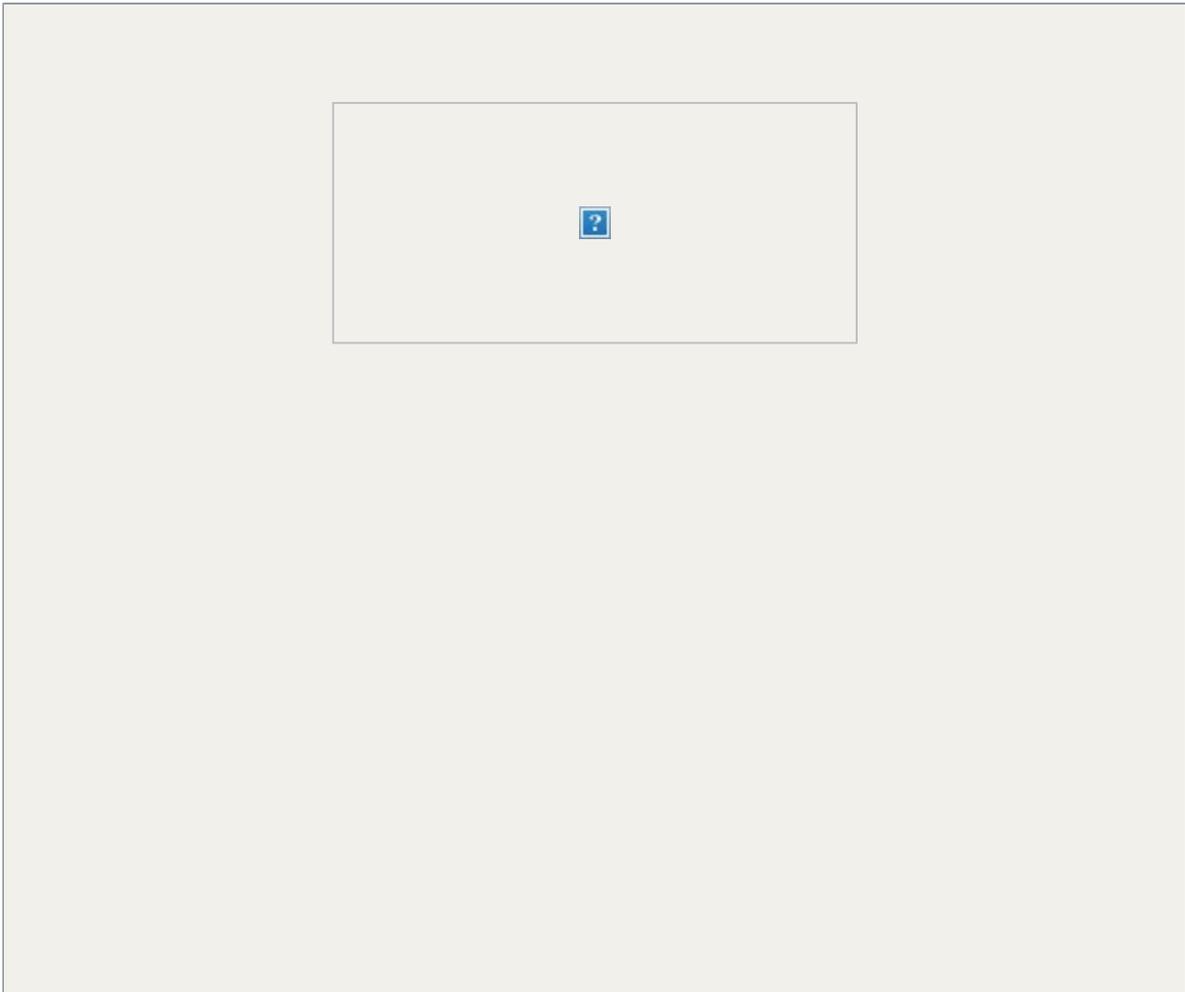


From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: Executive Insight Brief
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 8:53:25 AM

Ladies & Gentlemen,
Back from the Congressional recess, below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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September 5, 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

[Macron says 26 countries pledge troops as a reassurance force for Ukraine after war ends](#)

[China's Xi seeks closer coordination with North Korea in meeting with Kim](#)

[DOD says Venezuelan aircraft flew near U.S. Naval vessel in 'highly provocative move'](#)

[Xi and Putin's hot mic moment: How long will science extend the human life span?](#)

[Exclusive: Trump to reinterpret 1987 missile treaty to sell heavy attack drones abroad](#)

View From The Hill

Congress returned from its August Recess this week to a flurry of deadlines and activity, marking the end of summer and the beginning of a sprint towards the rapidly approaching deadline to fund the federal government beyond the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. Lawmakers have managed to pass only a handful of full-year appropriations measures, none of which have been enacted, and despite unified control of Washington, Republicans lack the sixty votes needed to clear the filibuster threshold in the Senate, they would need to completely shut out Democrats from the process.

Democrats' progressive base is itching for a fight and to see their elected officials go toe to toe with both the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans; however, Democrats on Capitol Hill are [keen](#) to avoid blame by the broader public for a government shutdown. Sen. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) faced withering criticism for stepping in to avoid a shutdown earlier this year, which contributed to calls for his ouster as leader of the Senate Democratic Caucus and primary challengers for his seat. While Democrats are incensed over a litany of actions by the Trump administration, including withholding or canceling lawfully appropriated funding, deploying the national guard in Washington, D.C., and giving Russian President Vladimir Putin a seemingly long leash to come to a peace agreement on Ukraine, their options are limited in how they can push back. They are also concerned that if a shutdown were to occur, the administration would be handed even more power to control federal agencies and the workforce.

As the White House and House Republican Leadership [face](#) down a bipartisan measure to require the full public release of files held by the Department of Justice related to its investigation into Jeffrey Epstein, alleged victims of the late financier's abuse [gathered](#) on the steps of the U.S. Capitol this week to demand greater transparency. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has repeatedly stated that the resolution calling for public disclosure of the documents is unnecessary because the House Oversight Committee is currently investigating the matter.

Amidst a purge of employees at the Centers for Disease Control, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. [faced](#) a barrage of questions from both Republicans and

Democrats at a hearing this week. Kennedy faced questions from Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) around his opposition to vaccines for children and the cancellation of millions of dollars in vaccine research funding, while Senate Democrats called for his resignation. The Senate Banking Committee [held](#) a confirmation hearing on Thursday for President Trump's nominee to fill an open seat on the Federal Reserve Board, Stephen Miran. The hearing comes amidst controversy over the Fed's status as an independent authority on monetary policy, as President Trump has repeatedly criticized Fed Chair Jerome Powell's management of the organization and the U.S. economy and moved to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook over mortgage fraud allegations.

Members of the Alabama congressional delegation [gathered](#) for a victory lap at the White House this week, following President Trump's announcement that U.S. Space Command would move from its current headquarters in Colorado to Huntsville, Alabama. The long-anticipated announcement came after the Biden administration announced a decision to keep Space Command in Colorado.

Pentagon News

After years of often bitter competition between the Colorado and Alabama Congressional delegations, President Donald Trump [announced](#) Tuesday that U.S. Space Command will move from Colorado to Alabama, reversing President Biden's 2023 decision to keep SPACECOM at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado Springs. The new Space Command will now be located at [Redstone Arsenal](#) in Huntsville, Alabama, which currently hosts NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center among other tenant commands.

[Lawmakers from both states alleged](#) that the other side was benefiting unfairly from political favoritism by both the Biden and Trump Administrations. Colorado representatives, including Rep. Lauren Boebert (CO-4), argue that relocating Space Command would risk national security by disrupting sensitive operations and causing a loss of civilian workers unwilling to move. On the other hand, members of the Alabama Congressional delegation have asserted that their higher scores on the Air Force's basing criteria and the lower costs of operating in their state ought to settle the question entirely. In April, the Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General released a report at the request of the House Armed Services Committee that showed former Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, who served under President Joe Biden, [supported](#) the move to Huntsville due to its cost-effectiveness, while former Commander of Space Command General James Dickinson saw too many risks to readiness.

In his [remarks](#) in the Oval Office on Tuesday announcing the move, President Trump suggested a

less technical rationale, claiming mail-in voting in Colorado could be to blame, while insisting the decision “wasn’t political”. During the 2024 Presidential election, the Colorado Supreme Court ordered President Trump’s name stricken from its Republican Primary ballot, though the U.S. Supreme Court later [reversed](#) that decision.

While Congress sparred over domestic basing politics, the administration turned to a different set of priorities with a sudden counternarcotics strike overseas.

President Donald Trump [confirmed](#) on Tuesday on his social media platform Truth Social that the United States had conducted a strike on an alleged drug vessel in the Caribbean Sea. This was a [targeted attack](#) that killed 11 people who were allegedly affiliated with Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang. President Trump [blamed](#) the gang as the root of violence and drug dealing in many American cities. This attack was part of the Trump administration’s counternarcotics operations in the Caribbean and the area around Venezuela. President Trump [posted](#) on Truth Social, “No U.S. Forces were harmed in this strike. Please let this serve as notice to anybody even thinking about bringing drugs into the United States of America.” This event [coincides](#) with a larger U.S. naval buildup, including eight warships and thousands of Marines deployed in Latin American waters, signaling an unprecedented show of force in the Western Hemisphere.

Multiple outlets have questioned the legality of this attack, but these sources have [confirmed](#) the attack was conducted in international waters against a designated foreign terrorist organization. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has not addressed the attack yet, but has [said](#) the U.S. is “coming for Venezuela’s riches,” framing America’s actions as imperialist aggression. The Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other agencies have spent months [preparing](#) for such operations, and this strike might mark the beginning of a broader campaign against transnational drug cartels. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has [said](#), “We’re going to take on drug cartels wherever they are and wherever they are operating against the interests of the United States.” This U.S. action risks intensifying regional instability while setting a precedent for military responses to narcotics trafficking.

As U.S. forces demonstrated military might abroad, vulnerabilities on the home front were revealed in the cybersecurity space.

A dark reality is emerging in cyberspace, where investigators now say China’s Salt Typhoon hacking campaign may have swept up information on nearly every American. Active since at least 2019, the state-backed hackers targeted more than 200 companies across 80 countries, infiltrating telecommunications providers, defense contractors, and even lodging and transportation networks. The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) [declared](#) the operation a national security crisis, warning that the theft of core communications data could allow Beijing to monitor calls, texts, and movements of politicians, spies, and activists worldwide.

The revelations have left Western governments scrambling to respond. CISA, alongside allies in the U.K., Germany, and Japan, urged companies to harden defenses and hunt for malicious activity.

The FBI has issued a \$10 million bounty for leads of Salt Typhoon operatives, warning that the campaign is designed not just for espionage, but also for disruption.

While China has long engaged in theft of trade secrets and personal data, experts say Salt Typhoon represents a leap in sophistication, demonstrating an unrestrained effort to burrow into the backbone of global communications. One thing is clear: Beijing is no longer just collecting data, but positioning itself to dominate the digital battlespace.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

U.S House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- 9/11, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nomination of General Christopher J. Mahoney, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- 9/9, 2:00 PM - Hearings to examine how the corruption of science has impacted public perception and policies regarding vaccines.
- 9/10, 2:30 PM - Hearings to examine America's fire apparatus crisis.



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