

From: [Craig Quigley](#)
To: [Craig Quigley](#)
Subject: EXECUTIVE INSIGHT BRIEF | APRIL 27, 2018
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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 | APRIL 27, 2018

TOP STORIES

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

French President Emmanuel Macron visited President Trump in the White House, the first state visit of Mr. Trump's presidency. He was intent on using his unusual bond with the American president to try to persuade him to preserve the Iran deal, at least for now. [Read More.](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is heading to Washington on Friday with the same message. Two deadlines loom large ahead of her trip: the first is Trump's demand for an overhaul by May 12 of the nuclear deal with Iran, and the second is the extension of new U.S. tariffs on foreign-made steel and aluminum, which some fear could trigger a global wave of protectionism that would deeply harm a trading nation such as Germany. [Read More.](#)

President Donald Trump is scheduled to visit the U.K. for bilateral talks with Prime Minister Theresa May on July 13, the White House announced Thursday. The visit will come on the heels of the NATO summit President Trump is expected to attend in Brussels earlier in the week. [Read More.](#)

Of course, President Trump is set to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un before that. Speaking of North Korea...

HISTORIC KOREAN SUMMIT

Kim Jong-Un has pledged a "new history" in relations with his neighbor as he became the first North Korean leader to set foot in South Korea since the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953. The meeting is seen as a step toward possible peace on the peninsula and marks the first summit of its kind for Mr. Kim. [Read More.](#)

The meeting was held in the "peace village" of Panmunjom, in the demilitarized zone along the 38th parallel. Read about the history and significance of the village, [here.](#)

The Korean leaders agreed to pursue a peace agreement in the historic talks on Friday, but steered clear of specifics on the question of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons, leaving uncertainties about the regime's willingness to cede ground on its arsenal. [Read More.](#)

For a refresher on what military capabilities North Korea possesses, check out [this](#) article from DefenseOne.

ON CAPITOL HILL

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joe Dunford and Pentagon Comptroller David Norquist appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, where lawmakers' questions suggested the contours of the budget battles that will follow the Pentagon-friendly two-year deal. Mattis told lawmakers the strategy is "not sustainable" under budget caps due to return in 2020 and 2021, unless Congress arrives at a way to ease or eliminate them. [Read More.](#)

Here are three other takeaways from Thursday's testimony, from U.S. policy in the Middle East to arms sales and the CAATSA. [Read More.](#)

Also on Thursday, Environmental Protection Agency chief, Scott Pruitt, deflected Democrats' pointed questions about accusations of ethical infractions and lavish personal spending at the taxpayers' expense. His performance, supporters said, may have saved his job and his standing with President Trump. [Read More.](#)

On the same day, the Senate confirmed former-CIA Director Mike Pompeo as President Trump's next Secretary of State. [Read More.](#)

Trump's pick for Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, was not so lucky. On Thursday, Jackson announced he has withdrawn from consideration for the post amid allegations he had fostered a hostile work environment and behaved improperly while serving as the top doctor leading the White House medical unit. [Read More.](#)

[Here](#) are a few of the possible candidates that White House officials are now likely considering for the job.

AND REMEMBER THAT RUSSIA REPORT?

House Intelligence Committee Republicans released a redacted version of [their final report](#) from a year-long probe into Russia's "multifaceted" influence operation, generally clearing President Trump and his associates of wrongdoing, while accusing the intelligence community and the FBI of failures in how they assessed and responded to the Kremlin's interference in the 2016 election. [Read More.](#)

Democrats on the Intelligence panel refused to endorse the report, calling the committee's investigation a sham that was biased in favor of Trump. Critics of the president fear he might use the report to stymie the federal probe into Russia's election interference, including firing the special counsel Robert Mueller or his supervisor, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. [Read More.](#)

LOOK AHEAD

Neither chamber of Congress is in session next week, so no hearings will be held.

On [Wednesday](#), May 2nd, Director of the Army National Guard, LTG Timothy Kadavy, speaks at an AUSA breakfast event.

Also on [Wednesday](#), AFA's Mitchell Institute Strategic Deterrence breakfast series hosts Dave Trachtenberg, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, for a conversation about NPR challenges.

Have a great weekend!



April 30, 2018

The Honorable Mark Warner
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator
231 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott
U.S. Congressman
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Wittman
U.S. Congressman
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Donald McEachin
U.S. Congressman
314 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Scott Taylor
U.S. Congressman
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Warner and Kaine, and Congressmen Scott, Wittman, McEachin and Taylor:

As Board Chairman of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA), I am writing to express the Alliance's strong opposition to H.R. 5199, *The Education Savings Accounts for Military Families Act*. This bill would divert federal impact aid funding to provide Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) for some military families living in certain school districts.

HRMFFA provides a focused regional voice in matters relating to attracting, retaining and growing Hampton Roads' many Federal capabilities and installations. Today, the 13 communities that formed HRMFFA collectively support 18 major military installations (including two joint bases), all four branches of the military services and the Coast Guard, approximately 120,000 active duty, reserve and civilian personnel, over 125,000 military dependents, and over 230,000 veterans. With additional NASA, Department of Energy, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Interior facilities, there is arguably not a denser concentration of federal installations anywhere else in the country outside of Washington, DC.

The overwhelming majority of the military connected children in our region attend public schools located throughout our communities. The impact aid funding these school systems receive is intended to offset the revenue lost due to non-taxable federal property located in these municipalities. As an example, the City of Portsmouth,



Virginia is approximately 30 square miles, but over half of that property is not taxable due to the presence of federal and state installations and some non-profits. The impact aid funding Portsmouth and our other communities receive is vital to providing a quality public education to our military and non-military connected children alike.

The current legislation would also only benefit a relatively small number of military families that either live in one of the 22 “heavily impacted” school districts (out of nearly 1,100 nationwide that receive impact aid), or live on a military installation. Of the few eligible, most would only receive an ESA voucher of \$2,500. The number of military children harmed by reducing impact aid to public school systems would far outnumber those who would receive limited benefits from the program.

Each of the Service Secretaries recently told the National Governors Association that they would consider the quality of public schools near installations when evaluating future basing decisions. This unified statement rightfully highlights the importance our service members place on a quality education for their children. We request your support in opposing this legislation that would divert funding from a program critical to the educational success of our military connected children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr." in a cursive style.

Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.
Chair

cc: Secretary James N. Mattis