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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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Executive Insight Brief

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Notable Headlines

[CIA overhauls acquisition to get new tech faster](#)

[Confusion reigns after closure of El Paso airport](#)

[House leaders say lawmakers can't attend Munich Security Conference as official delegation](#)

[Senior enlisted leaders say lethality tied to service members' quality of life](#)

[DOW Strengthens Domestic Production of Critical Display Technologies](#)

[Second Carrier Strike Group Ordered To Spin-Up For Deployment To Middle East: Report](#)

[USSOCOM, CIA Set April Event to Tackle Future 'Field-Forward' Challenges](#)

Open DIU Solicitations

[Counter UAS Sensing for Homeland and Mobile Defense](#)

[Runway Independent Maritime & Expeditionary Strike \(RIMES\)](#)

[Deorbit as a Service](#)

[Sensors and Seekers for Fire Control](#)

[Containerized Autonomous Drone Delivery System \(CADDs\)](#)

View From The Hill

It was a busy week on Capitol Hill, as lawmakers continued reacting to the fallout from documents related to the Department of Justice's investigation into Jeffrey Epstein. Representatives Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Ro Khana (D-CA), who authored the House measure forcing DOJ to disclose the Epstein files, **demanded** more transparency around redacted names, after combing through newly-released files made available to Members of Congress. In a hearing before the Senate, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick **faced** a grilling from Democratic senators over his dealings with Epstein. Lutnick, a former neighbor of Epstein's on Manhattan's Upper East Side, had previously maintained that he had broken off his relationship with the convicted sex offender; however, was forced to admit to additional contact with the disgraced financier on his private island after disclosed emails revealed additional communications between the two.

The Department of Justice **failed** to secure indictments against six Democratic lawmakers this week, who appeared in a video aimed at U.S. servicemembers, urging them to reject orders that are illegal or otherwise unconstitutional. Senators Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Representatives Jason Crow (D-CO), Maggie Goodlander (D-NH), Chris Deluzio (D-PA), and Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA) were accused of "seditious behavior" by President Trump following the video. This was among the litany of controversial issues that Attorney General Pam Bondi was **pressed** about in her combative first appearance before the House Judiciary Committee. Bondi also faced intense scrutiny from lawmakers related to the DOJ's handling of the Epstein investigation and disclosures, the kidnapping of Venezuelan despot Nicholas Maduro, military strikes on suspected drug trafficking boats at sea, and immigration enforcement. On Thursday, a federal judge also **blocked** an effort by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth to punish Sen. Kelly for the video by censuring him and lowering his rank.

Three House Republicans—Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE), Thomas Massie (R-KY), and Kevin Kiley (R-CA)—**joined** with all House Democrats on Tuesday to block an

effort by House Republican Leadership to limit Congress's ability to curtail the administration's aggressive use of tariffs. The White House had been working hard behind the scenes to ensure the measure passed, but with a razor thin majority for the GOP, just enough Republicans crossed party lines to hand leadership a defeat.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is set to shut down today. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) [announced](#) his caucus would not support another short-term funding measure for DHS, without serious commitments from Senate Republicans related to reforms to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Democrats then blocked a Republican measure to extend funding on Thursday, before lawmakers left town for a week. Democrats have been demanding reforms to ICE following the shooting deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis by ICE agents.

Amidst the funding fight, the House Homeland Security Committee [held](#) a hearing with the leaders of ICE, as well as U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services, to conduct oversight of the Trump administration's border and immigration policies. Unsurprisingly, the hearing took a largely partisan bent, with Republicans running defense for the White House and DHS and Democrats rebuking ongoing immigration enforcement operations. That said, representatives from both sides expressed concern for roving ICE patrols in major cities and the deaths of U.S. citizens caught up in ICE activity.

Pentagon News

On Tuesday, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) announced that its member states [agreed](#) to redistribute new senior officer roles across its

command structure in an effort to fairly share command responsibility. Under this new structure, the U.S. will relinquish control of two top Allied operational-level commands and take over one, a move aligned with President Trump's desire to make European allies shoulder more responsibility for protecting the continent.

The new arrangement has the United Kingdom taking over Joint Force Command Norfolk, and Italy assuming control of Joint Force Command Naples, with Germany and Poland rotating control of Joint Force Command Brunssum. The U.S. will lead all three NATO theater commands, succeeding the U.K. in commanding Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM), while maintaining leadership of Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) and Allied Air Command (AIRCOM). The changes will be implemented gradually, in line with NATO's existing personnel rotation schedule.

The Alliance reaffirmed the U.S.'s commitment to NATO command and control, retaining a senior U.S. officer in the role of Supreme Allied Commander Europe ([SACEUR](#)). Presently, the SACEUR position is held by U.S. Air Force General Alexis Grynkewich, who concurrently serves as Commander of United States European Command (EUCOM).

While NATO implements this steady transition abroad, the U.S. Navy is grappling with more immediate, structural shifts outlined in its new fighting instructions.

At the U.S. Naval War College this week, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Daryl Caudle, released guidance confronting a structural problem that the Naval fleet is built to deploy on schedule, but struggles to quickly scale combat power if conflict escalates. In its recently released [U.S. Navy Fighting Instructions](#), the Navy's current 36-month deployment cycle, the Optimized Fleet Response Plan (OFRP), keeps ships rotating predictably between deployment, maintenance, and training. The Navy is trying to create more operational slack in readiness, efficiency in scalable combat options, and flexibility in command than the previous rotation model allowed. At any given time, roughly one-third of ships are deployed, one-third are in shipyards, and one-third are preparing for their next deployment. The OFRP model sustains global presence, but hinders the Navy's readiness for potential conflicts. Deploying ships often borrow sailors and equipment from returning units, maintenance delays spill into training, and the

Navy has limited excess ships and crews available to quickly assemble additional combat power if a large-scale conflict erupts.

The Navy's answer is a "Hedge Strategy" designed to rebuild operational margin back into the system. Instead of relying only on routine deployment cycles, it creates two layers of combat power. The first is a ready "main battle force" containing carrier strike groups, submarines, and surface combatants certified for major combat operations. The second layer contains "tailored offsets," such as counter-unmanned autonomous systems and low-cost munitions that expand combat power without redesigning the entire fleet. To support this shift, the Navy will implement a Global Maritime Response Plan (GMRP), that certifies additional ships as Combat Surge Ready, allowing them to deploy more quickly in a crisis. It also introduces an Enhanced Mission Command Framework that expands decision-making authority so ships and unmanned systems can continue operating if communications are disrupted.

The Fighting Instructions do more than rename strategy; they adjust three structural elements at once: naval readiness (GMRP and Combat Surge Ready certifications), scalable capabilities (tailored offsets), and the command of dispersed forces under distressed conditions (Enhanced Mission Command Framework).

As these military adjustments proceed both domestically and overseas, policymakers in Washington are turning their focus to parallel shifts in domestic defense and energy strategy.

The White House issued an [executive order](#), "Strengthening United States National Defense with America's Beautiful Clean Coal Power Generation Fleet," on Wednesday. This new order directs the Department of War (DOW) to prioritize coal-fired power as a new pillar of national energy security and military readiness. This shift comes after decades of [decline](#) for the industry, which peaked in consumption in 2007 and production in 2008. Increased availability of renewables and cheaper energy alternatives, paired with accelerating plant retirements, reduced coal's share of primary energy from 23% in 2000 to just 8% in 2024. Today, 75% of coal production is concentrated in five states: Wyoming, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Montana.

The Executive Order cautions that the U.S. must ensure its electric grid remains resilient and reliable. Any disruptions in energy supply could undermine operational readiness, and reliance on intermittent sources presents strategic

risk. The White House **emphasizes** that vast domestic coal reserves and “continuous, on-demand baseload power” provided by existing plants are essential assets in safeguarding against natural disasters and times of uncertainty. Wednesday’s order reinforces **earlier** executive actions taken by President Donald Trump in April 2025, which aimed at strengthening the reliability of the nation’s electric grid. In coordination with the Department of Energy, the Secretary of War is instructed to pursue long-term purchase agreements with coal-fired facilities serving military installations and other mission-critical sites. Priority is being given to projects that enhance grid reliability and blackout prevention, bolster on-site fuel security, and preserve mission assurance for defense and intelligence capabilities.

Critical Minerals

Find our readout from the DoW's Critical Minerals Industry Day [here](#).

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Appropriations Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE.

Senate

- NONE

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