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# Executive Insight Brief

October 14, 2022

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## Notable Headlines

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- [Supreme Court Rejects Trump Request to Intervene in Documents Case](#)
- [Nury Martinez resigns from L.A. City Council in wake of audio leak scandal](#)
- [Alex Jones told to pay \\$965m damages to Sandy Hook victims' families](#)
- [Battle Over Wage Rules for Tipped Workers Is Heating Up](#)

## Aerospace & Defense

### [North Korea says it practiced firing nuclear-capable cruise missiles \(Reuters\)](#)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the launch of two long-range strategic cruise missiles, state media reported on Thursday, calling it a test to confirm the reliability and operation of nuclear-capable weapons deployed to military units. The test firing was conducted on Wednesday, and was aimed at "enhancing the combat efficiency and might" of cruise missiles deployed to the Korean People's Army "for the operation of tactical nukes," state media Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said. Stressing that the test launch was another clear warning to its "enemies," leader Kim Jong Un said the country

"should continue to expand the operational sphere of the nuclear strategic armed forces to resolutely deter any crucial military crisis and war crisis at any time and completely take the initiative in it," according to KCNA.

### [Army weighs options on extending range of Precision Strike Missile](#)

#### [Air Force's new search-and-rescue helicopter heads to first deployment \(Military Times\)](#)

The Air Force's new HH-60W Jolly Green II combat search-and-rescue helicopter has deployed overseas for the first time, a milestone more than a decade in the making. Airmen with the 347th Rescue Group at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, headed out with the HH-60W on Sept. 24, though the Air Force has not said where they deployed or how long they might be gone. "The future of [Air Force] rescue is secure, and our team is ready to recover anybody, anytime, anywhere, against any adversary," 23rd Wing commander Col. Russell Cook said Wednesday in a post on Moody's Facebook page. Deployment is the latest of multiple achievements for the helicopter program in the last few months as the Air Force prepares to wind down the buy.

### [Rising nuclear fears spur debate over red lines in Ukraine war](#)

#### [Biden's national security plan takes aim at China, Russia \(Reuters\)](#)

The White House rolled out a long-delayed national security strategy on Wednesday that seeks to contain China's rise while reemphasizing the importance of working with allies to tackle challenges confronting democratic nations. The 48-page document, which was delayed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, includes no major shifts in thinking and introduces no major new foreign policy doctrines. Instead, it highlights the view that U.S. leadership is the key to overcoming global threats like climate change and the rise of authoritarianism. Even after Russia's invasion, China represents the most consequential challenge to the global order and the United States must win the economic arms race with the superpower if it hopes to retain its global influence, the strategy says. "The People's Republic of China harbors the intention and, increasingly, the capacity to reshape the international order in favor of one that tilts the global playing field to its benefit, even as the United States remains committed to managing the competition between our countries responsibly," national security advisor Jake Sullivan said in outlining the policy.

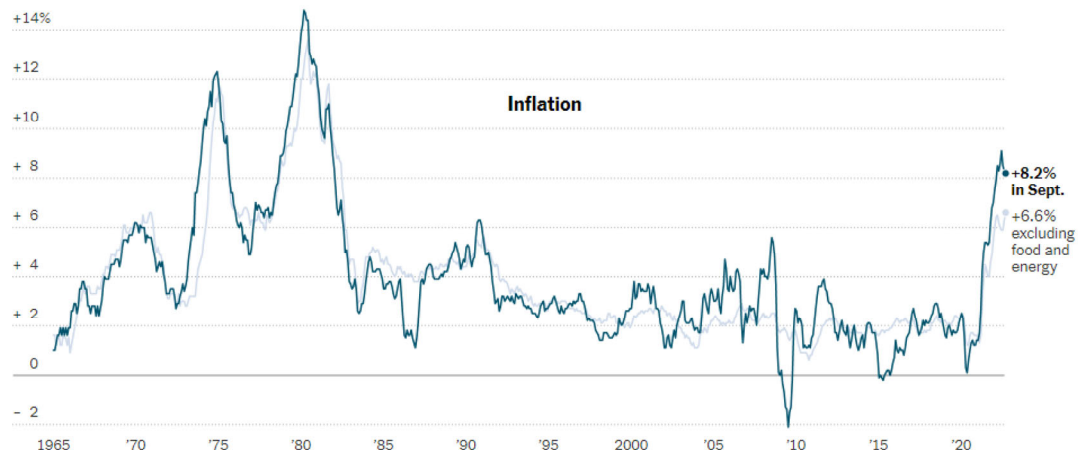
## **Budget & Appropriations**

#### [Delta forecasts another profit after summer boom drives record revenue \(CNBC News\)](#)

Delta Air Lines expects to post another profit in the last quarter of the year and said both leisure and business travel continue to recover. The carrier on Thursday said it expects

earnings per share of \$1 to \$1.25 in the fourth quarter, with revenue topping the same period of 2019 by 5% to 9%, a sign higher airfares will stay firm. Delta shares were up more than 3% in morning trading, while a higher-than-expected U.S. inflation reading weighed on the broader market. For the third quarter, Delta reported net income of \$695 million, or \$1.08 per share, down from a \$1.5 billion profit three years earlier, on record revenue of close to \$14 billion, the results of a surge in summer travel with high fares to match. Adjusting for one-time items, Delta posted earnings per share of \$1.51, while adjusted revenue came in at \$12.8 billion, 3% above 2019 levels, despite a smaller schedule.

### September Inflation Report, Prices Rise Faster Than Expected



### Companies Hoarding Workers Could Be Good News for the Economy (NYT)

Chad Pritchard and his colleagues are trying everything to staff their pizza shop and bistro, and as they do, they have turned to a new tactic: They avoid firing employees at all costs. Infractions that previously would have led to a quick dismissal no longer do at the chef's two places, Fat Daddy's Pizzeria and Bistro Provenance. Consistent transportation issues have ceased to be a deal breaker. Workers who show up drunk these days are sent home to sober up. Employers in Provo, a college town at the base of the Rocky Mountains where unemployment is near the lowest in the nation at 1.9 percent, have no room to lose workers. Bistro Provenance, which opened in September, has been unable to hire enough employees to open for lunch at all, or for dinner on Sundays and Mondays. The workers it has are often new to the industry, or young: On a recent Wednesday night, a 17-year-old could be found torching a crème brûlée.

### Social Security benefits to rise by 8.7 percent in 2023

### [Heating costs forecast to soar this winter \(CNN\)](#)

No matter how you heat your home, the cost of that heat is likely to soar, according to a forecast Wednesday from the Energy Information Administration. Based on current estimates for fuel prices if, as forecast, there's a slightly colder winter ahead, the EIA estimates that heating a home with natural gas heating costs will rise about \$200 on average, or 28% to \$931 for the winter. Still, that's not as bad as heating oil costs, which are forecast to jump \$1,200, or 27% to \$2,354. Electric heating costs could rise \$123, or 10%, to \$1,359, while propane heating costs are expected to rise \$80, or 5%, to \$1,688. Bear in mind that in many cases these increases are on top of even higher percentage increases from a year ago. For example, heating oil costs jumped more than 50% for winter last year. Consumers who use heating oil can expect to pay nearly double what they paid for the winter of 2020-21.

## Advanced Technologies

### [DIU taps Nauticus Robotics to develop amphibious, mine-hunting drone \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The Defense Innovation Unit last week awarded a contract to Nauticus Robotics to develop an amphibious robot capable helping Marines clear shallow waters of mines and make the difficult transition from sea to land, according to a company executive. The contract, the value of which neither DIU nor Nauticus was willing to disclose, includes two elements: The first is modifying a commercial-off-the-shelf robot to make it suitable for the difficult traversal between land and sea. The second part is for Nauticus to adapt its autonomy software, dubbed ToolKITT, to make it capable of guiding the amphibious robot around obstacles and identifying undersea mines as well as other targets of interest. "If you only could crawl on the bottom in the sand [and] you came upon a log or an impediment to going forward, you don't know if you should turn right or left," Donnelly Bohan, Nauticus' chief operating officer, told Breaking Defense.



### [Chinese technology poses major risk - GCHQ Chief](#)

#### [SpaceX books another ride for a millionaire around the moon \(CNN\)](#)

Four astronauts are on track to return home from the International Space Station this week, capping off a nearly six-month mission in space. Dennis Tito, a US millionaire who previously paid his way to the International Space Station in 2001, and his wife, Akiko, plan to take a lunar expedition that will last roughly a week, according to SpaceX. The mission will come only after SpaceX fulfills its commitment to launch billionaire payments processing CEO Jared Isaacman on the first commercial human spaceflight mission on Starship, a rocket and spacecraft system that is still under development at SpaceX facilities in South Texas. Starship is awaiting approval from federal regulators to make its first uncrewed orbital test flight.

### [Fabrice Muamba: Snapchat CPR lessons will save lives](#)

#### [Meta's VR Headset Harvests Personal Data Right Off Your Face \(Wired\)](#)

In November 2021, Facebook announced it would delete face recognition data extracted from images of more than 1 billion people and stop offering to automatically tag people in photos and videos. Luke Stark, an assistant professor at Western University, in Canada, told WIRED at the time that he considered the policy change a PR tactic because the

company's VR push would likely lead to the expanded collection of physiological data and raise new privacy concerns. This week, Stark's prediction proved right. Meta, as the company that built Facebook is now called, introduced its latest VR headset, the Quest Pro. The new model adds a set of five inward-facing cameras that watch a person's face to track eye movements and facial expressions, allowing an avatar to reflect their expressions, smiling, winking, or raising an eyebrow in real time. The headset also has five exterior cameras that will in the future help give avatars legs that copy a person's movements in the real world.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [Largest Pay Raise in Decades Coming in 2023 for Veterans, Military Retirees \(Military.com\)](#)

Military retirees and disabled veterans will see their monthly checks increase by 8.7% for 2023, thanks to an annual adjustment to the federal Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) due to inflation. This will be the largest increase since 1981. Retirees saw a 5.9% increase in 2022 and 1.3% in 2021; the annual adjustment has averaged 1.9% for the last 10 years. The COLA increase was announced Thursday by the Social Security Administration. Most government disability and retirement payments are required by law to increase annually by the same amount. For 2023, retired military members will see a \$87 increase for each \$1,000 of military retirement pension they receive each month. Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, and opted for the Career Status Bonus (CSB/Redux retirement plan) will have any COLA increases reduced by 1%, so they will see a smaller increase of \$77 per \$1,000 in 2023.

### [Department of Defense OKs renaming of Fort Gordon, Fort Benning, other military bases](#)

### [Army Base Still Searching for Machine Gun That Went Missing Days Ago \(Military Times\)](#)

An Army base in Washington state spent part of the long holiday weekend searching for a missing part to a .50-caliber machine gun, the latest incident after the service was criticized for lost weapons. Soldiers with Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, or "Ghost" Brigade, had their four-day weekend cut short on Friday for what soldiers lamented as a classic Army debacle involving the missing piece of equipment, a firestorm of rumors and what one soldier described as an out-of-season "Easter egg hunt." The receiver assembly of an M2 .50-caliber machine gun went missing from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment's staff duty area and triggered an all-hands search that, for most of the rank and file, lasted a little over 12 hours. But it resulted in an Army investigation that was still ongoing.

## [Military Families Should Be Able to Transfer Professional Licenses Across State Lines, New Survey Finds](#)

### [Army won't change weight tables after body composition study \(Army Times\)](#)

After a months-long research study, the Army will keep its current height and weight screening tables, the service's top noncommissioned officer announced at the Association of the U.S. Army conference Wednesday afternoon. The branch's Center for Initial Military Training joined forces with medical research experts last year to evaluate whether the Army's body composition policies should be changed. According to Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston, the study found that the service's current methods for weight screening and measuring body fat are "pretty accurate." "The data shows that the height and weight tables are correct," he explained. But the service has identified areas where policy tweaks could help improve the accuracy of the tape test, which habitually underestimates the body fat of most troops.

## **Homeland Security**

### [Ronald Appel Appointed Acting Division Chief at HSI Cyber Crimes Center \(HST\)](#)

Ronald Appel is starting a new position as Acting Division Chief at Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Cyber Crimes Center. Appel had been Assistant Special Agent in Charge at HSI in Tennessee and Kentucky since November 2000, which includes the offices of Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Louisville, Bowling Green, and Northern Kentucky. As well as holding a number of positions within HSI, and working as a special agent with the U.S. Customs Service in Sells, Arizona, Appel was formerly a police detective and deputy sheriff. He began his law enforcement career as a deputy sheriff with the Broward Sheriff's Office in South Florida before joining the Royal Palm Beach Police Department where he served as a police officer and detective.

## [CBP Officers Seize \\$679K Worth of Cocaine in Two Narcotics Seizures at Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge](#)

### [Supreme Court Rejects Appeal from Dylann Roof \(HST\)](#)

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal from Dylann Roof over his death sentence and conviction on Tuesday. Roof was convicted in 2016 for killing nine when he opened fire on the Black congregation of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, during bible study in a racially-motivated attack. Roof had asked the court to decide how to handle disputes over mental illness-related evidence between capital defendants and their attorneys. The justices did not comment Tuesday in turning away the appeal. When a

capital defendant who has been ruled competent to stand trial and his attorneys “disagree on whether to present mitigating evidence depicting him as mentally ill, who gets the final say?” Roof’s appellate team wrote in their petition.

### [US and Mexico make deal to ease Venezuela migration](#)

#### [DHS Secretary Mayorkas Was Informed ‘Whipping’ Incident Was Bogus Hours Before He Condemned Border Patrol Agents \(Yahoo News\)](#)

Documents obtained by the Heritage Foundation following a Freedom of Information Act request are casting fresh doubts on last year’s whipping controversy concerning U.S. Border Patrol agents. According to the newly released emails, Department of Homeland Security secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was aware the popular narrative that Border Patrol agents whipped a group of Haitian migrants was false hours before he declared the incident “horrific” during a White House press conference. One of Mayorkas’s staffers sent him an email less than three hours before the press conference relaying the account of photographer Paul Ratje, who took the viral photos and said the salacious account of what happened was false. “I’ve never seen them whip anyone,” Ratje said in a quote provided to Mayorkas.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

#### [FAA to invest \\$31M in supply chain strengthening \(Transportation Today\)](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced Tuesday it had awarded more than \$31 million in grants to nine airports across the country for projects aimed at expediting goods movement. Funding for the grants comes from the Airport Improvement Program, which finances projects for constructing new and improved airport facilities, runway and taxiway repairs, airfield maintenance, and equipment purchases. “Every day, we rely on goods transported through our nation’s airports,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. “Today’s announcement will make improvements at airports across our country so they can handle cargo more efficiently and help strengthen America’s supply chains.”

### [6 projects show how infrastructure spending is remaking the country](#)

#### [California Strengthens Alliances for Transportation Electrification \(Transportation Topics\)](#)

The governor of California is strengthening a clear energy partnership with two neighboring states and British Columbia. “The West will continue to lead the way toward a carbon-free future that supports our economy, our people and our planet,” Gov. Gavin Newsom said Oct. 6 in San Francisco during a signing ceremony for a statement of cooperation between



Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and British Columbia Premier John Horgan. Encompassing a region with 57 million people and a \$3.5 trillion combined gross domestic product, the four governments belong to the Pacific Coast Collaborative. The effort, formed in 2013, works toward advancing clean energy and a low-carbon economy in key sectors of the region, notably Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver.

### [Major Breakthrough For Electric Cars To Go Mainstream: Researchers Develop 10-Minute Charging Method](#)

#### [How the trucking industry is helping feed a million Floridians after Hurricane Ian \(Transport Dive\)](#)

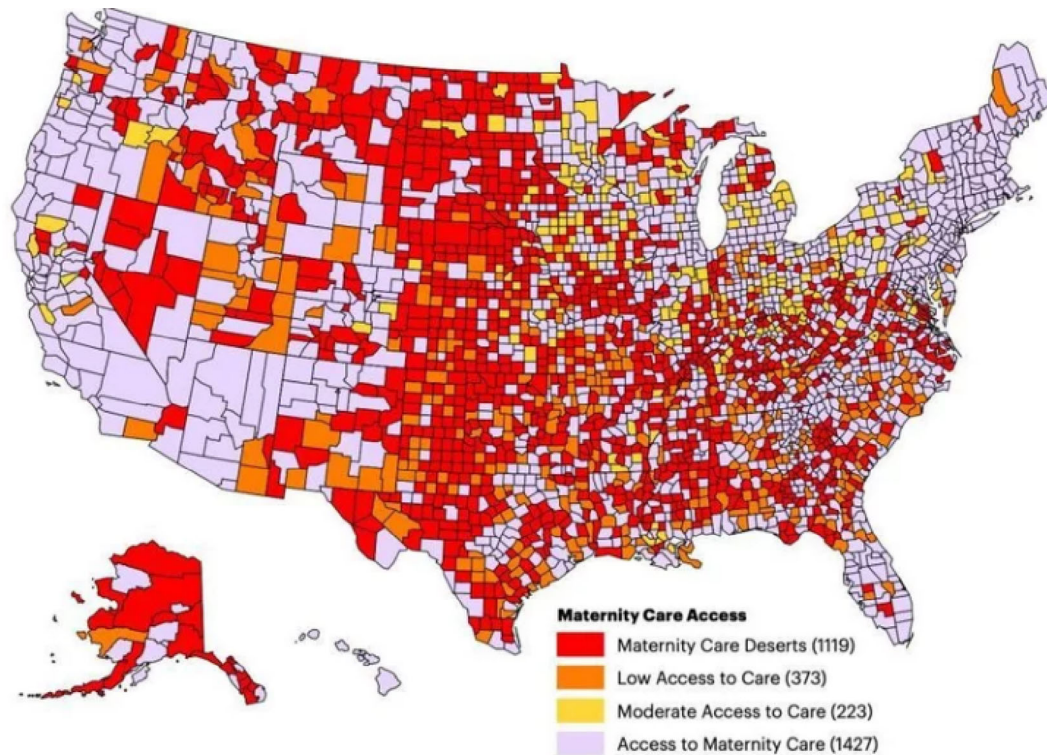
The day after Hurricane Ian made its deadly landfall in Florida on Sept. 28, Joe Myerly steered a flatbed carrying five massive meat smokers and a dry van full of kitchen supplies to the Port Charlotte Town Center in Charlotte County. Emergency crews in boats, which were rescuing people stranded in their homes, blocked one highway exit, the 55-year-old truck driver said. Myerly passed them as he navigated the treacherous roads from a staging area at the Georgia line to deliver the needed supplies following the Category 4 hurricane. "It was an obstacle course getting around for the first four or five days at all," said Myerly, who lives in Hagerstown, Maryland. "Right now, [conditions] are improving, but there's still a lot to clear up. ... Power poles are laying down. Trees are in the roads." Myerly, part of a team of volunteers for the disaster aid nonprofit Operation BBQ Relief, helped the organization set up and supply a free meal distribution site that aims to give out at least a million hot lunches and dinners to Floridians in need after the storm.

### **Biotechnology & Healthcare**

#### [Walgreens snaps up remaining stake in CareCentrix for \\$392M \(Fierce Healthcare\)](#)

Walgreens Boots Alliance plans to take full ownership of CareCentrix to push forward its healthcare strategy with a particular focus on primary care, post-acute care and home care. The drugstore retail giant plans to acquire the remaining 45% stake for approximately \$392 million, which is based on the exit multiple agreed to at the time of WBA's initial majority investment announcement in CareCentrix, the company said in a press release. Last October, Walgreens revealed a \$330 million investment in CareCentrix with an option to raise the stake in the future. That deal closed in late August. The full acquisition is subject to limited customary closing conditions and is expected to close by March 2023. The acquisition strengthens Walgreens' expanding reach in healthcare as it recently bought the remaining stake in specialty pharmacy company Shields Health Solutions for approximately \$1.37 billion.

## Millions of Americans are losing access to maternal care. Here's what can be done



### Lifetime of Stress Tied to Big Rise in Cancer Risk (US News)

Over time, men and women under chronic stress face a significantly higher risk that they will die as a result of cancer, a new study warns. The finding comes from an analysis of more than three decades of U.S. data from a federal health and nutrition survey. After adjusting for a number of influential factors — including race, gender and prior medical history — the researchers found that lifelong stress appears to trigger a 14% rise in risk of cancer death. But why? Lead author Justin Moore explained that the link owes to a concept known as “allostatic load.” That’s a measure of cumulative stress, or wear and tear on the body, due to what Moore described as “life course stressors.” Moore, an assistant professor in the cancer prevention, control and population health program at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and Georgia Cancer Center in Atlanta, noted that allostatic load levels can be measured in hard numbers.

### US breast cancer death rate drops 43% in three decades, but racial

## [disparities remain, American Cancer Society report finds](#)

### [Nearly Half of Covid Patients Haven't Fully Recovered Months Later, Study Finds \(NYT\)](#)

A study of tens of thousands of people in Scotland found that one in 20 people who had been sick with Covid reported not recovering at all, and another four in 10 said they had not fully recovered from their infections many months later. The authors of the study, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature Communications, tried to home in on the long-term risks of Covid by comparing the frequency of symptoms in people with and without previous Covid diagnoses. People with previous symptomatic Covid infections reported certain persistent symptoms, such as breathlessness, palpitations and confusion or difficulty concentrating, at a rate roughly three times as high as uninfected people in surveys from six to 18 months later, the study found. Those patients also experienced elevated risks of more than 20 other symptoms relating to the heart, respiratory health, muscle aches, mental health and the sensory system.

## **Climate & Development**

### [Army Climate Plan Relies on Technology That Doesn't Exist Yet \(Defense One\)](#)

The Defense Department could “build a fortress” with all of the reports it has released making statements on climate change without actually implementing anything, Army climate expert Sharon Burke said Thursday. The Army’s Climate Strategy Implementation Plan, released this week, aims to change that. The implementation plan complements the service’s climate strategy plan, released in February, that called for electric vehicles, microgrids, and more. But it contained no cost estimates, either for the individual programs or the effort as a whole. (“The funding is going to be a moving target,” Paul Farnan, the Army’s principal deputy assistant secretary for installations, energy, and environment, said in February. “This is a strategy that lays out steps...a lot in the coming decade, and even some beyond the next decade.”)

## [China needs \\$17 trillion in investments to meet climate goals, World Bank says](#)

### [Biden names first national monument of presidency \(The Hill\)](#)

President Biden names Colorado’s Camp Hale a national monument, steam gathers for the “NOPEC” bill and green groups mobilize for the midterms. President Biden on Wednesday afternoon formally announced the designation of Camp Hale, Colo., as a national monument. The site marks what was once a training ground for the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division during World War II, including the late Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.). It is

the first national monument designation of Biden's presidency. Democratic members of the state's congressional delegation have long lobbied Biden to designate the monument, including Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper and Rep. Joe Neguse. Gov. Jared Polis (D) has also been involved in the push. All four were also present at the announcement.

### [Amid historic drought, California expected to approve \\$140 mln desalination plant](#)

#### [The US Forest Service Planned to Increase Burning to Prevent Wildfires. Will a Pause on Prescribed Fire Instead Bring More Delays? \(Inside Climate News\)](#)

John Weir started noticing the smoke once he hit Tucumcari, a New Mexico town about 40 miles west of the Texas border. Weir, a specialist in fire ecology for Oklahoma State University Extension, was headed to the first in-person meeting of a national committee assessing policies on prescribed fires—blazes intentionally set to burn away excess vegetation that could drive megafires. But by the time the group assembled in New Mexico in early May, two such burns set by federal agencies had escaped control and run wild, eating up 200,000 acres in the Santa Fe National Forest north of Albuquerque. Weir could see the smoke from more than a hundred miles away as he drove to the meeting from central Oklahoma. In response to the two escaped burns that would merge into the Calf Canyon/Hermit Creek Fire—the largest wildfire in New Mexico's recorded history—the chief of the U.S. Forest Service would soon declare a nationwide, 90-day freeze on prescribed burns on land the agency manages.

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## Next Week's Hearings

### Armed Service Committees

**HASC:** None Listed

**SASC:** None Listed

### Appropriation Committees

**House:** None Listed

**Senate:** None Listed

### Homeland Security Committees

**House:** None Listed

**Senate:** None Listed

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