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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

[Russia likely to keep trying to damage Baltic Sea infrastructure, Finland says](#)

[Putin meets Trump's envoys as Kremlin says Ukraine settlement hinges on territory](#)

[China is building 'full-stack' defense-innovation cities](#)

[DOE seeks batteries with four times the juice](#)

[US forces apprehend seventh oil tanker in Caribbean](#)

TRG Team Members

Meet three subject matter experts who recently joined The Roosevelt Group's network. Their expertise enhances our ability to help our clients navigate complex policy and national security challenges.

- [Thomas James, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army \(Retired\)](#)

Former Deputy Commander of U.S. Space Command

- [Gary Brito, General, U.S. Army \(Retired\)](#)

Former Commanding General of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command

- [Anthony Di Stasio](#)

Former Director of the Manufacturing, Capability Expansion, and Investment Prioritization Directorate (MCEIP) within the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Acquisition & Sustainment

View From The Hill

With just a week to go before the current stopgap funding resolution expires, top appropriators in the House and Senate [secured](#) an agreement on a \$1.2 trillion legislative package to fund the Department of War, as well as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Homeland Security. The agreement [boosts](#) Pentagon funding to \$839 billion—\$8 billion above the administration’s budget request—and includes a 3.8% pay increase for servicemembers. It also includes \$6 billion for Navy shipbuilding, \$2 billion more for munitions, \$1 billion more for health programs and \$130 million more for the Marine Corps’ barracks renovation and modernization effort. The legislation also includes strong congressional support for the NATO alliance and U.S. security assistance in Ukraine.

The House muscled through the bill package just in time for lawmakers to get out of town ahead of what is anticipated to be a massive snowstorm for Washington and much of the East Coast. Democrats had sought more restrictions on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after the shooting death of Renee Good in Minneapolis sparked nationwide protests against ICE’s enforcement tactics. While the agreement did include some cuts to enforcement and removal funding, as well as new requirements related to body cameras for ICE officers, the broader reform provisions sought by Democrats were largely left out. The Senate, which was in recess this week, will need to approve both this minibus package and another passed by the House last week when it returns next week.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform [voted](#) on a bipartisan basis this week to hold former President Bill Clinton and former

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in contempt of Congress. The vote comes amidst the Clintons' failure to appear for depositions before the panel, as part of the committee's ongoing investigation into Jeffrey Epstein. The committee's vote tees up the potential for House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to hold a House floor vote on the contempt resolutions, which could ultimately lead to criminal charges against the Clintons.

In a rebuke of the Trump administration's decision to allow artificial intelligence giant Nvidia to sell its powerful H200 semiconductor chips to China, the House Foreign Affairs Committee overwhelmingly approved a measure placing export restrictions on advanced chips. The bill, which is sponsored by the committee's chairman, Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL), would require the Department of Commerce to approve licenses on the sale of certain chips. It remains unclear whether the proposal will receive a vote on the House floor.

Former Department of Justice Special Counsel Jack Smith **testified** before the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday over his probe of allegations President Trump sought to overturn the 2020 election. Smith defended his investigation, as Republicans on the panel framed the effort as politically motivated and discredited.

This week, Speaker Johnson **became** the first sitting U.S. House Speaker in American history to address the British Parliament. Johnson's speech to U.K. lawmakers occurred to mark the 250th anniversary year of American independence from Britain and comes amidst renewed tensions between the United States and European allies over the president's push to acquire Greenland. Johnson's speech reiterated the U.S.-U.K. "special relationship" and underscored shared values of freedom, democracy, and economic cooperation.

Pentagon News

Our team kicked off the year at the **2026 Honolulu Defense Forum** (HDF), hosted by the Pacific Forum on the island of Oahu. The central objective of HDF was "Operationalizing Indo-Pacific Readiness and Deterrence," reflecting an ongoing push from strategic planning to the execution of regional security frameworks.

TRG's sponsorship reflects our commitment to staying connected with these key leaders and policymakers to ensure we continue providing the most relevant, forward-looking support to our clients. A key tenet of the forum was the importance of bilateral partnerships, with attendance from 24 countries—a significant international presence including participants from across the private sector and government. We were honored to be in the room with distinguished speakers such as Admiral Samuel Paparo (Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command), General Stephen Whiting (Commander, U.S. Space Command), Admiral Steve Koehler (Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet), President Surangel Whipps Jr. of Palau, Japan's Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, Marc Benioff (Salesforce Co-Founder and CEO), and Eric Schmidt (former Google CEO).

The primary demand signal from the assembled leaders centered on treating information and physical power as a single, unified operating system. To achieve decision superiority, USINDOPACOM is calling for resilient command and control (C2), secure data sharing, and the acceleration of trusted AI models to inform mission decision-making. These sentiments echo the Department of War's [memo](#) on "Accelerating America's Military AI Dominance," released on January 9th. Stakeholders emphasized that combat power must remain resilient even after first contact, creating an urgent requirement for survivable, attritable systems and the large-scale use of unmanned systems to counter sophisticated threats. This strategy relies on industrial models built on co-production and co-sustainment with international partners to ensure long-term regional stability.

In the space domain specifically, readiness has become an "existential" priority, requiring deep integration between space and terrestrial operations. To counter the rapid development of adversary C5ISR systems, the U.S. and its partners are prioritizing "integrated space fires"—the ability to prosecute targets through both kinetic and non-kinetic means. This shift requires a move from static orbital positions to maneuver warfare, where industry must deliver in-domain logistics and refuelers to allow satellites to move "without regret." By enabling satellites to gain positional advantage and maneuver away from threats without exhausting their limited fuel supplies, the joint force can maintain the "eyes and ears" necessary for long-range precision strikes.

The emphasis on AI and space technology highlights a critical need for strategic data positioning and edge computing, extending beyond U.S. networks into a shared dynamic with our partners and allies. Achieving this will require a zero-

trust environment, particularly as many regional partners continue to operate on legacy IT networks and infrastructure. Data interoperability will be key as the region continues to create a Common Operating Picture (COP) to support reactions to activities. Energy resilience grounds these initiatives; INDOPACOM officials expressed that without power and resilient critical infrastructure, response capabilities will be severely limited. Department of Energy officials underscored the role of industry in solving these challenges, whether that be small modular reactors or other forms of energy provisioning.

Beyond the immediate focus on Indo-Pacific and space operations, recent developments in the U.S.-Greenland relationship have also come into sharp focus.

A collective sigh of relief has emerged from the GOP after President Trump used a [speech](#) at the World Economic Forum to clarify that he would not use military force to seize Greenland. The announcement de-escalated a looming crisis that threatened to fracture the NATO alliance and forced Republican lawmakers to [choose](#) between loyalty to the president and an unpopular Arctic intervention. While Congressional leaders—including Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and House Armed Services Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL)—insisted that a military takeover was never a serious consideration, the president’s rhetoric had sparked rare public pushback from senior Republicans like Senate Appropriations Defense chair Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Armed Services Chair Roger Wicker (R-MS).

Despite the reversal on military action, the desire to acquire the island remains a point of consensus for many in the party who view it as a strategic necessity for national security. Polling reflects this internal tension: while 64% of Republicans support a peaceful purchase of Greenland, 70% of the party and 86% of voters overall disapprove of using force. This dynamic has left some moderate Republicans, such as Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE), frustrated that the administration is focusing on territorial acquisition rather than touting an economy growing at 4.3% ahead of the midterms. Meanwhile, Democrats have already begun seizing on the Greenland narrative as a distraction from pocketbook issues, hoping to use the controversy to gain ground in swing districts.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- 1/28, 2:30 - Hearings to examine the Department's cyber force generation plan and the implementation plan.

Appropriations Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- 1/27, 3:00 PM - Hearings to examine fraud in state and federal programs.
- 1/28, 2:00 PM - Hearings to examine one year after disaster, focusing on the Palisades fire.