

**From:** The Roosevelt Group <Jpatton@rooseveltdc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2023 8:04 AM  
**To:** Stephan, Lindsey  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief



# Executive Insight Brief

June 30, 2023

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Approps - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -  
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

Received this as a forwarded email? [Sign up](#) to be on the official distribution list!

## Notable Headlines

- [Stoltenberg to stay on as NATO chief another year](#)
- [Hungary postpones vote on Sweden's NATO accession bid ahead of summit](#)
- [Prigozhin May Be Gone, but Not the Failings He Ranted About](#)
- [Supreme Court Strikes Down Affirmative Action in College Admissions](#)
- [Protesters break into Swedish embassy in Baghdad after Stockholm Quran burning](#)

**Worth reading:** [China's military set-up is designed to foil any would-be Prigozhin](#)

## View From The Hill



Congress began a two-week Fourth of July recess after a marathon seven-straight weeks of the House being in session. During this time, the House GOP experienced [significant infighting](#), as the House Freedom Caucus mostly ground legislative operations to a halt in protest of Speaker McCarthy's debt limit deal with President Joe Biden. Committees are the real legislative engines of Capitol Hill, though, hence successful full committee markups of both the House and Senate versions of the NDAA, as well as multiple appropriations measures, including the [House Defense Appropriations bill](#).

This progress, however, sets the stage for a high-stakes, high-drama balancing act in the coming weeks as Speaker McCarthy seeks to appease his factitious conference and keep his promise to pass all twelve spending bills by the end of September. Currently, it is widely held that he does not yet have the votes within the GOP locked up. This is without any negotiating having happened yet with the White House or Senate Democrats. What's more, there is bipartisan concern surrounding a [deal](#) Speaker McCarthy made with conservatives to incorporate a proposal by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) to enact a 1% cut across all discretionary government spending, including Defense and Veterans Affairs, if all twelve appropriations measures are not passed by the end of the calendar year.

Congress is not immune from the widespread handwringing around AI and its burgeoning impact across industries, academia, and government. This week, the House's Chief Administrative Officer [issued](#) guidance governing the use of ChatGPT by House staff, requiring offices to only utilize the paid version of the large language model, limit inputs only to publicly-available text, and use the service for "research and evaluation only." This comes on the heels of bipartisan efforts in the Senate, led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, to explore legislation regulating the use of AI.

The House and Senate will resume on Tuesday, July 11th.

## **Aerospace & Defense**

### [Pentagon could block 80-plus deliveries of F-35s \(Defense One\)](#)

More than 80 F-35s could be left in limbo as the Pentagon refuses to accept new jets until testing of updated technology on the stealth fighters is complete. Deliveries of new F-35s are on hold until December at the earliest and April at the latest, according to F-35 Joint Program Office spokesperson Russ Goemaere. That means Lockheed Martin will have to sit on 45 jets if the delay extends to December and 81 jets if it extends to April, as the company's contract stipulates it must deliver nine planes per month with the tech upgrade. While the JPO estimates the delay could last until next spring, Lockheed said they still plan to deliver by December. "In all test programs there are risk analysis models. While the JPO recognizes there could be a delivery range between Dec. 2023 and April 2024, we remain committed to delivering the first TR-3 jet in 2023," the company said in a statement.

### [U.S. considers ATACMS long-range missiles to bolster Ukraine's fight](#)

### [US clears Norway for \\$293 million small diameter bomb sale to equip F-35 fleet \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The US State Department has approved a \$293 million potential Foreign Military Sale (FMS) to Norway for Raytheon-made GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb (SDB) IIs for use on F-35 Lightning II fighter jets. Announced Wednesday, Oslo has specifically requested procurement of 580 SDBs, also known as StormBreaker, which follows an earlier approved sale for 20 of the precision guided weapons, bringing the total on order to 600 units. Made with a tri-mode seeker integrated with imaging infrared and millimeter wave radar capable of navigating all weather conditions, StormBreaker has been designed to strike fixed or moving targets on land or at sea, and boasts a range of 45 miles (72 kilometers), according to Raytheon. The manufacturer was awarded a \$320 million contract by the US Air Force for production of 1,500 StormBreakers in March 2023. The bomb has already been fielded by US Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle fighter jets and can also be carried by F/A-18 Super Hornets.

### [Congress aims for faster arms sales with defense bills and task force](#)

### [Uncertainty clouds defense spending forecast \(Roll Call\)](#)

Even with a budget deal firmly set in law, the size and characteristics of the fiscal 2024 defense budget remain even more in flux than defense bills usually are this time of year. A number of factors now in play could drive defense spending far above — or far below — the budget caps set in a law enacted earlier this month under pressure of a looming debt default. Congress never knows in summer exactly how much will be spent on defense — or for what — in the fiscal year that starts each October. But more clarity might have been

expected at this year's midpoint, because of the new budget law's caps on discretionary defense and nondefense appropriations in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, which permit modest growth in spending for both categories. Instead, uncertainty reigns. First, the law does not limit emergency spending, and a measure or measures appropriating such money, mainly but not only for Ukraine, is distinctly possible. If that happens, the defense budget would rise above the law's prescribed levels — maybe by a lot — though key House Republicans are resisting that. Inflation, meanwhile, will have an enormous bearing on how much of a real increase the Pentagon will receive or not. Yet no one knows what inflation will be in the fiscal year that does not even begin for three months. Defense spending could also go way down under another scenario. Under the June budget law, if all 12 appropriations bills are not enacted by Jan. 1, 2024, then defense and nondefense spending caps would be cut in fiscal 2024 to 1 percent below the fiscal 2023 levels — a potential multibillion-dollar retrenchment for defense and nondefense programs alike. In addition to uncertainty over the total amount of appropriations — the so-called topline — how it is allocated is still up in the air. The Armed Services panels and Defense appropriators agree on most things. But the House Appropriations Committee's Defense money bill, which the panel teed up for floor consideration in a vote last week, proposes spending additions and subtractions worth billions of dollars that may or may not be supported by Senate appropriators, who have yet to mark up their bill or even schedule it.

## Budget & Appropriations

### [House majority whip to industry: Get behind the NDAA \(Politico Pro\)](#)

A top House GOP lawmaker is asking defense industry executives and lobbyists to help leadership sell rank-and-file Republicans the Pentagon policy bill, according to five people with knowledge of a recent meeting. The GOP conference is split on defense spending, specifically on whether the party should stick to the caps negotiated under the debt deal or push for more funding by increasing the budget or attempting to pad it through a supplemental. Either move could nullify the debt agreement. On June 15, House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-Minn.) called a meeting with a large contingent of defense industry executives and lobbyists, as he seeks to corral Republican votes for the fiscal 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. The premise of the meeting on defense legislation was to go over procedural items such as the new process lawmakers will use to submit amendments and electronic voting, two lobbyists who attended the meeting said. Attendees included executives from large defense contractors Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Technologies, and lobbyists who represent multiple companies.

### [Senate defense bill opens the door to a new Cyber Force](#)

### [A debt deal twist is shifting Congress' shutdown gameplan \(Politico Pro\)](#)

With just over three months until the next shutdown deadline, the two parties are nowhere near a bipartisan deal to fund the government by the start of the new fiscal year. So top lawmakers are predicting that Congress will revert back to its worn-out habit: punting until the holiday season. It's a classic forcing mechanism when members are particularly eager to escape the Capitol dome. This time, a new threat adds to the year-end impetus, thanks to the recent bipartisan debt limit deal. If the House and Senate fail to clear a dozen annual spending bills by midnight on New Year's Eve, according to the deal, it would trigger an automatic 1 percent across-the-board funding cut if a short-term spending patch is in place. That would be a severely difficult accounting conundrum for federal agencies — and a potential political landmine for Speaker Kevin McCarthy and President Joe Biden, who both have a lot to lose in 2024. Even the deadline for those cuts could get a bit convoluted, however. While Jan. 1 is technically the trigger date for a drop in spending levels under the debt agreement — unless Congress passes a new funding bill in time — top appropriators say the actual reductions wouldn't kick in until the end of April. That partisan approach means the House will spend much of the summer churning out a dozen funding measures that Democrats consider fake messaging bills, legislation that has little to no chance at passing a Senate controlled by Biden's party. After that, lawmakers hope some true bipartisan movement toward funding the government can begin.

### [What you missed in the defense approps bill](#)

#### [House bill calls for test of Space Force budget flexibility \(Defense News\)](#)

House appropriators want the Space Force to try out a new budgeting approach that could give the service more flexibility to shift funding as needs change and threats arise. The House Appropriations Committee's fiscal 2024 defense spending bill includes a provision directing the service to submit a supplementary exhibit next year that consolidates budget lines for each of its programs into mission-area portfolios. Lawmakers expect the move would give greater insight into how the service's capabilities align with the National Defense Strategy and give the Space Force flexibility to move funding around within those portfolios. The measure would be a trial for the fiscal 2025 budget cycle but could be continued and expanded across the Department of Defense in future years. The provision echoes proposals from former and current DoD officials, including the Space Force. Following the creation of the service in 2019, Space Force leaders submitted a report to Congress detailing recommended reforms to the acquisition system. Chief among those proposals was to consolidate budget items based on mission areas.

### **Advanced Technologies**

#### [White House issues warning to US firms interested in acquiring Israeli surveillance tech \(The Guardian\)](#)

The Biden administration has warned that any attempted takeover by an American

company of Israel's NSO Group, the maker of one of the world's most sophisticated cyber-weapons, could prompt a review of whether the acquisition posed a counterintelligence threat to the US government. The statement by the National Security Council comes after the Guardian reported that Robert Simonds, a Hollywood financier best known for producing several Adam Sandler films, is exploring a possible bid to take control of NSO's assets, including Pegasus, the company's spyware. Simonds was recently appointed to serve as a director of the Luxembourg-based holding company that controls NSO and people familiar with the situation say he is mulling ways to possibly take over some of NSO's assets. He has privately discussed trying to put NSO's sought-after technology exclusively in the hands of "Five Eyes", the intelligence alliance that includes the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the sources said. Any takeover of the company's assets would face significant hurdles in Israel, where NSO is closely regulated by the ministry of defence. But it would also face scrutiny in the US. NSO was placed on a US blacklist in 2021 – formally known as the entity list – after the Biden administration said it found evidence that NSO was selling tools that "enabled foreign governments to conduct transnational repression", including the malicious targeting of government officials, journalists, businesspeople, activists, academics and embassy workers.

### [Google DeepMind's CEO Says Its Next Algorithm Will Eclipse ChatGPT](#)

#### [U.S. Considers New Curbs on AI Chip Exports to China \(The Wall Street Journal\)](#)

The Biden administration is considering new restrictions on exports of artificial-intelligence chips to China, as concerns rise over the power of the technology in the hands of U.S. rivals, according to people familiar with the situation. The Commerce Department could move as soon as early next month to stop the shipments of chips made by Nvidia and other chip makers to customers in China and other countries of concern without first obtaining a license, the people said. The action would be part of final rules codifying and expanding the export control measures announced in October, some of the people said. The Commerce Department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The move could further crimp China's ability to build its AI capabilities after restrictions last year that cut off the most advanced AI chips made by Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices. Nvidia responded to that move by making a version of its AI chips for the Chinese market called the A800 that fell below performance thresholds outlined by the Commerce Department. That chip replaced the A100, which is widely used in data centers to do AI computations. The new restrictions being contemplated by the department would ban the sale of even A800 chips without a license, according to the people familiar with the matter.

### [Virgin Galactic finally flies its first commercial space tourism mission](#)

#### [How Marine Corps University is experimenting with generative AI in simulations and wargaming \(Defense Scoop\)](#)

Diving headfirst into the emerging, uncertain opportunities posed by generative artificial intelligence, experts at Marine Corps University (MCU) are experimenting with large language models and associated capabilities that they say hold potential to completely transform military wargaming. A nascent technology subfield underpinning the making of large language models that can generate audio, software code, images, text, videos and other media when humans prompt them to, generative AI products (like OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's BardAI) have exploded in popularity over the last six months and continue to get more "intelligent" and sophisticated as they are trained. At Marine Corps University in Quantico, Virginia, "we're taking things like large language models, like ChatGPT right, and incorporating them into the simulations," Corrente explained. In his view, there are "multiple avenues there" for applications — and in particular right now "providing better analytics and analyzation of what's happening [in simulations and wargames], as well as providing a lower level of entry for the average person to use the software." Students at the university are Marine officers continuing their professional military education. Educators use a variety of software and systems for simulations and wargames. One application MCU uses is known as Command: Professional Edition — an all-domain simulation software that can be trained and customized to provide students with a clearer picture of how real-world missions or exercises might unfold. The app was demonstrated for DefenseScoop at the convention. Largely, that program is used to teach joint warfighting to majors as they go up into staff level billets. Therefore, Williamson noted, "it's less about playing the game for them and more about getting familiar with making the plans" that could enable future missions.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

### [Georgia base tapped to host F-35 fighters as A-10 fleet retires \(Air Force Times\)](#)

Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, is the service's top pick to become the next active duty home of the F-35A Lightning II fighter. The Air Force said Monday it plans to bring two F-35 squadrons to the Valdosta base starting in fiscal 2029, when it hopes to complete phasing out its fleet of A-10C Thunderbolt II attack planes. Switching missions at Moody isn't expected to create any new jobs on base, the Air Force said, although it had previously announced that the U.S.'s most advanced fighter jet would bring in another 500 or so workers. The Air Force's plan to swap A-10s for F-35s at Moody is emblematic of the Pentagon's pivot from its longtime War on Terror to instead focus on military competition with China. The service argues that the Warthog fleet must be retired because it is ill-equipped to face off against advanced air defenses, stealth jets and the vast distances of the Pacific. Critics say the A-10 can perform the close air support mission far better than the F-35, which was designed as the high-tech "quarterback" of the battlefield rather than to hunt convoys.

### [The Military Recruiting Crisis: Even Veterans Don't Want Their Children](#)

## to Join

### [Ohio 'will be vigorously competing' for Space Command if competition is redone, Turner says \(Politico Pro\)](#)

Ohio was never a serious contender to be the permanent home of Space Command. Yet Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) said Wednesday that his home state “will be vigorously competing” for the prize — if the Air Force restarts the competition. It comes as the administration’s review of a Trump administration decision to move the HQ from Colorado — where it is now housed temporarily — to Alabama has sparked a messy fight in Congress and a surprise bid from Sen. Sherrod Brown (R-Ohio) on behalf of the Buckeye State. A bipartisan group of Ohio lawmakers led by Brown is making an 11th-hour push to convince Biden and Pentagon brass to pick the state as the permanent home for Space Command. Turner, whose Dayton-area district includes Wright-Patterson, didn’t sign on to the initial effort.

### [Service academies exempt from Supreme Court affirmative action ruling](#)

### [Army families said they were swindled. Congress moves to counterpunch. \(The Washington Post\)](#)

Lawmakers are pursuing legislation that would enhance the military’s oversight of financial counselors tasked with helping the survivors of deceased service members, following an outcry from grief-stricken families who alleged they were fleeced out of hundreds of thousands of dollars by an Army employee who exploited them. The push from Capitol Hill follows a Washington Post report in February detailing the allegations of four military families who said an Army financial counselor took control of their life insurance money through brokerage firms where he also was employed. They accused him of strip-mining their accounts through trades that earned him thousands of dollars in commissions, often executed, the families alleged, without their consent or consultation. Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.), a retired Air Force general who has backed the amendment, said the legislation would help “prevent predatory financial practices.” Financial counselors are meant to “educate and support their clients on their benefits and estate planning needs,” the Army said in February, not handle their funds or benefit financially from their relationship.

## **Homeland Security**

### [FBI and Homeland Security ignored 'massive amount' of intelligence before Jan. 6, Senate report says \(AP News\)](#)

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security downplayed or ignored “a massive amount of intelligence information” ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S Capitol,

according to the chairman of a Senate panel that on Tuesday released a new report on the intelligence failures ahead of the insurrection. Among the multitude of intelligence that was overlooked was a December 2020 tip to the FBI that members of the far-right extremist group The Proud Boys planned to be in Washington, D.C., for the certification of Joe Biden's victory and their "plan is to literally kill people," the report said. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee said the agencies were also aware of many social media posts that foreshadowed violence, some calling on Trump's supporters to "come armed" and storm the Capitol, kill lawmakers or "burn the place to the ground." Even as the attack was happening, the new report found, the FBI and Homeland Security downplayed the threat. As the Capitol Police struggled to clear the building, Homeland Security "was still struggling to assess the credibility of threats against the Capitol and to report out its intelligence."

### [In a post-presidency audio recording, Trump discusses classified documents](#)

#### [Domestic terrorism charges in Georgia are prompting concern over political repression \(NPR\)](#)

When Luke Harper went to Atlanta in early March, he thought he would just be staying the weekend. Harper, a 27-year old copywriter from Florida, was going there to join demonstrators in opposition to the planned construction of a new police and fire training facility. But on his second night, after attending a music festival with other protesters, Harper was arrested and accused of being a "domestic terrorist." Despite having no prior criminal history, Harper was denied bond several times and finally left the DeKalb County jail in early June. The controversy over the planned Atlanta Public Safety Training Center — which opponents have dubbed "Cop City" — has been growing for two years. Spearheaded by a private organization, the Atlanta Police Foundation, it would site a state-of-the-art facility on 85 acres of land that the city acquired a century ago to use as a prison farm. According to the National Conference on State Legislatures, Georgia, New York and Vermont are the only states with laws about "domestic terrorism" or a "domestic act of terrorism." But many more states have terrorism statutes that further criminalize acts that are intended to "influence the policy of government" by "intimidation or coercion." To some, these statutes leave too much room for abuse.

### [Chinese spy craft used American tech to collect photos, videos](#)

#### [U.S. restarts asylum appointments at Mexico border town despite extortion threat \(Reuters\)](#)

The U.S. government is restarting asylum appointments at a dangerous Mexican border town, according to Customs and Borders Protection (CBP), just days after U.S. officials

suspended the scheduling of appointments there because drug cartels were extorting migrants. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said its CBP One mobile app, which officials have urged migrants to use since COVID-era restrictions called Title 42 expired in May, will offer appointments again beginning Wednesday. This comes less than two weeks after CBP had shut down the system for asylum appointments at Laredo – the Texas city opposite Nuevo Laredo - once U.S. officials learned criminals were forcing migrants to pay \$500 each in order to reach the bridge to attend their appointments. While the U.S. government app to book asylum appointments aims to cut out dangerous human smugglers, events in Nuevo Laredo show it can still be exploited by cartels to extort migrants, posing serious questions about its viability.

## Transportation & Infrastructure

### [Feds inject another \\$50 million into Hawaii for infrastructure improvements \(Civil Beat\)](#)

On Wednesday, top officials in the Biden administration, including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, announced more than \$2.2 billion in federal grants for 162 projects across the country, including two in Hawaii. The City and County of Honolulu will receive \$25 million to help build a pedestrian bridge over the Ala Wai Canal while Maui County receives its own \$25 million grant for the extension of Liloa Road in Kihei, which includes the construction of new sidewalks, roundabouts and a bridge crossing. The money comes from a U.S. Department of Transportation discretionary grant program launched in 2009 by President Barack Obama known as TIGER. The program now operates under a new acronym, RAISE, that stands for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity. Funding for the program was expanded under the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure deal that Congress passed in 2021 and has since become a cornerstone of Biden's domestic policy agenda as well as his 2024 campaign.

### [Biden-Harris Administration announces funding for 162 community-led infrastructure projects as part of the Investing in America Agenda](#)

### [Here's how much each state will get in the \\$42.5 billion broadband infrastructure plan \(CNN\)](#)

The Biden administration on Monday outlined how states across the country will be receiving billions of dollars in federal funding for high-speed internet access, highlighting the US government's push to bring connectivity to more Americans and to close the digital divide. More than \$42 billion from the 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law will be distributed to US states and territories for building internet access, the White House said — with Texas eligible for the largest award of more than \$3.3 billion, followed by California, which could receive more than \$1.8 billion. All US states and territories have been awarded at least some funding, starting with the US Virgin Islands, which is eligible for \$27 million under the initiative known as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

program.

### [Train carrying hazardous materials derails and bridge collapses into Montana River](#)

#### [Skanska-Halmer JV lands \\$1.2B JFK airport job \(Construction Dive\)](#)

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has selected a Skanska and Halmar International joint venture for the \$1.24 billion design-build contract to improve infrastructure at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, New York. Project work will include improved roadways, a parking garage and a pedestrian bridge. It is part of the \$19 billion investment to overhaul JFK into a “world-class airport,” according to the announcement Monday. Swedish contractor and developer Skanska and Nanuet, New York-based Halmar International will work alongside lead designer Centreville, Virginia-based Parsons Corp. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2027.

## **Biotechnology & Healthcare**

#### [Biotech begins human trials of drug designed by artificial intelligence \(Financial Times\)](#)

A biotech company backed by Chinese conglomerate Fosun Group and private equity giant Warburg Pincus has begun one of the first mid-stage human trials of a drug discovered and designed by artificial intelligence. Insilico Medicine, which was founded by Latvian-born scientist Alex Zhavoronkov, said it had dosed a patient in China with a novel therapy to treat the chronic lung disease idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The company said the drug, INS018\_055, was the first entirely “AI-discovered and AI designed” drug to begin a phase 2 clinical trial and represented an important milestone for the industry. Insilico is one of a new generation of biotechs, which have collectively raised billions of dollars to develop AI tools aimed at revolutionising drug development. It is part of a race by Big Pharma and investors to capitalise on a \$50bn market opportunity for AI in the sector, according to a report by Morgan Stanley. AI platforms can crunch vast amounts of data to rapidly identify drug targets — proteins in the body associated with particular diseases — and molecules that can be made into medicines.

### [An unexpected doorway into the ear opens new possibilities for hearing restoration](#)

#### [Justice Department charges 78 people with \\$2.5 billion in health-care fraud \(CNBC\)](#)

The Department of Justice said it has charged 78 people with \$2.5 billion in health-care

fraud as part of a coordinated crackdown. The DOJ said the defendants allegedly defrauded programs used to take care of elderly and disabled people, and in some cases used the ill-gotten money to buy exotic cars, jewelry and yachts. Among those charged are 11 defendants accused of submitting \$2 billion in fraudulent claims through telemedicine, as well as 10 defendants charged in connection with fraudulent prescription drug claims. In all, prosecutors filed charges against people in 16 states in cases that were lodged or unsealed in the past two weeks as part of the coordinated crackdown. The defendants include “physicians and other licensed medical professionals who lined their own pockets, including doctors who allegedly put their patients at risk by illegally providing them with opioids they did not need,” the DOJ said in a press release. The defendants allegedly received payments for referring fraudulent doctors’ orders and prescriptions to pharmacies, suppliers and telemarketers, according to the indictment. The orders and prescriptions claimed the doctors had actually examined or treated the patients when in reality the physicians were paid to sign the documents by supposed telemedicine companies, the indictment alleges.

### [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome funnel \\$550M into ex-GSK tuberculosis shot](#)

#### [FDA approves first cell therapy for Type 1 Diabetes \(BioSpace\)](#)

In a growing string of regulatory milestones this year, the FDA on Wednesday approved the first cellular therapy for type 1 diabetes. Lantidra (donislecel), developed by Chicago-based CellTrans, is a pancreatic islet cell therapy made from the pancreatic cells of deceased donors. It is authorized for adults with type 1 diabetes (T1D) whose repeated episodes of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) leave them unable to hit average blood glucose levels. Lantidra is believed to work through the secretion of insulin by the infused allogeneic islet beta cells. In some patients, it’s possible that these infused cells could produce enough insulin that the patient would no longer be beholden to insulin to control their sugar levels, according to the FDA’s press release. Cell therapy appears to be picking up steam as a viable treatment for type 1 diabetes. On Friday, Vertex announced one-year follow-up data from a Phase I/II clinical trial of its investigational stem cell–based therapy VX-880 showing that two patients no longer required insulin injections.

## **Climate & Development**

#### [How large are the Canadian wildfires, and who is suffering the smoke? \(The Washington Post\)](#)

Canadian officials are using one term to sum up Canada’s wildfire season: record-breaking. Wildfires continue to engulf much of Canada, making this the nation’s most disastrous wildfire season on record in terms of acreage burned. It also has again sent

plumes of thick smoke over vast distances, this time stretching from the Great Lakes to the East Coast. Air quality levels “will unlikely be to the extent, the severity, of what we’ve already seen. But smoke’s still going to be up there,” Gillham told The Washington Post. Smoke from the fires has drifted thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean and is damaging air quality in Portugal, France, Ireland and other parts of Europe. Air quality alerts stretch from the Great Lakes to New York and down to North Carolina, where air quality levels range from moderate to hazardous for everyone. In Medina County, Ohio, the Air Quality Index exceeded 310.

### [Brutal heat waves makes Texas hottest places on Earth](#)

#### [Hurricane Adrian churns off the Coast of Mexico in the Eastern Pacific \(The New York Times\)](#)

Hurricane Adrian continued to move westward off the coast of Mexico on Thursday, a day after it rapidly intensified to become the first hurricane in the eastern Pacific region this year, the National Hurricane Center said. The storm was moving across the Pacific and away from Mexico’s west coast on Thursday, the Hurricane Center said. It had maximum sustained winds of 85 miles per hour, slightly above the threshold of 74 m.p.h. that makes a storm a hurricane. Tropical disturbances receive a name when they pack sustained winds of at least 39 m.p.h. As of Thursday midday, Adrian was 445 miles west-southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, moving at seven m.p.h. Maria Torres, a meteorologist with the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said on Wednesday that Adrian would maintain the same general direction through Thursday and that it was expected to make a turn to the west-northwest on Friday. The hurricane did not appear to represent an immediate threat to land and would remain over open waters, she said. But Ms. Torres said that people living along the coastal areas of Mexico should monitor the storm and watch for updates from their local meteorology offices, “because it can create rip currents and hazardous beach conditions.”

### [Intensifying rain pose hidden flood risks across the U.S.](#)

#### [South Florida military bases draft plan for climate risk. It's a national security threat \(Miami Herald\)](#)

From Key West to Port Everglades, the military facilities across South Florida face the same risks from hurricanes and extreme weather as homes and businesses. But when they’re battered by winds, flooded out or lose power, it can also pose a national security risk. Protecting them from the increasing threats of climate change will call for millions of dollars in projects and some key policy changes, according to a draft report released by the South Florida Regional Planning Council. The report doesn’t provide a timeline for upgrades at the four bases and sites but underlines the realities that all of South Florida faces heightened threats in the coming decades – particularly from flooding caused by sea

rise, hurricane storm surge and extreme rainfall like the rain bomb that drowned Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods in April. The Key West Naval Air Station is more vulnerable to sea rise than any other military base and by 2050 it could become unusable with 35 to 70% projected by the Union of Concerned Scientists of land loss. And the plan for Key West underlines solutions already presented by Monroe County, like adding stormwater pumps to reduce flooding at the air station, which had to be evacuated most recently during Hurricane Ian last year.

---

## Next Week's Hearings

### **Armed Services Committees**

House: None Listed

Senate: None listed

### **Appropriations Committees**

House: None listed

Senate: None listed

### **Homeland Security Committees**

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

---

*Copyright © 2017-Present The Roosevelt Group LLC, All rights reserved.*

#### **Our mailing address is:**

200 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Suite 360, Washington DC 20001

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---

**WARNING: This email originated outside York County's email servers. Please verify the sender's identity, and use caution when clicking any links or opening any attachments.**