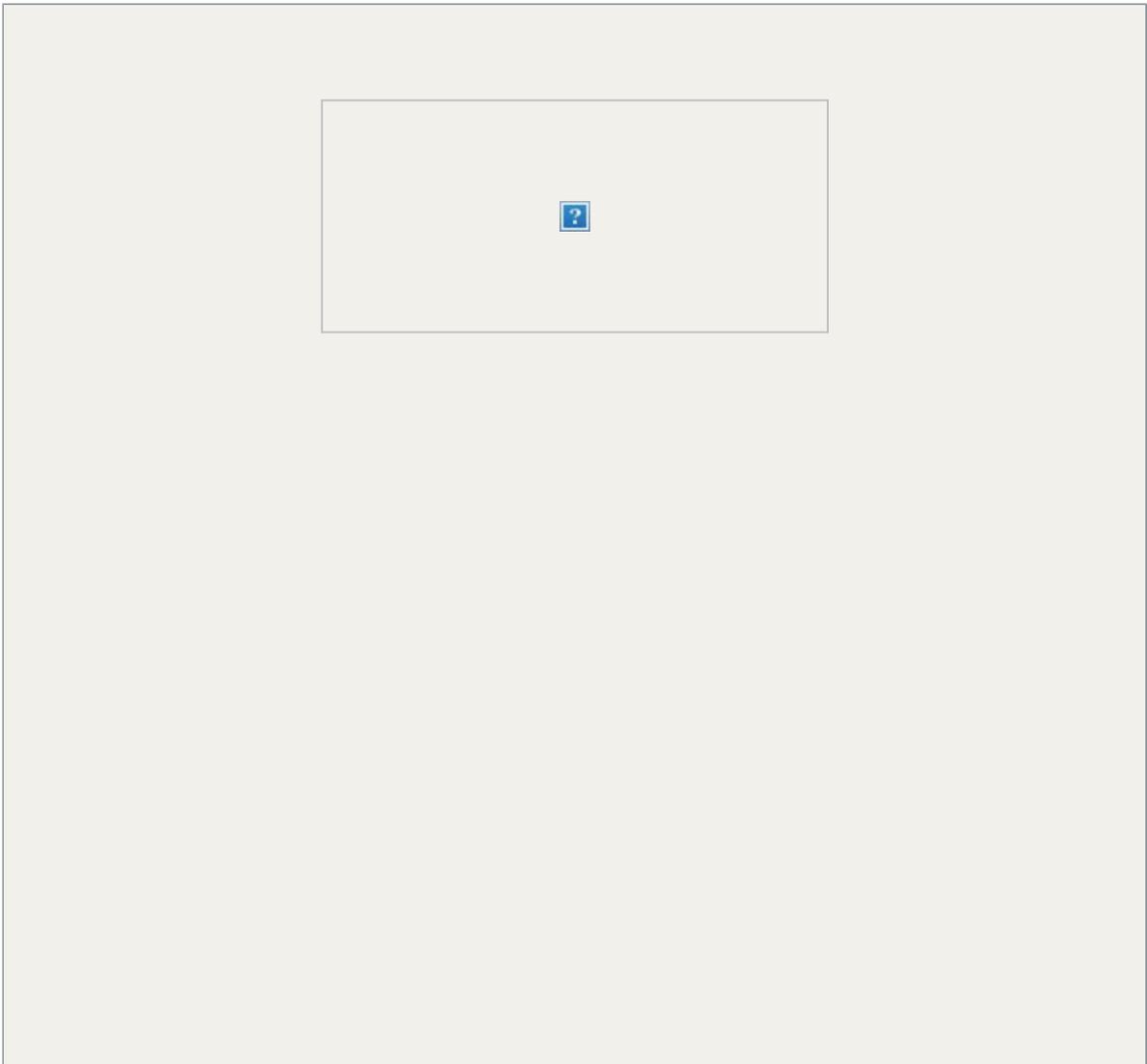


**From:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**Subject:** Executive Insight Brief  
**Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026 8:19:33 AM

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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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January 30, 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

[US officials: More Ukraine, Russia talks coming next week](#)

[Iran puts 'fingers on trigger' as US armada arrives in Middle East](#)

[Ukraine says more than 80% of enemy targets now destroyed by drones](#)

[EU heavyweights deepen rift with Rutte over Europe's military power](#)

[Hong Kong company's concession to operate Panama Canal ports is ruled unconstitutional](#)

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## View From The Hill

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The Senate returned this week to a very different landscape relative to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and, pertinently, fiscal year 2026 funding. The mood surrounding homeland security appropriations was already tense following the shooting death of Renee Good in Minneapolis by ICE agents two weeks ago. This week, however, Senate Democrats—and even many Senate Republicans—came back to Washington freshly demanding new reforms to ICE after another officer-involved shooting took the life of VA nurse Alex Pretti over the weekend.

With appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) lumped into what was supposed to be the final spending package governing FY26 and with the House of Representatives out of town until after the January 30th deadline, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) was faced with limited options to avoid a partial government shutdown. Surprisingly, though, with the White House and the Senate motivated to avoid another painful government shutdown, negotiations yielded an eleventh hour plan to peel off the DHS funding bill from the larger package in order to enact full-year funding for the Departments of War, Labor, Health and Human Services, and others, while

passing a short-term stopgap bill for DHS, allowing for reform talks to play out. Once the House returns Monday, Speaker Mike Johnson will **almost** certainly have trouble wrangling his narrow majority into any plan agreed to by the White House and Senate.

Secretary of State and acting National Security Advisor Marco Rubio **appeared** before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday to defend the administration's military action in Venezuela. Rubio faced hard lines of questioning from Senate Democrats and Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) over the ousting of Nicolás Maduro, congressional authority related to military force, and the prospect of holding free and fair elections in Venezuela.

As millions of Americans face burgeoning health insurance costs, Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH) **announced** that GOP negotiators had sent their "best and final" offer to their Democrat colleagues on a deal to reinstate premium subsidies. Sen. Angus King (I-ME)—a key negotiator for the Democrats—sounded an optimistic tone, though Democratic Senate leadership has yet to weigh in with support.

The U.S. Capitol Police, who are the federal law enforcement agency charged with protecting Members of Congress, staff, visitors, and the Capitol Complex, **reported** a spike of 57% in 2025 in the number of investigations into threats to lawmakers. Amidst heightened political tension and rising trends in politically motivated violence, Congress has continued to seek new ways to offer enhanced security for Members. Rank and file Members typically do not receive security details, and a major challenge for the Capitol Police remains coordinating with state and local jurisdictions to track and respond to threats across all of the various congressional districts.

The House of Representatives will **vote** next Wednesday on contempt resolutions for former President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton. The two have failed to appear for questioning, despite subpoenas, for the House Oversight and Government Reform's investigations into Jeffrey Epstein.

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# Pentagon News

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The Department of War's recently released [2026 National Defense Strategy](#) (NDS) formalizes a shift toward "practical realism," emphasizing the prioritization of U.S. security interests and recalibrating global defense commitments. The NDS is structured around four core lines of effort: strengthening homeland defense, deterring China in the Indo-Pacific through deterrence by denial, increasing burden-sharing with allies and partners, and revitalizing the U.S. defense industrial base. Central to this framework is a renewed focus on the Western Hemisphere and access to critical terrain, alongside an expanded view of nontraditional threats such as transnational criminal and narco-terrorist organizations. Collectively, these priorities reflect an effort to move away from open-ended nation-building toward a force posture optimized to protect vital interests and prevent high-consequence conflicts.

Operationally, the NDS repositions the United States away from a universal security provider and toward a selective regional balancer focused on the most consequential theaters. In the Indo-Pacific, the NDS calls for a resilient denial defense along the First Island Chain, the arc of strategically important islands stretching from Japan through the Philippines, to deter large-scale aggression and prevent any single actor from achieving regional dominance while preserving strategic stability. All of our allies, including those in Europe, are expected to assume greater responsibility for their own conventional defense and contribute more to collective deterrence through a 5% gross domestic product spending benchmark. This reallocation of responsibility allows U.S. resources to concentrate on high-end capabilities, force readiness, and industrial capacity. By expanding domestic production, accelerating

modernization, and strengthening allied co-production and sustainment, the NDS aims to establish a durable balance of power that reduces the risk of multi-theater conflict and supports long-term security and economic stability.

As the NDS shifts the military's focus toward prioritization of homeland defense, these changes are already being seen in new, flexible rules for drone defense.

On Monday, the DoW's Joint Inter-Agency Task Force 401 (JTIAF-401) released [updated](#) guidance for counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (c-UAS) operations, citing the proliferation of cheap and weaponizable UASs as a direct and growing threat to American installations, personnel, and missions both home and abroad. The new protocols, impacting 10 U.S. Code § 130i, reflect the Department's determination to ensure that the U.S. is able to adapt, respond, and maintain an edge in the face of the threats posed by UAS and other new security challenges.

The guidance includes the expansion of defense perimeters through the removal of "fence-line" limitations, which previously limited commanders from engaging threats only if they were in the immediate vicinity of a facility. The removal of this limitation authorizes greater operational ability by increasing the spaces deemed protected within covered facilities and assets.

Unauthorized drone surveillance over designated areas is now explicitly considered a threat, and commanders will have increased flexibility to make rapid, defensive c-UAS decisions. The updated guidance also enables enhanced interagency cooperation through drone tracking and sensor data sharing, notably with the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice.

Service Secretaries are also authorized to designate "covered facilities/assets" based on risk assessments, meaning that military leadership have more latitude to quickly designate facilities vulnerable to UAS threats. Installation commanders have 60 days to develop site-specific procedures and are directed to assess their vulnerabilities, conduct training exercises, and build strong defenses against aerial threats. JTIAF-401 will support commanders

through this transition by providing counter-drone training, sharing lessons learned across installations, and offering access to proven defensive technologies.

While these updated drone protocols address immediate threats in the lower atmosphere, a parallel effort is underway in the space domain, though it currently faces execution challenges due to oversight findings.

On Wednesday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) reviewing the DoW's efforts to develop missile warning and tracking capabilities through the Space Development Agency's Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture. The architecture is designed to deploy hundreds of satellites in low Earth orbit to strengthen space-based sensing and improve detection of advanced missile threats. While the GAO found that the initiative could enhance missile warning performance, the report identified gaps in cost estimation, schedule planning, and requirements development that could affect execution as the program scales.

To address the lack of a reliable life-cycle cost estimate for delivering these capabilities, the GAO recommends that the Secretary of the Air Force should ensure the SDA develops and establishes reliable, data-driven cost estimates and a process for regularly updating these estimates that supports cost-informed decision-making beginning with Tranche 3.

Without clearer cost and schedule baselines, the GAO warned that the Department may face challenges managing future satellite tranches and sustaining long-term capability delivery. The report also highlighted risks related to immature technologies and requirements that may not be fully aligned with operational needs. The report comes as the DoW accelerates efforts to field resilient space-based missile warning systems in response to evolving ballistic and hypersonic threats. The GAO emphasized that addressing these execution risks early will be critical as the SDA moves forward with additional tranches of the architecture.

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# Next Week's Hearings

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## Armed Services Committee

### House of Representatives

- NONE

### Senate

- 2/3, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine strategic competition in an unconstrained, post-New START Treaty environment.

## Appropriations Committee

### House of Representatives

- 2/3, 10:30 AM - Oversight Hearing - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General.

### Senate

- NONE

## Homeland Security Committee

## House of Representatives

- 2/3, 10:00 AM - Hearing: Frontline Defenders: How the Coast Guards Deployable Specialized Forces Combat Narcoterrorists and other Maritime Threats on the High Seas.

## Senate

- 2/4, 10:00 AM - Business meeting to consider S.J.Res.102, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025, and H.J.Res.142, disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.



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