

August 24, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND EMAIL

James City County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Adam Kinsman, County Attorney  
County Attorney's Office  
101-D Mounts Bay Road  
P.O. Box 8784  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8784

Williamsburg City Council  
c/o Christina Shelton, City Attorney  
Municipal Building  
401 Lafayette Street  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

York County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Richard Hill, County Attorney  
224 Ballard Street  
Yorktown, Virginia 23690

In Re: James City County's Request to Discuss Modification of the 5th Amended and Restated Contract for a Regional Library System

Dear Board of Supervisors and Council Members:

This letter is to notify you of the following motion the Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees approved at their meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

The Board of Trustees indicate their willingness to engage in discussion with the City of Williamsburg City Council, the James City County Board of Supervisors, and the York County Board of Supervisors regarding James City County's desire to modify the 5th Amended and Restated Contract for a regional library system. The Board of Trustees recognizes the significant public service benefits and success of a cooperative regional library system and looks forward to working with all parties to strengthen and preserve the system for the region.

Due to the urgent need for a new building to replace the Williamsburg Library, we request that the memorandum of agreement, recommended by the ad hoc facilities task force regarding the planned library buildings, be approved and continue to proceed independent of the Contract discussion. We urge that the process be completed with all due speed.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Betsy Fowler  
Library Director

cc: Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees

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Williamsburg Reg. Library Board  
 of Trustees  
 c/o Betsy Fowler, Library Director  
 515 Scotland Street  
 Williamsburg, VA 23185



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**From:** The Roosevelt Group <Jpatton@rooseveltdc.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 1, 2023 7:59 AM  
**To:** Stephan, Lindsey  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief



# Executive Insight Brief

September 1, 2023

Headlines - Aerospace & Defense - Budget & Approps - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities -  
Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

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## Notable Headlines

- [Trump pleads not guilty in Georgia election subversion case](#)
- [GOP senators weigh 'special' meeting on their leadership after McConnell's freeze](#)
- [Ukrainian Counteroffensive Pierces Main Russian Defensive Line in Southeast](#)

- [Biden will visit Florida over the weekend to survey Hurricane Idalia damage](#)
- [Japan raises military spending to counter China with more missiles and ships](#)

**Worth reading:** [A.I. Brings the Robot Wingman to Aerial Combat](#)

## View From The Hill



With the Senate returning to Washington first after the Labor Day holiday, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has [indicated](#) plans to start moving appropriations bills, beginning with his chamber's versions of military construction, transportation and housing, and agriculture spending bills. His goal is to set up a bipartisan contrast to House Republicans, where Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) will almost certainly struggle to rally his own conference, let alone Democrats, to pass any additional spending bills. The full House has currently only passed the FY24 military construction appropriations bill.

The House is back in session the week of September 11, and the House Rules Committee [announced](#) that it may consider FY24 defense appropriations bill that week. The full chamber could then debate the bill the following week. Over 300 amendments have been [submitted](#) to the bill. The clock is ticking for both the House and the Senate to pass all 12 appropriations bills by the end of the fiscal year, or agree to a short-term continuing resolution to avert a shutdown while working to reconcile their differences.

Troubling health-related events for two key members of Republican congressional leadership occurred this week, beginning with House Majority Leader Steve Scalise's (R-LA) [announcement](#) that he has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. In his statement announcing the diagnosis, Leader Scalise described the form of blood cancer as "highly treatable," and plans to continue working while undergoing treatment over the next several

months. Additionally, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), [experienced](#) another concerning episode when he froze while answering reporters' questions in Covington, KY on Wednesday—the second such occurrence in as many months. He was later [cleared](#) by the Capitol doctor to continue working. While aides have attributed both incidents to momentary lightheadedness, the episodes call into question McConnell's ability to remain atop the Senate GOP Caucus or run for reelection in 2026.

## Aerospace & Defense

### [Navy weighs creation of 'Disruptive Capabilities' office to rapidly field tech to fleet \(Breaking Defense\)](#)

The US Navy is considering the establishment of a “Disruptive Capabilities Office” focused on rapidly fielding existing technologies to address operational problems. The final details of this new office are still in flux and plans could change pending approvals from Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro and acting Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Lisa Franchetti. But a draft charter stated the DCO would be a “unique office” capable of “rapidly [solving] emerging operational problems with a broad aperture unconstrained by legacy processes.” Further, if the Navy's top officials sign the new office into life, it could trigger the end of the Unmanned Task Force, established by former CNO Adm. Michael Gilday in September 2021. A source familiar with the discussions told Breaking Defense that one of the key issues the DCO would aim to resolve is the discrepancy between funding for systems as opposed to fielding and operations.

### [Sierra Nevada Corp.'s Underdog Bid For The Next U.S. 'Doomsday Plane'](#)

### [Navy's F/A-XX in Design Maturation, Competing Companies Announced \(Aviation Week\)](#)

The U.S. Navy's secretive next-generation fighter program has completed concept refinement and has moved into a design maturation phase, while the service has officially announced the companies vying for the contracts. Confirming the long-expected names, the Navy announced Aug. 26 that Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman are in the running for the airframe, while GE Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney are competing for the engine. The announcement follows the U.S. Air Force's connection of these companies to its separate Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) platform. In June, Northrop Grumman announced that it was not pursuing the Air Force's NGAD as a prime contractor. The potential engine providers are the same for the Air Force's program—however, the Navy has been more secretive about this development, as well.

## [Future fighter program poses key test for Air Force's design method](#)

### [RTX readies to test new air defense radar following Air Force deal \(Defense News\)](#)

The U.S. Air Force can start testing a new medium-range sensor next month for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System thanks to several recently awarded government contracts, RTX said Tuesday. The \$7 million in awards from the Air Force Research Laboratory's Strategic Development, Planning and Experimentation Office as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Rapid Prototyping Program will help RTX, formerly known as Raytheon Technologies, move forward on the development and testing of its GhostEye MR radar. GhostEye MR is a medium-range multi mission radar that can detect, track and identify threats including cruise missiles, drones, and fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft. RTX said the funding will allow an AFRL-run operational test at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, now scheduled for September.

## **Budget & Appropriations**

### [Dem Senate plots move amid spending clash with House GOP \(Politico\)](#)

The Senate is preparing its first big move in the fall spending fight. Chuck Schumer is tentatively planning to bring up several spending bills for floor votes in mid-September, as the Senate majority leader works with Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and ranking member Susan Collins (R-Maine) to prepare the bills for prime time. Democrats hope it will set up a stark bipartisan contrast with the House, which has already struggled to pass GOP-backed funding bills ahead of the Sept. 30 shutdown deadline. The votes could help the chamber advance its spending priorities in coming fiscal clashes with the House Republican majority, which hit some speed bumps before it passed a military construction bill in July and deferred action on an agriculture spending bill. The Senate will consider nominees when it returns from recess next week and likely move to the spending bills the following week.

## [Budget endgame scenarios: From acceptable to apocalypse](#)

### [White House asks Congress to pass short-term spending deal, boost food aid \(WaPo\)](#)

The White House on Thursday urged Congress to adopt a short-term measure to fund the federal government, a move meant to buy time for lawmakers to craft a broader spending deal and avert a shutdown at the end of September. The Biden administration coupled its call to action with a new request that Congress address funding for a series of cash-starved programs — including, for example, an additional \$1.4 billion to prevent a potential

disruption in nutritional aid for low-income families. The issue only underscores the stakes in Washington's perennial battle over the budget, which has become especially acrimonious ahead of next year's elections. Some on the GOP's far-right flank have openly courted the idea of a shutdown, once again hoping to use the threat of a fiscal calamity as leverage to achieve steep spending cuts.

### [Rep. Clyde signals appropriations fight over Trump prosecutions](#)

#### [House conservatives flirt with shutdown: 'So be it' \(The Hill\)](#)

Congress is racing the clock to fund the government ahead of a Sept. 30 deadline as the threat of a shutdown looms — but to some House conservatives, a shutdown isn't much of a threat at all. A handful of hard-line Republicans are brushing off — or even embracing — the possibility of a shutdown, arguing that bringing the government to a screeching halt is more acceptable than allowing the country to continue on its current spending trajectory. While the Republicans flirting with a shutdown are a tiny minority within the GOP conference, they add another layer of complication for House Speaker Kevin McCarthy as he works to keep the lights on in Washington without angering his right flank, who are pushing for steeper spending cuts and policy additions as part of the appropriations process.

## **Advanced Technologies**

#### [Saab buys British artificial intelligence specialist BlueBear \(Defense News\)](#)

Saab has boosted its footprint in the artificial intelligence sector with the acquisition of British specialists BlueBear Systems. The British company is a leading provider of AI-enabled autonomous swarm systems and command-and-control systems. No financial details of the acquisition have been released. BlueBear had a turnover of \$10 million last year and employs 65 people at a site near Bedford in southern England. Micael Johansson, president and CEO of Saab, said the acquisition is another step towards ensuring the company sustains its competitive position in key international markets. As part of Saab's AI effort, BlueBear will become a center for rapid concept development, providing expertise and scaling-up innovation, according to the Saab statement.

### [Pentagon bets on quick production of drones to counter China](#)

#### [Energy continues funding expansion into quantum computing research \(Nextgov\)](#)

The Department of Energy is continuing its investments into quantum information sciences

research and development, with another \$24 million allocated toward three projects focused on quantum network research. Each of these three projects — developed between U.S. national laboratories and universities — intend to contribute to the growing pool of quantum computing research as the global race to develop a scalable, fault-tolerant quantum computer heats up. The funding recipients include researchers collaborating between the Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, along with Illinois schools like Northwestern University, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. Oak Ridge National Laboratory and its academic partnership with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the University of Arizona and Arizona State University are also slated to receive funds.

### [DoD Program Aims to Bridge Valley of Death's '30-Foot Gap'](#)

#### [QinetiQ wins \\$224 million contract to provide technical services to Space Development Agency \(SpaceNews\)](#)

QinetiQ US, a defense contractor based in Lorton, Virginia, was awarded a \$224 million contract to provide systems engineering and technical support to the Space Development Agency. QinetiQ received a five-year contract for “management and professional services, acquisition support, and engineering and technical analysis needed to deliver the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture,” said a DoD contract announcement Aug. 30. The company won what is known as a SETA contract, short for Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance. SETA contractors typically are hired to support major DoD acquisition programs to augment the government workforce.

## **Military Installations & Communities**

#### [Freshman GOP lawmaker sounds alarm about dilapidated military housing in district \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

Freshman Rep. Jen Kiggans (R-VA) was despondent whenever she saw that the House’s version of the military construction appropriations bill would slash the funding to fiscal 2022 levels. Her district includes five military bases, and multiple of those have housing that is in disrepair and unlivable. Kiggans, a former Navy helicopter pilot, said she had been trying to sound the alarm on just how bad the living conditions in Naval Air Station Oceana are. But with some members adamant to cut spending, her requests for additional funding for the base to fix its housing problem fell by the wayside. She described the housing on Oceana as “pitiful,” with only 49% of the unaccompanied sailor housing on the base being livable. The fixes she wants to see to Oceana would have had to have been in the military construction appropriations bill, but like many things, it was left out of the bill as a way to cut spending to appease the hard-line conservative members of the conference.

## [VA CIO 'cautiously optimistic' Oracle Cerner can turn around EHR modernization under new contract](#)

### [Marines order safety review after deadly Osprey crash \(The Hill\)](#)

Acting Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Eric Smith has ordered a service-wide safety review following a deadly MV-22B Osprey crash in Australia this past weekend. Three Marines were killed and 20 were injured Sunday when an Osprey tiltrotor aircraft crashed on Melville Island, north of Darwin, an incident that remains under investigation. Smith directed a unit-level review of Marine safety culture, to be completed no later than Sept. 15, with each unit “to discuss, in detail, the elements of what it means to be a professional warfighting organization as it relates to the safe conduct of every event from training to combat.”

## [Pentagon's global train and equip projects plagued by delays, unreliable equipment](#)

### [Army Sparks Outrage with Delay of 'Brandon Act' Implementation \(Military.com\)](#)

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress passed the Brandon Act in late 2021, requiring the services to implement a policy that would allow service members to request a mental health appointment at any time and receive an immediate response. The Defense Department issued the instruction related to the law on May 5 of this year, requiring the military services to draft and institute their Brandon Act policies within 45 days. With the deadline of June 19, the Navy and Marine Corps announced their policy July 11, followed by the Air Force on Aug. 7. The Army has yet to issue its policy and did not provide a reason for the delay. Instead, Army Public Affairs Officer Bryce Dube said Tuesday that the service is crafting its instruction.

## **Homeland Security**

### [Smuggler with ties to ISIS helped migrants enter US from Mexico \(CNN\)](#)

The FBI is investigating more than a dozen migrants from Uzbekistan and other countries allowed into the US after they sought asylum at the southern border with Mexico earlier this year, a scramble set off when US intelligence officials found that the migrants traveled with the help of a smuggler with ties to ISIS, according to multiple US officials. While the FBI says no specific ISIS plot has been identified, officials are still working to “identify and

assess" all of the individuals who gained entry to the United States. Though there is no evidence at this point to justify detaining anyone, the episode was so alarming that an urgent classified intelligence report was circulated to top Cabinet officials in their morning briefing book. For some counterterrorism officials, it shows that the US is deeply vulnerable to the possibility that terrorists could sneak across the southern border by hiding amid the surge of migrants entering the country in search of asylum.

### [Fentanyl is killing kids. State lawmakers are searching for answers.](#)

### [Proud Boy Joe Biggs receives 17 years in Jan. 6 seditious conspiracy case \(NBC News\)](#)

Joe Biggs, a Proud Boys leader convicted of seditious conspiracy who the government says "served as an instigator and leader" during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, was sentenced to 17 years in federal prison on Thursday. It is among the longest sentences in Capitol riot cases. The government sought 33 years for Biggs, an Army veteran who sustained a head injury in Iraq and then served as a correspondent for the conspiracy website Infowars. Biggs was convicted in May of seditious conspiracy; conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding; obstruction of an official proceeding; conspiracy to use force, intimidation or threats to prevent officers of the U.S. from discharging their duties; interference with law enforcement during civil disorder; and destruction of government property.

### [TSA Proposes Use of Mobile Driver's Licenses Beyond 2025 REAL ID Deadline](#)

### [FBI dismantles Qakbot network used in major ransomware attacks \(WaPo\)](#)

U.S. authorities on Tuesday announced a multinational operation that they said took down a network that had infected hundreds of thousands of computers with malware and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from cyberattacks worldwide. The FBI called the action that disabled the infamous Qakbot malware "one of the largest U.S.-led disruptions of a botnet infrastructure used by cybercriminals to commit ransomware, financial fraud, and other cyber-enabled criminal activity." The Justice Department said law enforcement agencies in France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Romania and Latvia also participated in the operation, which it said was code-named "Duck Hunt." Some \$8.6 million in stolen cryptocurrency related to the network's operations also was seized and will be returned to victims, the FBI said.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

### [DOE announces \\$12bn to retrofit auto facilities for EVs \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

The Department of Energy is allocating more than \$12 billion to automakers to support the industry's transition to electric vehicles — but prioritizing certain funding to projects that pay higher wages for workers and maintain bargaining agreements with unions. This move comes as the United Auto Workers has granted union leaders authorization to call strikes during ongoing contract negotiations. The DOE, which announced the move on Thursday, said that it would be allocating \$2 billion in grants and \$10 billion in loans to support automakers and part suppliers to retrofit existing facilities and expand the production of electric vehicles and their components. Preference for funding, however, will be given to projects that “commit to high wages for production workers and maintain collective bargaining agreements,” and projects in “longstanding” auto manufacturing communities.

### [Power outages caused by Idalia exposes U.S. aging infrastructure](#)

### [NIST takes next step in studying feasibility of mobile driver's licenses \(FedScoop\)](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology on Tuesday asked organizations with expertise in digital identity services to help the agency with its effort to encourage the development of mobile identification cards, including mobile driver's licenses. The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence is running the Accelerate Adoption of Digital Identities on Mobile Devices initiative. The goal is to address some of the key questions and challenges raised by this emerging technology, including potential privacy risks and currently limited standards for verifying digital identities. In the notice published on Tuesday, NIST said that, through the project, it hopes to develop a demonstration of mobile driver's licenses, a practice guide for implementing mobile driver's license technology, and a tool for evaluating mobile driver's license implementations' compliance with established standards.

### [Port of South Louisiana and Port NOLA to Help Ukraine Rebuild](#)

### [Faster Fixed Wireless Comes a Step Closer with Latest FCC Move in 6 GHz Band \(Telecompetitor\)](#)

Faster fixed wireless came a step closer with the news late last week that the FCC has approved testing of automated frequency coordination (AFC) systems for the 6 GHz band. That band will be available for commercial full-power outdoor use when one or more AFC systems have been approved for use. The systems are designed to enable spectrum in the band to be shared with existing radio astronomy and point-to-point microwave users by protecting those users from interference. The latest FCC action is good news for fixed wireless equipment makers and the wireless internet service providers (WISPs) who use that equipment and who are hoping to support speeds as high as 1 Gbps using the

spectrum. The band includes a wide 1200 MHz swath of spectrum with 160 MHz channels between 5.925-7.125 GHz.

## Biotechnology & Healthcare

### [Biden Administration Unveils First Drugs for Medicare Price Negotiations \(NYT\)](#)

The Biden administration on Tuesday unveiled a long-awaited list of the first 10 medicines that will be subject to price negotiations with Medicare, kicking off a landmark program to reduce drug spending that is being fought by the pharmaceutical industry in court. The medications — which treat diabetes, cancer and other conditions — are taken by millions of older Americans and cost Medicare billions of dollars annually. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services selected the drugs through a process that prioritized ones that account for the highest Medicare spending, have been on the market for years and do not yet face competition from rivals. Additional medications will be selected for price negotiations in the coming years.

### [HHS calls for easing restrictions on marijuana](#)

### [US senators push drugmakers for details on low-cost insulin programs \(Reuters\)](#)

Two U.S. senators are demanding that the nation's three largest insulin makers, Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly, and Sanofi, provide details by Sept. 15 of their programs to help Americans get their insulin for \$35 a month or less. Democratic Senators Maggie Hassan and Tina Smith sent a letter asking the drugmakers for information on eligibility criteria for the programs, including whether a patient's insurance status or income barred them from joining, and the steps insulin users had to take to sign up. Novo, Lilly and Sanofi, which account for 90% of the U.S. insulin market, pledged in March to lower the list prices of many of their insulin products by 70%-78% later this year or in 2024. The Biden administration and some lawmakers have continued to press them to lower the costs of the medicines.

### [Blood test for Parkinson's disease promising in early study](#)

### [Low-quality health care is costing employers big \(Axios\)](#)

U.S. companies are spending big on employees' health, often with little insight into whether they're paying for quality care. Whether patients are given and stick with the best documented course of care — such as statins for heart disease — can have everything to do with what doctor they go to. But the wide variation in care patients receive isn't just

leading to poorer outcomes. It's also pricey to employers, who have seen health costs soar without necessarily getting a good return on that investment, according to a new report from JPMorgan Chase's health care arm Morgan Health. The researchers recommend employers put provider quality data in the hands of plan members and support an ecosystem where clinicians themselves can see the data and make improvements.

## Climate & Development

### [Hurricane Idalia could become 2023's costliest climate disaster for the US \(Guardian\)](#)

Hurricane Idalia could become the costliest climate disaster to hit the US this year, analysts say, with massive implications for the insurance and risk management industries. The category 3 storm that barreled into Florida's west coast from the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday, then carved a path of destruction and flooding through Georgia and the Carolinas, has a preliminary price tag between \$9.36bn, based on early estimates, from risk analysts at UBS, and \$18bn-\$20bn calculated by AccuWeather. It follows 15 previous "individual weather and climate disasters" recorded in the US already this year by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa) as unprecedented heat, wildfires, storms and floods escalate.

### [What's the connection between climate change and hurricanes?](#)

### [FEMA forced to restrict disaster spending because of low funds \(Politico\)](#)

The Biden administration has stopped helping states rebuild from past disasters with money from the federal government's main emergency fund, which is nearing depletion from dozens of storms and wildfires this year. The restrictions will put pressure on Congress to approve President Joe Biden's Aug. 10 request for \$12 billion in emergency money to replenish the disaster fund. Speaking to reporters at the White House on Wednesday afternoon, Biden stopped short of vowing that the federal government would provide sufficient disaster aid during the current hurricane season. Under new spending restrictions, the federal disaster fund can be spent only to address life-threatening emergencies such as Hurricane Idalia, which swept into the northern Florida Gulf Coast early Wednesday.

### [America Is Draining Its Groundwater Like There's No Tomorrow](#)

### [GOP defense bill bars Pentagon from enacting Biden's climate orders \(Defense News\)](#)

A provision in the House's fiscal 2024 defense policy bill would block DOD from

implementing the president's seven climate change executive orders, which seek to achieve net-zero emissions in all federal agencies by 2050. If the House provision blocking their implementation becomes law, the Defense Department would likely be unable to disclose emission levels as required under President Joe Biden's executive actions. But the Pentagon may move ahead with some initiatives it views as necessary to improve combat performance, like vehicle electrification.

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## Next Week's Hearings

### Armed Services Committees

House: None Listed

Senate: None Listed

### Appropriations Committees

House: None listed

Senate: None listed

### Homeland Security Committees

House: None listed

Senate:

- Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 2:30 PM EDT: ["After apprehension: Tracing DHS responsibilities after title 42."](#)
- Thursday, September 7, 2023, 10:00 AM EDT: ["Hearings to examine certain nominations."](#)

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