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**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief  
**Date:** Friday, December 6, 2024 10:39:51 AM  
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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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December 6, 2024

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## Notable Headlines

- [Trump picks David Perdue to be ambassador to China](#)
- [Trump picks Kelly Loeffler to lead Small Business Administration](#)
- [Suspect in UnitedHealthCare CEO shooting used fake ID and traveled by bus to New York, sources say](#)
- [Taiwan's president visits Guam, his second stop on US territory](#)
- [Emmanuel Macron vows to name new French PM within days](#)

**Worth Reading:** The Roosevelt Group expands its full-time staff by a third (more below)

## View From The Hill



President-elect Trump's controversial nominee for Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, continued making the rounds in the Senate this week, facing [allegations](#) of alcohol abuse,

sexual assault, and unprofessionalism from his roles at Fox News and various nonprofit organizations he previously helmed. Hegseth's nomination is on very shaky ground, and rumors have begun swirling that Trump is [considering](#) options like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis or Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) as potential replacements. Meanwhile, the dual heads of the incoming administration's "Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)," Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, [visited](#) Capitol Hill to brief lawmakers on their plans to slash wasteful government funding and reform the federal bureaucracy. Since Congress maintains the power of the purse and final say over federal spending, any DOGE proposal will need buy-in from the legislative branch to be implemented. While the effort has already been met with harsh criticism by congressional Democrats, Members in both the House and Senate have already launched individual DOGE Caucuses, with some House Democrats having already [volunteered](#) to join.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) will face an incredibly [narrow](#) majority in the House beginning next year, as the final margin now sits at a slim 220-215. What's more, when current GOP House Members slated for administration roles create vacancies early next year, the majority will become even narrower pending the outcome of special elections to fill their seats. Even with his current majority, Speaker Johnson is already facing challenges on government funding, which has a current Continuing Resolution (CR) through next week. Johnson wants to pass another CR until at least March, but he is already facing resistance from [within](#) his own party. For their part, House Democrats are seeing some shuffling among their top committee posts, with Rep. Jerry Nadler (D-NY) announcing a decision to step aside as the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee after Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) [announced](#) a challenge. Raskin's move to Judiciary means an open top spot on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where a number of Members are rumored to be angling for the post. Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) [announced](#) he was stepping down from his position as top democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, amidst a challenge from Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA).

Trying to determine when to schedule your TRG-coordinated trip to DC to advocate for your legislative and funding priorities? As of this week, both the House and Senate have [released](#) their respective 2025 calendars, outlining when each will be in session, including overlapping sessions.

## Pentagon Picks & Power Plays

President-elect Trump has announced his intentions to nominate key military leadership roles, including Daniel P. Driscoll as Secretary of the Army and John Phelan as Secretary of the Navy. Driscoll, an Army veteran and Yale-educated lawyer, served as a Cavalry Scout Platoon Leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom and later worked in venture capital and as a senior advisor to Vice President-elect J.D. Vance. Trump described Driscoll on [Truth Social](#) as a "former soldier, investor, and political advisor" and commended his unique combination of experiences, calling him a disruptor and change agent. [Phelan](#), founder of Rugged Management LLC, has a private equity background but no military service, with Trump highlighting his business acumen and commitment to advancing the Navy's strategic objectives. Finally, Trump tapped Stephen Feinberg, a prominent financier with limited direct experience in the agency to be the Pentagon's Deputy Defense Secretary. Feinberg, who previously served on a presidential intelligence advisory board, is the chief executive of Cerberus Capital Management, a private equity

firm with investments in military-related industries, including aircraft training and maintenance. The firm also holds a majority stake in Navistar Defense, a manufacturer of military vehicles, which some [critics](#) state poses potential concerns about conflicts of interest.

Major General Luke Cropsey was tapped this week as the [inaugural leader](#) of the Air Force's future Information Dominance Systems Center. Cropsey's nomination will need Senate confirmation, and if he is confirmed, he will receive his third star and begin charting forward with this new organization. Cropsey has led the Air Force's command, control, communications, and battle management program executive office for the past two years. The Air Force identified [Hanscom AFB](#) as the sole location to host the new center in November, with a final basing decision expected by the end of the year. The Information Dominance Systems Center, announced in February 2024, is part of the Air Force's re-optimization for a Great Power Competition. All branches of the Armed Forces are coming off two decades of counterterror operations in the Middle East against an enemy with inferior technology. However, with technologically superior actors like China and Russia, the services will need large shifts in organizations and capabilities. If confirmed, Cropsey will also be dual-hatted as the Air Force's command, control, communications, and battle management program director.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has announced a [\\$725 million aid package for Ukraine](#) that includes air defense capabilities, rocket system munitions, artillery rounds, and anti-tank weapons. These weapons will be provided through the drawdown authority, which allows the Pentagon to transfer equipment and weapons directly from U.S. stockpiles to expedite delivery to Ukraine. This aid package is among the final efforts by the current administration to support Ukraine before the transition to the incoming administration. President-elect Trump has expressed intentions to negotiate a quick resolution to the war, stating he could achieve peace within 24 hours. To fully utilize the [billions in congressionally approved funding for Ukraine](#), the Biden administration would need to transfer approximately [\\$7 billion in weapons](#) from existing U.S. stockpiles. However, the [Pentagon has indicated](#) that the capacity to provide military aid to Ukraine is constrained by the need to balance such actions with the U.S.'s own military readiness. Additionally, logistical challenges have hindered Ukraine's ability to deploy these weapons effectively to the front lines as it usually takes months for Ukraine to get weapons after sending an aid package. To exhaust the remaining funds, going back to late November, the U.S. would need to ship roughly \$110 million worth of equipment daily—an ambitious and complex undertaking.

President Biden is 45 days away from January 20, 2025, when he will leave office and hand over the White House to President Trump's second term. In his final month, the administration is focused on completing last-minute initiatives across various departments. A notable example is in national security, where National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced efforts to reform [regulations governing the exportation of critical missile technologies](#) to key U.S. allies. The White House is finalizing a national security memo aimed at "modernizing the implementation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)." This new memo builds on licensing exemptions for Australia and the UK, announced by the Biden administration in August, and aims to streamline the transfer of certain classified military technologies to AUKUS partners while increasing their capacity for weapons sales. However, sensitive missile technologies governed by the MTCR will remain excluded from these exemptions. The initiative reflects a broader effort to bolster allied defense capabilities in an increasingly complex global security environment. With non-traditional choices being nominated for Trump's Pentagon team, it is not certain whether efforts like these will continue, but Sullivan has indicated the administration will work until the clock strikes noon.

## TRG Adds Four New Senior Advisors

The Roosevelt Group has hired **Alycia Farrell, Jakob Johnsen, Benjamin Schultz** and **Nathan Paukovits**. Farrell spent the past 15 years as professional staff on the Senate Appropriations Committee, almost exclusively with the Defense Subcommittee; Johnsen was most recently chief of staff to Rep. Hal Rogers; and Schultz was most recently in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Integration; and Paukovits was most recently Director, Energy and Base Operating Support (CNIC).

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## Next Week's Hearings

### **Armed Service Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:** NONE

### **Appropriations Committee:**

**House:** 10/10, 10:00 AM - DC Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

**Senate:** NONE

### **Homeland Security Committee:**

**House:** 10/10, 10:00 AM - Open Border Policies and Threats to Law Enforcement

**Senate:** 10/10, 2:00 PM - Oversight of the United States Coast Guard



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