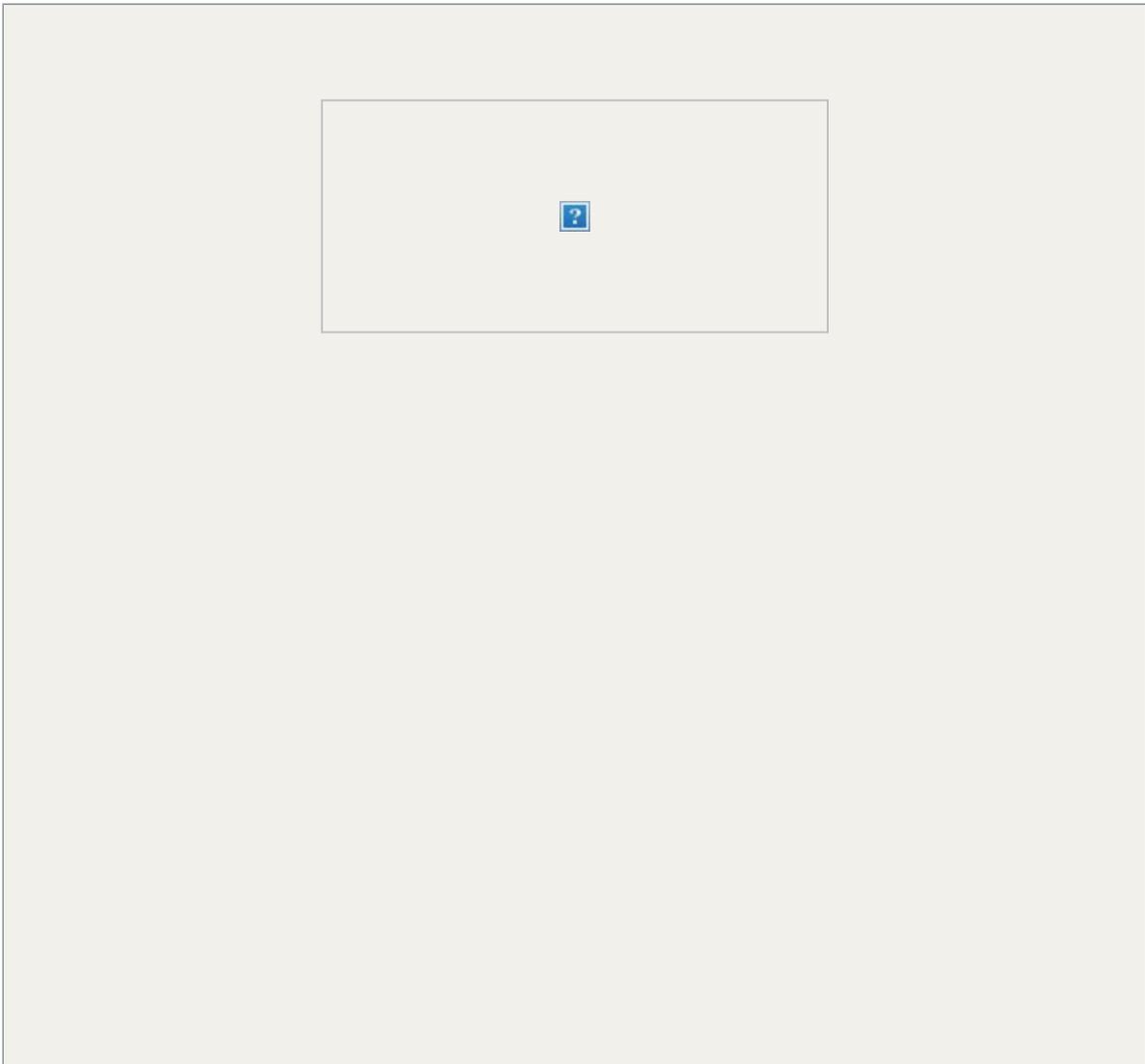


From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: FW: Executive Insight Brief
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 8:45:18 AM

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

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June 13, 2025

Executive Insight Brief

Stay informed with The Roosevelt Group's Executive Insight Brief—your weekly roundup of key developments shaping federal policy, defense, and homeland security. Curated by our expert team, each issue delivers timely analysis and strategic context to help you stay ahead.

Notable Headlines

[Alex Padilla handcuffed at Noem news conference in LA: DHS defends actions](#)

[As officers sue over Jan. 6 plaque, Democrats hang replicas](#)

[Homeland Security secretary pledges to carry on with Trump's immigration crackdown despite unrest](#)

[Exclusive: After Trump feud, role of Musk's SpaceX in Golden Dome missile shield in question](#)

[House approves Trump's request to cut funding for NPR, PBS and foreign aid](#)

View From The Hill

As summer heat made its debut in Washington this week temperatures were also rising on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers grilled Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth over a range of issues, including the [war](#) in Ukraine, the aircraft [given](#) to the Department from Qatar, and the [deployment](#) of troops into downtown Los Angeles amidst protests and riots against the Trump administration's immigration enforcement actions. Facing both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Sec. Hegseth [heard](#) bipartisan concern from lawmakers over the delay in delivering a full budget proposal for the Department of Defense for fiscal year (FY) 2026, even as Congress starts its work on writing next year's funding bills. Despite the tense week for the secretary, the Senate still [voted](#) 56-39 to allow the sale of \$1.9 billion in MQ-9 Reaper drones to Qatar, as well as a \$1.3 billion sale of Chinook helicopters to the United Arab Emirates.

President Trump **met** Wednesday with Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Mike Crapo (R-ID) as the upper chamber wades through disparate GOP opinions on tax policy and spending cuts in the massive budget reconciliation bill. At odds are Crapo's position to make certain business tax deductions permanent, rather than the current language, which would sunset them in 2029. The move would add an additional \$450 billion in cost to a bill in which conservatives are already crying foul over the massive price tag of increasing the child tax credit and providing tax cuts on tipped wages and overtime, among other issues. The Senate is also widely expected to reduce the House's state and local tax deduction numbers and may rewrite Medicaid language. All of this is causing significant heartburn back over in the House, where GOP leadership and rank-and-file Members alike are concerned the Senate's changes will jeopardize the ability to muscle through the final bill.

Despite still not having a full budget request from the administration, House Appropriators continued **churning** through subcommittee and full committee markups of FY2026 appropriations measures this week. At the full committee level, the committee voted along party lines to pass full-year funding bills for the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, and Veterans Affairs, while holding subcommittee consideration for the Department of Homeland Security's funding. The defense spending bill sits at \$831.5 billion, which is flat from a year-over-year enacted spending level perspective. However, the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" working its way through Congress would add hundreds of billions of dollars in additional defense spending that would push total U.S. defense funding north of \$1 trillion for the first time in American history. For its part, the appropriations bill considered by the House this week **includes** \$13 billion in missile defense and space funding, \$1.3 billion for the Defense Innovation Unit, and \$2.6 billion for the Pentagon's hypersonics programs.

The governors of New York, Illinois, and Minnesota **testified** before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Thursday, as Republicans grilled the three Democratic governors on their respective states' sanctuary immigration policies. Governors Tim Walz (D-MN), J.B. Pritzker (D-IL), and Kathy Hochul (D-NY) participated in the highly contentious hearing in defense of their

states' policies in what was seen as a key test for Hochul ahead of her 2026 reelection campaign and for Walz and Pritzker, who have been floated as possible democratic candidates for the 2028 presidential campaign.

On Thursday, the House **passed** a \$9.4 billion rescissions package, aimed at clawing back funding already appropriated by Congress. The cuts target mostly foreign aid programs across the State Department, as well as taxpayer-supported public media like National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting Service.

The annual Congressional Baseball Game was **played** on Wednesday, with republicans continuing their five-year winning streak over democrats, 13-2. The game raised a record \$2.8 million for charity, including the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington. Another annual tradition happened on Thursday when Members of Congress and their families attended the White House Congressional Picnic. There had been some **drama** earlier in the week when Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) told reporters that he had been disinvited over his opposition to the "One Big, Beautiful Bill," however, President Trump re-extended an invitation to Paul and his family on Thursday.

Pentagon News

Speaking at Chatham House in London on Monday, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte **outlined** his vision for ramping up defense capabilities within the Alliance ahead of the upcoming NATO summit in the Hague in two weeks. Rutte **emphasized** the need for all member states to **raise** their defense spending to 5% of national GDP—3.5% on core defense and 1.5% on broader defense and security investments—and **increase** spending on missile and air defenses by

400% amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and rising military threats of China, North Korea, and Iran.

The Secretary General also **addressed** concerns regarding the future of U.S. engagement under President Trump. **Citing** the president's success in breaking the diplomatic deadlock with Russia and his efforts to continue to closely coordinate with European leaders, Rutte remained optimistic that the U.S. is still committed to the NATO security framework. Yet, he **acknowledged** that President Trump had expectations for Europe and Canada to meet U.S. defense spending as the U.S. focuses its attention more on the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific. Amid these developments, **according** to Rutte, the upcoming Hague Summit will aim to strengthen transatlantic unity and reinforce the importance of military readiness.

As NATO urges stronger military investment to counter rising global threats, recent developments in U.S.-China relations underscore the economic dimensions of modern security.

On Wednesday, President Trump **announced** a breakthrough trade deal with China on Truth Social, touting lowered tariffs and China's renewed commitment to supply rare earth minerals vital to U.S. defense and tech industries. American tariffs on Chinese products are **set to decrease** from **145%** to 30%, while Chinese tariffs on American goods will **move** from as high as 125% to 10%. Trump's announcement follows successful high-level talks in London, where officials **reached a consensus** Tuesday after two days of negotiations.

Analysts warn the deal marks a crucial, if tentative, step in addressing America's vulnerability over rare earth shortages, but they also **question** how durable and comprehensive the agreement is. Officials close to the White House emphasize that the truce represents a critical turning point, but warn that the terms remain vague and largely unenforceable, raising concerns that China could use its dominance in rare earths as leverage if tensions escalate. The defense sector, in particular, has reason for vigilance. Magnets used in

fighter jets, submarines, and smart bombs [hinge on](#) Chinese exports, making continuity of supply a national security imperative. While Wednesday's agreement may ease immediate pressure and signal momentum toward future collaboration, the U.S. remains in a highly dependent position, relying on a single adversarial supplier for materials essential to defense.

While diplomatic progress continues abroad, the administration now faces mounting unrest and the challenges of domestic troop deployments.

The Pentagon's acting comptroller, Bryn MacDonnell, [stated](#) that the deployments of National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles in response to the weekend's anti-ICE protests will cost about \$134 million dollars. Under the order of President Trump, the Pentagon approved the deployment of 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines to manage the protests and protect federal immigration officials. The funding will cover these troops' housing, food, and travel, and will come out of the Defense Department's operations and maintenance budget, [according](#) to MacDonnell.

Democrats have [criticized](#) the Trump administration's decision to send troops to Los Angeles as escalatory and an improper use of the federal military in state affairs. California Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta [filed](#) a lawsuit against the administration, stating that an insurrection or rebellion has not taken place. While testifying before the House on Tuesday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth [explained](#) that President Trump has the authority to deploy the troops, and former defense officials have [said](#) the orders are technically legal, but might put the military in a difficult position.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- 6/18, 9:30 AM - Full Committee Hearing - Open/Closed: To receive testimony on the Department of Defense budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program

Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- 6/17, 10:30 AM - Military Construction & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee Hearing - A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for Military Construction and Family Housing
- 6/17, 10:30 AM - Defense Subcommittee Hearing - CLOSED: A Review of the

President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Intelligence Community

- 6/18, 10:30 AM - Defense Subcommittee Hearing - A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Army

Homeland Security Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- NONE



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