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To: [Ireland, Michelle](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Executive Insight Brief
Date: Friday, November 1, 2024 10:19:50 AM

From: Bellamy, Mark <bellamy@yorkcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 9:47 AM
To: Schott, Heather <heather.schott@yorkcounty.gov>
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Mark Bellamy

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Ladies & Gentlemen,
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

Rick Dwyer
Executive Director
Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance
Office: 757-644-6324
Mobile: 850-499-1068



November 1, 2024

Headlines - View From The Hill - Aerospace & Defense - Advanced Tech - Military Installations & Communities - Homeland Security - Transportation & Infrastructure - Biotech & Healthcare - Climate & Development

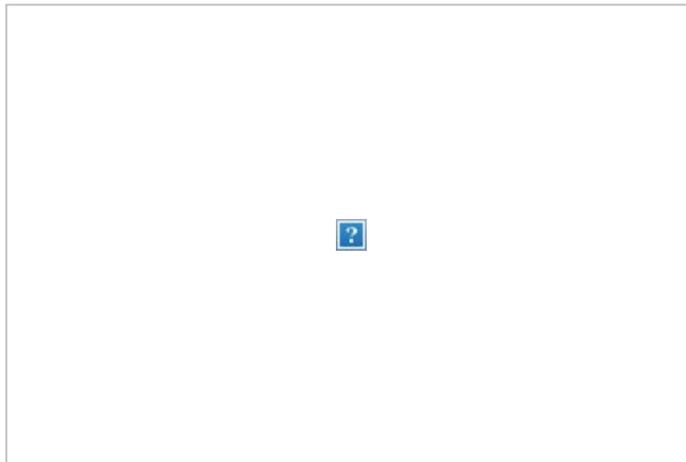
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Notable Headlines

1. [Europe's Greens ask Jill Stein to pull out of US election to prevent Trump victory](#)
2. [Close races in Rust Belt states, polls show](#)
3. [Hurricanes and the Boeing strike will make for a 'noisy' jobs report — yet underlying trend remains solid](#)
4. [Trump wants a mass deportation program. How much could it cost?](#)
5. [AP sources: White House altered record of Biden's 'garbage' remarks despite stenographer concerns](#)

Worth Reading: [Americans bet \\$100 million on Trump v. Harris, but at what cost?](#)

View From The Hill



The spookiest thing in Washington this Halloween week was the looming federal election just five days away. With polls as tight as ever, lawmakers running tough races are trying to break through the noise surrounding the presidential race to connect with swing voters critical to victory. In a sign of just how narrow the race is to control the House of Representatives, Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) and his counterpart, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) were in the [same](#) upstate New York battleground district on Tuesday, as each works diligently to wield the speaker's gavel once the 119th Congress

kicks off in January 2025. Several House Republicans also joined former President Donald Trump for his rally at Madison Square Garden on Monday, including Speaker Johnson and GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik (R-NY).

While control of the Senate has focused primarily on vulnerable democratic incumbents in states like Montana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Nevada, it is worth noting some surprisingly challenging races the GOP now faces in other states. In Texas, Rep. Colin Allred is [giving](#) incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz a serious challenge in a state democrats have long dreamed of turning blue. While Cruz has held a consistent lead in most polling, recent surveys indicate the race has narrowed considerably in Allred's favor. Similarly, Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE) is facing a [shockingly](#) close race against independent candidate Dan Osborn. Should one or both of these races go in the wrong direction for republicans, and democratic incumbents prevail in several red states, Republicans' goal of flipping the Senate may be in jeopardy.

On the policy front, House and Senate committee leaders have made substantive [progress](#) towards legislation that would authorize and codify the Artificial Intelligence Safety Initiative (AISI) within the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institutes for Standards and Technology (NIST). The initiative at NIST has been ongoing, but tech experts throughout industry believe that formalizing it in law will lead to better-informed regulation of AI in the future.

Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY) and his wife Donna welcomed the birth of their second child this week, [announcing](#) the birth of their daughter Elizabeth on social media. Lawler is locked in a tough reelection bid against former Rep. Mondaire Jones (D-NY) in the Hudson Valley district.

Aerospace & Defense

[US missile agency scales back Guam defence plans](#)

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency has scaled back its planned missile defense system for Guam, reducing the number of sites from 22 to 16, all located on U.S. military property. This defense project, aimed at providing 360-degree protection for Guam, integrates advanced systems from Raytheon and Lockheed Martin—specifically the SM-6, SM-3 Block IIA, THAAD, and Patriot PAC-3—over a decade-long timeline. The reduction in sites was not explained in the draft environmental impact statement, which involved a public comment period earlier this year. The need for Guam's defense is heightened by threats such as China's DF-26 missile, capable of carrying anti-ship and nuclear warheads over a 4,000-km range, and newer hypersonic missiles. Guam's strategic value lies in its position as a forward base for U.S. military operations in the Indo-Pacific, providing a secure yet distant hub for projecting power in the region. Public discussions on the report will be held in Guam next month.

[India boosts submarine fleet as region's warship traffic picks up](#)

[Argentina – F-16 Aircraft Equipment and Support](#)

The U.S. State Department has announced the approval of a potential \$941 million Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Argentina, aimed at supplying critical F-16 aircraft equipment, support, and associated logistics. The sale, officially certified to Congress by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, includes a broad array of items designed to enhance the capabilities of Argentina's air force. These items encompass thirty-six AIM-120 C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM), numerous general-purpose MK-82 bombs, laser-guided bomb components, advanced communications and cryptographic equipment, Joint Mission Planning Systems, and specialized navigation and avionics support. Additionally, the support package offers extensive maintenance services, classified and unclassified software, personnel training, and various operational logistics, marking a significant enhancement in Argentina's defensive and tactical capabilities. This proposed sale aligns with U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, strengthening the security of a key South American ally.

Advanced Technologies

[Pentagon unveils new plan to energize America's defense sector](#)

The Pentagon published a second and more detailed plan to invigorate the American defense industry this year, including the weapons it sees as most crucial to deter China. The plan builds on a strategy published this January which "described how the US defense sector has withered and how the Pentagon wants to revitalize it." The strategy reads, "the contraction of the traditional DIB was a generation-long process and it will require another generation to modernize the DIB." The war in Ukraine exposed how brittle the defense industry's supply chains and workforce had become. The delays worried many that the Defense Department would struggle even more in a conflict with China. The plan lists six priority areas from firming up fragile supply chains to deterring a conflict with China. Laura Taylor-Kale, head of Pentagon industrial base policy said a classified portion with more specific metrics will likely be released before the end of the year.

[Chinese researchers develop AI model for military use on back of Meta's Llama](#)

[South Korea eyes pathway for AUKUS Pillar II with new defense tech agreement](#)

Defense officials from the US and South Korea announced this week a new joint defense science and technology executive committee, one that expressly will consider options for Seoul's participation in AUKUS Pillar II. The announcement came at the conclusion of a US-Republic of Korea security consultative meeting which included Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Korean counterpart. While the topic of the week is the deployment of North Korea troops to Russia, the "Pentagon announced beforehand that the science & technology expansion will remain a focal area, particularly in the areas of autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, and quantum technologies." Ever since the creation of AUKUS there was a question of whether other nations would be allowed to join the tripartite agreement. Officials see Pillar II not so much as other nations "joining," rather allowing outside partners to collaborate on technological efforts the AUKUS nations are

developing.

Military Installations & Communities

TRG Travels to San Antonio for ADC Conference.

This week, I traveled to San Antonio to attend the ADC Innovation Summit, a key event that gathers leaders across the military, community, and industry sectors. The summit, officially known as ADC's Installation Innovation Forum, is the nation's largest gathering dedicated to exploring and advancing innovative partnerships that benefit both military installations and the communities that support them.

Throughout the event, participants engaged in discussions and workshops designed to foster collaboration and develop strategies for mutual support and growth. Attendees included experts advocating for military families in areas such as spouse employment, education, OCONUS (Outside the Continental United States) support, and family policy, among other critical topics. The forum was an invaluable opportunity to strengthen our team's collaborative approach and partnership mindset, enabling us to better serve and connect with our defense communities.

[163,000 Veterans and Military Family Members Fall In for Poll Worker Duty on Election Day](#)

[\\$20 million Camp Perry readiness center expected to bring in as many as 400 more personnel](#)

The Ohio Army National Guard recently broke ground on a new \$20 million readiness center at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, set to complete by December 2025. The 60,000-square-foot facility will consolidate three National Guard units, enabling training, administrative, and logistical functions for up to 400 personnel, including 10-15% full-time staff. Maj. Gen. John Harris emphasized the center's role in supporting national security and assisting Ohio communities during emergencies. The center is part of broader plans to attract more military training and events, such as the national shooting matches, to Camp Perry. Port Clinton Mayor Mike Snider highlighted the positive economic impact, with personnel and visitors contributing to local businesses. According to a JobsOhio report, the base already contributes \$1.8 billion annually to the region's economy.

Homeland Security

[United States Files Suit Against Former Corporation President for Unpaid Duties, Penalties Following HSI Newark Investigation](#)

Following investigations by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the U.S. filed a civil suit against the former President of LaJobi Inc, Lawrence Bivona. The suit alleges that Bivona lied to customs officials and avoided paying the antidumping duties for the imported furniture. Antidumping duties protect domestic industries from unfair trade practices from foreign businesses. Bivona caused LaJobi to falsely represent the manufacturer of the furniture. By misleading CBP, the products were subject to a 7% duty rate instead of 216%. HSI stated they take their role in protecting the U.S. economy from illegal trade seriously, and will continue to do so. The complaint seeks the recovery of over \$7 million in import duties and over \$15 million in civil penalties.

[DHS uses taxpayer money to fund Texas billboards countering immigration enforcement efforts](#)

[Artificial Intelligence Means Better, Faster and More for First Responders](#)

Applying AI to emergency operations is appealing because it offers advanced capabilities to process information faster and enhance decision making. The Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) is working with first responders to identify operational needs, and how to harness the technology while mitigating risk. The goal is to leverage AI to complete most of the required documentation so first responders can spend more time on patient care. Other applications of this technology include managing 911 incident call overload to gather information from similar incoming reports, real-time language detection and translation, and digital mapping of scenes where there is low or no visibility, like in a smoke-filled home. Risks for this technology include ramifications from false reports, and privacy issues.

Transportation & Infrastructure

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$2.4 Billion in New Rail Projects to Improve Safety, Strengthen Supply Chains and Grow America's Freight and Passenger Rail Networks](#)

The Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration announced more than \$2.4 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for 122 rail improvement projects in 41 states and Washington, D.C. These projects will improve rail safety and reliability while decreasing disruptions and pollution. This announcement is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-funded FRA grant program, which has funded nearly 300 rail projects, making it the most significant investment in American rail in more than 50 years. The funding will help establish training opportunities and advance research with university partnerships. One such partnership will help proactively address derailments caused by wheel and bearing failures.

[Boeing, union reach sweetened contract offer in bid to end strike, vote](#)

[scheduled for Monday](#)

[US airlines see stronger profits as airfare war ends](#)

US airlines were hurting from reduced capacity this summer but ticket prices are rising and airline stocks are now outperforming the broader market. The NYSE Arca Airline index (.XAL), has gained 23% in the past three months, outpacing an 8% jump in the S&P 500 index (.SPX). Airlines had to cut prices this summer to fill seats due to excess supply, which hurt earnings. They have now slowed their growth plans to ensure their capacity is aligned with demand, thus increasing airlines' pricing power. U.S. inflation data shows airline fares rose at their fastest rate in 18 months in September. Capacity adjustments, as well as a 20% year-on-year decline in jet fuel prices in North America, however, have bolstered the industry's outlook.

Biotechnology & Healthcare

[Tuberculosis infections highest on record: WHO](#)

The World Health Organization's (WHO) annual tuberculosis report shows that global tuberculosis cases reached an all time high in 2023, with nearly 11 million new cases. This rise is attributed to ongoing disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic to TB services, which has caused the lag time between identifying infection and disease onset. Between 2020 and 2023, the global incidence rate of tuberculosis rose by an estimated 4.6 percent. Most of the cases occurred in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Western Pacific. Tuberculosis is estimated to have caused 1.25 million deaths in the past year, making it the "world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, following 3 years in which it was replaced by COVID-19," according to the report.

[Pig infected with bird flu for first time in US, health officials confirm](#)

[HHS Office for Civil Rights Settles Ransomware Cybersecurity Investigation for \\$500,000](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement with Plastic Surgery Associates of South Dakota in Sioux Falls, for several potential HIPAA security violations, following its investigation into a ransomware attack breach by OCR. The primary cyber security threats to our healthcare system are ransomware and hacking, with a 264% increase in large breaches since 2018. OCR's investigation found Plastic Surgery Associates of South Dakota violated HIPAA regulations by failing to conduct risk analysis and implement security measures, which affected 10,229 patient's health information when they were hacked. The settlement required a \$500,000 fine to OCR and several actions to protect the security of patient's health information in compliance with HIPAA.

Climate & Development

[What caused deadly floods in Spain? The impact of DANA explained](#)

Catastrophic flash floods that have killed at least 72 people in Spain are caused by a destructive weather system in which cold and warm air meet and produce powerful rain clouds, a pattern believed to be growing more frequent due to climate change. The phenomenon is known locally as DANA, a Spanish acronym for high-altitude isolated depression, and unlike common storms or squalls it can form independently of polar or subtropical jet streams. This week's DANA was "one of the three most intense such storms in the last century in the Valencia region" Ruben del Campo, spokesperson for the national weather agency Aemet said. While experts say it will take time to analyze all the data to determine if this DANA was caused by climate change, "most agree that an increase in temperature of the Mediterranean and warmer and more human atmospheric conditions contribute to producing more frequent extreme episodes."

[California, major airlines to work to boost sustainable aviation fuel use](#)

[Deadliest weather made worse by climate change - scientists](#)

According to new analysis, human-caused climate change made the ten deadliest extreme weather events of the last 20 years more intense and more likely. Heatwaves and floods affected Europe, Africa, and Asia killing more than 570,000 people. The new analysis highlights how scientists can now discern the fingerprint of climate change in complex weather events. The study was carried out by scientists from the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group at Imperial College London. Dr. Friederike Otto, co-founder and lead of WWA said that, "this study should be an eye-opener for political leaders hanging on to fossil fuels that heat the planet and destroy lives." The researchers focused on the 10 deadliest weather events registered in the International Disaster Database since 2004. The deadliest event of the last two decades was a drought in Somalia in 2011 which is reckoned to have killed more than 250,000 people. The researchers found the low rainfall that drove the drought was made more likely and more extreme by climate change. Dr. Otto said the study showed the need for all countries to build their resilience to climate change.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Service Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Appropriations Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE

Homeland Security Committee:

House: NONE

Senate: NONE



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