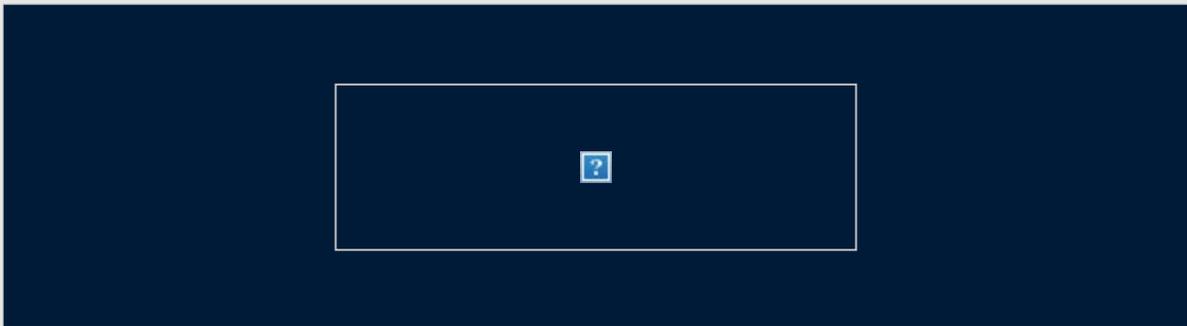


**From:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief  
**Date:** Friday, February 7, 2025 11:58:13 AM

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**  
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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# Executive Insight Brief

February 7, 2025

## Notable Headlines



- [Trump administration moves to suspend national EV charger rollout](#)
- [After Trump's remarks on Gaza, some in Dearborn, Michigan 'think we screwed up'](#)
- ['Border czar' Tom Homan threatens military action against Mexican cartels if necessary](#)
- [District judge pauses federal buyout offer on day of deadline](#)
- [As the Super Bowl nears, New Orleans grapples with how safe is safe enough](#)

## View From The Hill



The Senate continued processing President Trump's cabinet nominations this week, with anticipated GOP pushback to some of the more controversial figures ultimately failing to materialize to any degree of consequence. Confirmations came for [Pam Bondi](#) as Attorney General, [Russell Vought](#) as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), [Doug Collins](#) for Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, and [Scott Turner](#) as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Senate Democrats, incensed over the administration's apparent demolition of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the chaos surrounding last week's OMB memo—which has since been rescinded—halting large amounts of federal spending, as well as the administration's planned buy-out offer for federal employees, sought to [stall](#) debate on Vought's nomination as long as possible. Ultimately, Vought was confirmed on a party line vote Thursday evening.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, [announced](#) his plans to begin the process of moving a two-bill budget reconciliation package that would authorize an additional \$150 billion for border security and approximately the same amount for military spending. This puts him at odds with House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), who is hoping to combine those efforts into one bill that would also extend the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* from Trump's first term. Senate Republicans have grown weary of waiting for the House GOP to settle on a budget reconciliation strategy. House GOP leadership, however, is [concerned](#) that their incredibly slim majority will struggle to pass more than one major reconciliation bill. Similarly, time is running short for Congress to pass funding for the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year, as the current stopgap spending bill expires on March 14th. Hill observers are increasingly concerned that Congress will be forced to enact another Continuing Resolution for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The flurry and scale of executive actions has [appeared](#) to light a fire under some congressional democrats, who previously seemed a bit wary of reprising their role as “the resistance” in Trump's second term. The botched implementation by OMB of pauses in federal spending gave democrats a political gift in the form of funding lapses for programs like Meals on Wheels, Medicaid, and Preschool HeadStart services. Sensing an opening to hammer the administration with these popular programs, we began to see more democratic

opposition emerge with press conferences outside USAID headquarters and the Capitol, as well as stronger opposition to Trump's nominees in the Senate.

## Pentagon News

Two weeks into his new role, Defense Secretary Hegseth is already facing a mountain of tasks as President Trump's executive orders pile up with quickly approaching deadlines. One of the primary directives requires the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive plan within 30 days that [expands its mission](#) beyond traditional overseas operations, now including surveillance and strengthened border security, with Air Force and Navy jets tasked with monitoring the southern border and Mexican airspace. The Pentagon was also tasked with [creating a new missile defense system](#) (the Iron Dome for America) to protect U.S. territory, and addressing the reinstatement of troops [dismissed for vaccine refusal](#) within 60 days.

Amid these monumental undertakings, the President has also called for an [internal review of diversity initiatives](#) within the Department of Defense, with Secretary Hegseth leading a task force aimed at eliminating offices and policies promoting race- or sex-based preferences. This review is part of a broader push for overhauls in the Pentagon's policies and personnel management, aligning with the administration's shift in priorities. The administration also set forth additional deadlines for Secretary Hegseth to create a plan to [ban transgender troops](#) from the military, and to update the military's medical standards to reflect this.

Meanwhile in the private sector tariffs between Canada and the U.S. are on pause. However, there could still be a trade war around the corner. That isn't stopping Davie, a Quebec shipbuilder, from [moving forward](#) with plans to expand into the United States. The shipbuilder is playing a key role in the joint agreement between the U.S., Canada, and Finland to build more icebreaker ships. Davie is looking to acquire an American shipyard which would establish an initial footprint in the U.S. If an acquisition is successful, Davie plans to upgrade the American shipyard just as it has done at their Quebec location. This move comes at a time when the Arctic is becoming increasingly important to both the U.S. and their allies, as well as to China and Russia. All nations are seeking to bolster their icebreaking capabilities to improve their abilities to dominate the region. With an acquisition of an American shipyard, Davie will become the first manufacturer to have a presence in all member nations of the ICE Pact. While President Trump has made previous comments about outsourcing shipbuilding capabilities if the U.S. cannot keep up, allied acquisitions of American shipyards may be the middle ground.

Building off last week, where the previously mentioned [executive order](#) laid the groundwork for Trump's vision of the next-generation missile defense system, the Missile

Defense Agency (MDA) is now calling on industry input. According to a [notice](#), the MDA aims to collaborate with industry partners on concepts for deploying and maintaining a missile defense shield designed to protect citizens and critical infrastructure from foreign aerial threats while ensuring a secure second-strike capability.

The Pentagon is pushing forward with plans for a next-generation missile defense system aimed at countering hypersonic weapons, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and other aerial threats to the U.S. To gather input, the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is reaching out to a broad range of participants—including traditional defense contractors, small and large businesses, federally funded R&D centers, university-affiliated research institutions, and non-traditional industry players—during an industry day on February 18. The plan is broken down into multiple phases, referred to as “epochs,” with new capabilities expected to roll out every 2 years. The goal is a multi-layered defense system capable of detecting and neutralizing threats at every stage- mid-flight interception, final phase targeting, and preemptive measures like cyber and electronic warfare. Another key goal is to secure the supply chain to prevent cyber threats and vulnerabilities.

## Next Week's Hearings



### **Armed Services Committee:**

**House:** NONE

**Senate:**

- 2/13, 9:30 AM - Testimony on U.S. NORTHCOM and U.S. SOUTHCOM in review of the FY2026 Defense Authorization Request and Future Years Defense Program

### **Appropriations Committee:**

**House:**

- 2/11, 10:00 AM - Mexico's water treaty violations and the impact on Americans
- 2/12, 10:00 AM - Career Ready Students: Innovations from community colleges and the private sector

**Senate:** NONE

### **Homeland Security Committee:**

**House:**

- 2/11, 10:00 AM - Examining the PRC's strategic port investments in the western hemisphere and the implications for Homeland Security, Part One

**Senate:**

- 2/13, 10:00 AM - Eliminating waste by the foreign aid bureaucracy

**Other Nominations:**

- 2/12, 10:00 AM - Nomination Hearing for Lori Chavez-DeRemer to be Secretary of Labor
- 2/13, 10:00 AM - Nomination Hearing for Linda McMahon to be Secretary of Education



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