussion with reporters June 9. “Think cyber and electronic warfare, integrated together, throughout all of our tactical formations.”

[Top US, Chinese national security figures hold 'candid' talks](#)

[Vice president will launch new national task force on preventing online harassment and abuse \(MSN\)](#)

Vice President Kamala Harris will launch the first meeting Thursday of a new national task force aimed at helping to prevent and address online harassment and abuse, according to the White House. Ahead of the meeting, President Joe Biden will sign a memorandum establishing the initiative, the White House Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse. The interagency effort will particularly focus on online harassment and abuse of women and LGBTQ Americans, as one senior administration official noted how such harassment “disproportionately targets” those communities. The Gender Policy Council and the National Security Council will co-chair the task force, whose members include Cabinet officials like Attorney General Merrick Garland, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and other agency heads and officials, as well as advocates and survivors.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Dish confirms it's offering 5G to more than 20% of U.S. population \(Fierce Wireless\)](#)

Dish announced today that as of June 14, it's offering 5G broadband service to more than 20% of the U.S. population. June 14 marked the government deadline for Dish to meet the 20% population milestone, and while Dish executives signaled their confidence leading up to the target, it wasn't always a sure thing. Dish said its 5G broadband service is 3GPP Release 15 enhanced mobile broadband (eMBB) compliant and runs through its 5G core. Its 20% coverage uses AWS-4, lower 700 MHz E Block and AWS H Block spectrum. Dish first launched its wireless service in Las Vegas in May and since then expanded service to

more than 120 cities across the country. Consumers are directed to [Genesis5G.com](https://www.genesis5g.com) to see if they're in a location where service is available. Service is being offered for \$30/month. Indeed, in its announcement today, Dish said its 5G offering marks a major milestone in "building the world's most advanced cloud-native 5G open RAN network," as Dish aims to change the way the world communicates.

[Fiber industry talks about fiber broadband business models](#)

[California High-Speed Rail Authority releases final environmental studies and preferred alignment into San Francisco \(Mass Transit Mag\)](#)

The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) was released by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) for the approximately 43-mile San Francisco to San Jose project section in Northern California. If approved by the CHSRA Board of Directors in August, this project section and its environmental document will complete full environmental clearance for high-speed rail in Northern California. "We're making true progress on nearing full environmental clearance for the entire Phase 1 high-speed rail project," said CHSRA CEO Brian Kelly. "With 380 miles from the Bay Area to northern Los Angeles County already complete, today's release brings us into San Francisco and nearly 423 miles to be environmentally cleared. We look forward to the board's consideration of this document in August." The board will consider certifying the San Francisco to San Jose project section Final EIR/EIS and approving the Preferred Alternative between San Francisco and Scott Boulevard in Santa Clara during its two-day board meeting August 17 and 18.

[GM investing \\$81 million to hand build ultra-exclusive Cadillac Celestiq electric cars](#)

[EPA Announces \\$6.5 Billion in New Funding Available for Water Infrastructure Projects \(EPA\)](#)

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the 2022 notices of funding availability for the agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program and the State Infrastructure Financing Authority WIFIA (SWIFIA) program. This year's funding will provide up to \$6.5 billion in total funding to support \$13 billion in water infrastructure projects while creating more than 40,000 jobs. "Water infrastructure provides the foundation for healthy and vibrant communities by delivering safe drinking water and returning our treated wastewater to the environment," said EPA

Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox. “In too many communities, these essential pipes and pumps are decades old and need to be upgraded. That’s why EPA is providing \$6.5 billion in low-cost financing through WIFIA and SWIFIA that can help revitalize our water systems while creating good paying jobs and delivering significant economic benefits, especially in underserved and overburdened communities.”

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[States Extend Medicaid for New Mothers, Even as They Reject Broader Expansion \(U.S. News\)](#)

Until last year, Georgia’s Medicaid coverage for new moms with low incomes lasted 60 days. That meant the Medicaid benefits of many women expired before they could be referred to other medical providers for help with serious health problems, said Dr. Keila Brown, an OB-GYN in Atlanta. “If they needed other postpartum issues followed up, it was rather difficult to get them in within that finite period of time,” said Brown, who works at the Family Health Centers of Georgia, a group of community health centers. Georgia lawmakers, recognizing the state’s high rate of pregnancy-related deaths, have taken action. In 2021, Georgia extended the Medicaid coverage window to six months postpartum. And, now, the state plans to broaden that benefits period to a year. Georgia lawmakers, recognizing the state’s high rate of pregnancy-related deaths, have taken action. In 2021, Georgia extended the Medicaid coverage window to six months postpartum. And, now, the state plans to broaden that benefits period to a year.



[Two-thirds of older Americans see health care costs as a financial burden: survey](#)

[CDC awards \\$215 mln as part of Cancer Moonshot initiative revival \(Financial Post\)](#)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said it was awarding \$215 million in first-year funding as part of reviving the erstwhile Obama administration's Cancer Moonshot initiative aimed at prevention and control of the disease. The funding will be given to 86 recipients including various U.S. states as well as indigenous tribes such as Cherokee Nation, Kaw Nation of Oklahoma and Navajo Nation, among others. "This funding is a critical investment in support of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot initiative and our efforts to help ensure that everyone in the United States equitably benefits from the tools we have to detect and diagnose cancer," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in the CDC statement. U.S. President Joe Biden in February announced plans to reduce death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years by speeding research and making more treatments available under the "Cancer Moonshot" initiative.

[Health care consumers feeling economic sting](#)

[US toddlers could soon be vaccinated against Covid. Here's why that's a big moment in the pandemic \(CNN\)](#)

The US could be vaccinating infants, toddlers and preschoolers against Covid-19 within days. Vaccine advisers at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are meeting Wednesday to discuss extending the emergency use authorization of Moderna's and Pfizer/BioNTech's shots to those aged six months and older. It comes a day after the 22 members of the agency's advisory committee voted unanimously to authorize Moderna's shot for those aged 6 to 17. Both companies have reported positive trial results when using their vaccines on younger children. Pfizer found that three child-sized doses appeared to be safe and generated an immune response in trials that's comparable to the response in older people. Moderna, meanwhile, have reported that two smaller shots appeared to yield a similar immune response as their two-dose vaccine series does in adults 18 to 25.

Climate & Development

[DOD Preparing for Climate Change Impacts, Official Says \(DOD\)](#)

Joe Bryan joined a panel discussion yesterday on "U.S. Climate Security Investments: Changing Plans into Actions" at a virtual Center for Climate and Security event. "Climate change is dramatically increasing the demand for military operations and, at the same time, impacting our readiness and our ability to meet those demands while imposing unsustainable costs on the department," he said. Among the global effects of climate change are a warmer climate; changing precipitation patterns; and, more frequent, intense and unpredictable extreme weather. Besides climate impacts on the physical environment, climate change is altering technology and markets as the world adjusts to the reality and a rapidly advancing energy transition, he said. Climate change also affects the militaries of allies and partners, as well as competitors and adversaries. The nations that are most resilient and best able to manage the effects of climate change will secure an advantage, Bryan said.

[The Massive Floods That Closed Yellowstone Are Part of the Warming World](#)

[Climate change: Bonn talks end in acrimony over compensation \(BBC\)](#)

Two weeks of climate talks in Germany have ended in acrimony between rich and poor countries over cash for climate damage. Developing countries say they are reeling from climate change caused by richer countries' emissions over hundreds of years. They hoped to get compensation onto the official agenda for discussions by world leaders in November. But here in Bonn they couldn't get the US and the European Union to agree. "The climate emergency is fast becoming a catastrophe," said Conrod Hunte, lead negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). "Yet within these walls the process feels out of step with reality, the pace feels too slow," he told delegates at the end of the meeting. Developing nations say they need money to deal with the impacts of climate change, because they suffer the effects more than richer nations and have less financial capacity to cope.

[Study: Virginia could lose 42% of tidal wetlands to sea level rise by 2100](#)

[Greens say vacate 3,500 drilling permits in new climate change lawsuit \(Reuters\)](#)

The Biden administration must vacate thousands of permits it has issued to drill for oil and gas on federal lands and stop issuing any more until it considers the cumulative, nationwide effect of increased greenhouse gas emissions from new wells, two environmental groups said in a new lawsuit. The Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians, represented by the Western Environmental Law Center, accuse the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management of violating three federal laws and two executive orders by approving more than 3,500 permits in New Mexico and Wyoming after a " cursory " review of local impacts. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington, D.C., says BLM has acknowledged that drilling on federal lands contributes about 8% of the nation's greenhouse-gas emissions, but does not consider the effect of those emissions on endangered plants or animals.

Next Week's Hearings

Upcoming Committee Hearings for Week of June 20-24

HASC:

- **Wednesday, June 22nd at 10AM EST:** [Full Committee Markup: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

- **Witnesses:**

- None Listed

SASC: None Listed

Defense Appropriations Subcommittees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

Homeland Security Committees

House:

- **Wednesday, June 22nd at 2:30PM EST:** [Securing the Future: Harnessing the Potential of Emerging Technologies while Mitigating Security Risks](#)

- **Witnesses:**

- None Listed

Senate:

- **Wednesday, June 22nd at 2:30PM EST:** [Examining FEMA's Strategic Priorities and Disaster Preparedness](#)

- **Witnesses:**

- Hon. Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- **Wednesday, June 23rd at 10:15AM EST:** [Putting People First: Building Trust in Government through Customer Experience](#)

- **Witnesses:**

- Martha Dorris, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dorris Consulting International
- William Eggers, Executive Director, Center for Government Insights, Deloitte, LLP
- Mathew Lira, Partner, Hangar Capital

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