

From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief
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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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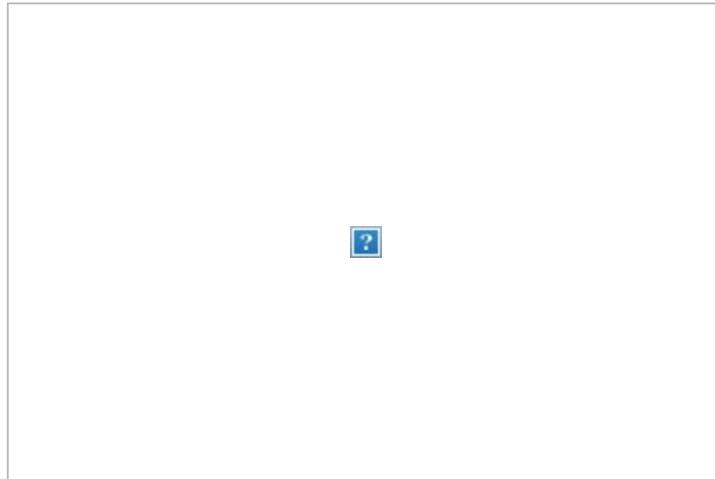
Notable Headlines

- [College campuses remain largely peaceful, even as widespread protests mark war anniversary](#)
- [Obama, the 'hopey-changey guy,' tries to close the deal for Harris](#)

- [Trump plans rallies in solidly Democratic states in an unorthodox strategy for the election's final weeks](#)
- [Hurricane Milton live updates: Death and destruction as Florida begins long recovery](#)
- [How 2 elite Navy SEALs drowned in plain sight in anti-terror mission](#)

Worth reading: [Hezbollah forges new command for crucial ground war after heavy Israeli blows](#)

View From The Hill



As the southeastern United States continues to recover from Hurricane Helene's devastating impact throughout Appalachia, central Florida was walloped this week by Hurricane Milton. It is in times of natural disaster that the old saying "all politics is local," comes into its truest sense, as Members of Congress from devastated regions focus on soliciting federal aid to their communities, lest they risk vehement political [backlash](#). In the case of both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, elected officials were faced with a growing challenge to recovery: misinformation. Impacted constituents have faced a deluge of misinformation on social media surrounding federal response efforts, relief program eligibility, locations of critical supplies, and more in recent days, and officials on both sides of the aisle have been [scrambling](#) to provide clarity and awareness amidst the confusion.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) took a break from the campaign and fundraising circuit to [visit](#) western North Carolina this week to tour damage from Hurricane Helene. Johnson praised the efforts of first responders, while expressing his support for a disaster supplemental funding bill once lawmakers return to Washington following the election. The House Homeland Security Committee is expected to hold a field hearing next week in the region to examine federal response efforts.

With campaign fever the talk of the town both in Washington and across the country, it's debate season for lawmakers on the campaign trail. Specifically, high-profile senate debates between candidates took the stage this week in a number of contests critical to control of the upper chamber. In Michigan, Democrat Rep. Elissa Slotkin faced off against Republican former Rep. Mike Rodgers, while Arizona candidates Rep. Ruben Gallego (D)

and Kari Lake (R) traded barbs. Former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan (R) participated in a televised debate against Democratic opponent Angela Alsobrooks. It remains to be seen to what extent senate debates really move the needle in such races, but they are often candidates' best chance at distinguishing themselves in closely-watched elections.

Aerospace & Defense

[Lockheed names software specialist as new head of F-35 jet program](#)

As the current director of Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program gets set to retire, a software engineering specialist will prepare to take over. Chauncey McIntosh, currently a Lockheed VP and the deputy on the F-35 program will "take over as the program's general manager on Dec. 1." In former roles at Lockheed McIntosh oversaw "software development for the Aegis Weapon System, as well as managing missile defense, radar, shipbuilding, directed energy, and combat system integration programs." The F-35 program has struggled with software issues which were a large part of a recent year-long delivery halt. Lockheed eventually developed a 'truncated' form of the software which allowed the jets to be delivered and provided the ability to fly training missions. However, those jets still cannot fly combat missions and are likely not to be ready until 2025. During his time at Lockheed, McIntosh also oversaw software engineering for the F-22 Raptor, C-5 Galaxy, P-3 Orion, and S-3 Viking aircraft.

[Boeing files unfair labor practice charge against striking union](#)

[NATO to hold annual nuclear drill from Monday, alliance chief Rutte says](#)

NATO Secretary General said the group will begin its annual nuclear exercise on Monday, set against a backdrop of heightened nuclear rhetoric from Russian President Vladimir Putin. F-35A fighter jets and B-52 bombers will be "among some 60 aircraft from 13 nations taking part in the Steadfast Noon exercise, hosted by Belgium and The Netherlands." Of the exercise, Rutte said, "In an uncertain world it is vital that we test our defense and that we strengthen our defense so that our adversaries know that NATO is ready, and is able to respond to any threat." Around 2,000 military personnel taking part in the drill will simulate missions in which warplanes carry US nuclear warheads. It will begin on Monday and last about two weeks. The annual exercise comes as Putin has increased the threat of using nuclear weapons. Last month he said Russia could use nuclear weapons "if it was struck with conventional missiles, and that Moscow would consider any assault on it supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack."

Advanced Technologies

[Foxconn to build Taiwan's fastest AI Supercomputer with NVIDIA Blackwell](#)

NVIDIA and Foxconn are coming together to build Taiwan's largest supercomputer, marking a milestone in the AI advancement on the island. Announced earlier this week, the Hon Hai Kaohsiung Super Computing Center will be built around "NVIDIA's ground breaking Blackwell architecture and feature the GB200 NVL72 platform, which includes a total of 64 racks and 4,608 Tensor Core CPUs." It has an expected performance of 90 exaflops of AI performance, which would make it the fastest in Taiwan. Foxconn plans to use the supercomputer to "power breakthroughs in cancer research, large language model development, and smart city innovations, positioning Taiwan as a global leader in AI-driven industries. The project will integrate with NVIDIA technologies, such as NVIDIA Omniverse and Isaac robotics platforms for AI and digital twins technologies.

[GSA's emerging tech radar keeping tabs on future needs](#)

[Secret X-37B spaceplane maneuvers could impact future space operations](#)

Ten months into its latest and largely classified mission, the Space Force's X-37B spaceplane is embarking on a new set of maneuvers that could "inform future space operations for the service." The spacecraft has functioned as a testbed for Pentagon and NASA technologies since 2010. Its current mission, OTV-7 began in December with the goal of "experimenting with future space domain awareness technologies." In a press release this week, the Space Force revealed the spaceplane is preparing to conduct what's called an aerobraking maneuver. Although it has been used in the past this will be the first time the X-37B attempts it. The technique "involves a series of passes that rely on the drag of Earth's atmosphere and if successful it will allow the X-37B to change orbits using minimal fuel." Both Chief of Space Operations, Gen. Chance Saltzman, and Air Force Secretary, Frank Kendall, have both emphasized how the X-37B maneuvers could impact how the Space Force navigates the environment in the future.

Military Installations & Communities

[Prep courses, policy tweaks largely drove the military's recruiting success in 2024](#)

After years of negative recruiting news and headlines, all military branches managed to meet their recruiting goals. They were largely aided by new programs and policies that allowed them to sign up recruits who have been disqualified in previous years. Although there were wins for 2024, with ambitious goals for 2025 and deeper issues related to Gen-Z services may not be out of the woods just yet. 2024 was the first year that programs introduced in 2022 were able to demonstrate their full potential. This included both the Army and Navy seeing increases by "allowing otherwise disqualified candidates to still sign up and join the service." The services also increased the number of recruiters which had an impact on the numbers as well.

[National Guard Black Hawks Reach Residents in Remote Mountain Areas Cut Off by Helene](#)

['Better than Forecasted': Florida military bases reporting little damage after Hurricane Milton passes](#)

Military bases in Florida are still assessing damage from Hurricane Milton, but initial assessments appear they avoided widespread damage that was feared. A recovery team sent to MacDill Air Force Base intends to survey any damage and begin recovery efforts after Florida was hit first by Helene and then Milton. The Pentagon's top spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said, "Milton wasn't the worst case scenario" but that teams were just starting to analyze. Initial reports seem to "indicate some damage, but not extensive" Ryder continued, although they will need to wait for more extensive analysis. MacDill AFB, home to US Special Operations Command and the Air Force's 6th Air Refueling Wing only had a few facilities with visible damage, but the primary concern was clearing the roads from downed trees.

Homeland Security

[Hurricane Rumor Response](#)

In response to misinformation spreading throughout the news, FEMA has addressed several false rumors regarding its disaster assistance following recent events. Contrary to claims that FEMA will only provide \$750 to disaster survivors, the agency clarifies that this amount refers to Serious Needs Assistance, an initial payment for essential items like food, water, baby formula, breastfeeding supplies, medication and other emergency supplies. Applicants may qualify for additional aid for temporary housing and repairs as their cases are assessed. They also clarified the false rumor that FEMA restricts evacuations in Florida. In reality, "FEMA is not blockading people in Florida and preventing evacuations. FEMA does not control traffic flow or conduct traffic stops; these responsibilities lie with local authorities. This misinformation is dangerous and could jeopardize lives." Lastly, FEMA reassures applicants that they have enough funds for immediate response and recovery needs. They encourage individuals not to hesitate in applying for disaster assistance, as various forms of support are available for different needs.

[How did FEMA spend \\$9 billion so quickly? Back-to-back disasters](#)

[When S&T and HSWERX Partner, the Results Are Out of Sight](#)

S&T and HSWERX recently collaborated with industry partners to showcase aerial solutions for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Similar public-private partnership

opportunities are expected to expand in 2025. In July, S&T and CBP invited select companies to the Xelevate airfield in Leesburg, Virginia, to test unmanned aircraft system (UAS) sensors designed to enhance field agents' situational awareness beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). The UAS units took to the skies, demonstrating their ability to operate out of sight while maintaining clear imagery of the landscape below and avoiding other aircraft. The BVLOS two-day demo event was one of several initiatives that HSWERX oversees for S&T, aimed at providing innovative technology to DHS components by linking DHS stakeholders with subject matter experts from industry, academia, and national laboratories to enhance capabilities for end users.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[US transportation chief says increasingly important to resolve Boeing strike](#)

This week, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg emphasized the need to resolve a four week strike by 33,000 Boeing workers that are seeking a new contract. Buttigieg stated that this resolution must support both worker's needs and company success. As he did not specify when the strike would start to impact the broader airplane supply chain, he stated that each day, the urgency for resolution increases. "Boeing said on Tuesday it had withdrawn its pay offer to the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers after two days of talks, and accused the union of not seriously considering its proposals." The strike has affected production of the 737 MAX and other models, leading to a 1.8% drop in Boeing's stock. Thirty House Democrats urged both sides to negotiate in good faith to reach a timely agreement. The company's suppliers are now concerned about how to retain thousands of workers who may face furloughs in the coming weeks due to the planemaker's first strike in 16 years.

[Tesla shares drop 6% in premarket after Cybercab robotaxi reveal fails to impress](#)

[America's largest water utility hit by cyberattack at time of rising threats against U.S. infrastructure](#)

American Water, the largest U.S. water utility, recently suffered a cyberattack, highlighting the growing threat to critical infrastructure, particularly water systems. The company stated that the water and wastewater operations were unaffected by the attack, however they were forced to shut down their customer service and billing systems. This specific attack highlights a broader issue surrounding the water system's vulnerability to attacks, often linked to foreign actors like Russia, China, and Iran, whose goal is to disrupt essential services. A recent EPA report revealed that 70% of inspected water systems have significant security flaws, such as outdated passwords, unsecured access, and former employees retaining system access. The incident underscores the pressing need for stronger cybersecurity defenses across water infrastructure to prevent future disruptions to critical services.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Microsoft announces new AI tools to help ease workload for doctors and nurses](#)

This week, Microsoft announced new AI and a series of new healthcare data for healthcare, including medical imaging models, a health-care agent service and an automated documentation solution for nurses. The tools are designed to help healthcare organizations accelerate the development of AI applications and reduce the time clinicians spend on administrative tasks, a key contributor to burnout in the industry. According to a report from the Office of the Surgeon General, nurses spend up to 41% of their time on documentation. The AI agents can automate tasks like finding clinical trials or answering patient questions, while safeguards ensure accuracy and transparency in AI-generated responses. Microsoft is also expanding its DAX Copilot tool, which automates clinical notes for doctors and nurses. This tool allows doctors to record patient visits with consent, and AI then converts these recordings into clinical notes and summaries. The goal is to reduce the time doctors spend manually typing notes after each patient visit.

[A Georgia biotech firm finds itself fighting the FDA and former workers](#)

[US releases preliminary list of \\$2 generic drugs for Medicare recipients](#)

On Wednesday, the U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a preliminary list of 101 generic drugs that will be available for Medicare enrollees for a maximum of \$2 per month. This list includes widely used medications like penicillin, metformin, lithium, and asthma inhalers, as well as treatments for high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and other chronic conditions. "CMS intends to include many drugs that are used to treat common conditions for people with Medicare, with periodic updates to the drug list once it is finalized," Liz Fowler, CMS deputy administrator and director of the Innovation Center, said in a statement. Following feedback from the pilot launch, the program aims to start as early as January of 2027. The initiative aims to evaluate if a streamlined method for providing low-cost generic medications can enhance patient adherence, according to CMS

Climate & Development

[Climate change boosted Helene's deadly rain and wind and scientists say same is likely for Milton](#)

According to a recent flash study released as Hurricane Milton intensifies and approaches the Florida coast, human-caused climate change increased the rainfall from Hurricane

Helene by approximately 10% and intensified its winds by about 11%. The warming climate increased Hurricane Helene's wind speeds by approximately 13 miles per hour and made the high sea temperatures that fueled the storm 200 to 500 times more likely, according to calculations by World Weather Attribution from Europe. Additionally, ocean temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico were about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) above average, as reported by WWA. The scientists cautioned that the ongoing burning of fossil fuels will result in more hurricanes similar to Helene, bringing “unimaginable” floods deep inland, not just along the coasts. Many of the fatalities from Helene were due to severe inland flooding rather than high winds. Scientists stress the need for urgent action on emergency preparedness, resilience planning, and reducing fossil fuel use to mitigate future risks posed by these storms. The study underscores the increasing threat of climate change, indicating that hurricanes like Helene are becoming more common.

[EPA Settles Some Alabama Coal Ash Violations, but Larger Questions Linger](#)

[Why You Won't Hear the Military Arguing About Climate Change](#)

The U.S. military is increasingly addressing the threats caused by climate change. In preparation for Hurricane Helene, more than 5,900 national guard members were called up to help prepare for the devastation. After the storm, the Pentagon sent active duty forces to assist with road clearing and logistics. “Within the last year, the military deployed nearly 50 times to address wildfires, storm surges, extreme heat, drought, flooding and more — with 41 of these deployments occurring within the U.S. The National Guard is now called on to combat raging wildfires at a rate 12 times higher than just eight years ago.” The military acknowledges the need to apply its war capabilities in response to natural disasters. Since Superstorm Sandy, the Pentagon has made substantial progress in preparing bases and missions for extreme weather events. In the coming years, many of the nation’s most climate-resilient infrastructures will be located on military bases that were previously severely impacted by storms. As the military identifies climate change as a significant national security threat, it highlights the need for societal support and collaboration to enhance resilience and prepare for future challenges.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Service Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Appropriations Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Homeland Security Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE



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