

Ladies & Gentlemen,

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

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Executive Insight Brief

On this episode of The Roosevelt Group Podcast, Senior Advisor Elana Broitman and Principal Matthew Herrmann sit down to discuss the FY26 NDAA, recently passed by the House and still making its way through the Senate before going to conference. They unpack the legislative processes each Chamber will follow, projected timelines, topline trends, and mentions of AI, cyber, munitions, and more.

Listen to the full episode [here](#).

Notable Headlines

[Russia-Belarus military drills start this week. Here's what to know](#)

[Pentagon plan prioritizes homeland over China threat](#)

[Supreme Court is asked to allow White House to block \\$4B in foreign aid](#)

[ODNI expected to shrink counterintelligence, counterterror centers](#)

[Russian drone incursion in Poland prompts NATO leaders to take stock of bigger threats](#)



View From The Hill



Members of Congress **across** the political **spectrum** reacted with horror at the assassination of conservative media figure Charlie Kirk, who was shot and killed while speaking at one of his well-known debate-style events at Utah Valley University on Wednesday. The tragedy cast a pall over Capitol Hill, where Members **expressed** grief for Kirk and his family, as well as concern for their own safety in an era of rising political violence. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) attempted to hold a moment of silence in the House Chamber due to the incident, but was **forced** to quell an interparty yelling match between Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), who demanded a vocalized prayer, Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL), who shouted blame for the shooting at her Democratic colleagues, and various House Democrats calling for Republicans to pass legislation aimed at reducing gun violence. House Democratic and Republican leadership had **planned** to announce an enhanced security pilot program for Members this fall, but Speaker Johnson said Thursday that the program was being expedited in the wake of the shooting.

As the federal government quickly approaches a September 30th funding deadline, House and Senate Democrats **appear** to have coalesced around their strategy to avert a shutdown and make a deal with Republicans, though it remains unclear if the strategy will work. Under this plan, outlined by House Ways and Means Ranking Member Ritchie Neal (D-MA), Congressional Democrats will demand a negotiation on healthcare provisions, including insurance subsidies in the *Affordable Care Act* that are currently set to expire at the end of the calendar year for about 20 million Americans. For Republicans, the issue is a thorny one, as fiscal conservatives often **balk** at the cost of the subsidies while others recognize them as an important safety net for millions of Americans, not to mention a political hot potato.

The House **passed** its version of the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA) for fiscal year 2026 this week, as Republicans continued the trend of inserting right-leaning culture war policy provisions that are all but certain to be stripped out by the Senate. The \$848 billion bill passed 231-196 with twelve Democrats joining with all but four Republicans to support the measure. Key features of the legislation were provisions to continue military aid to Ukraine and speed up the

Pentagon's cumbersome defense procurement processes. An amendment was added to the bill during floor consideration, eliminating both the 1991 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force related to Iraq.

In the ongoing saga related to the Jeffrey Epstein files, which **cost** the British Ambassador to the United States his job this week, Reps. Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Ro Khanna (D-CA) are **getting** closer to clinching the 218 signatories on their discharge petition measure, which would force a vote on the House Floor even over objections from Speaker Johnson. Newly sworn-in Rep. James Walkinshaw (D-VA) added his name to the petition upon assuming office Wednesday, and a yet-to-be-held special election in Arizona is expected to also go to a Democrat who would almost certainly be willing to cause the White House and Congressional Republicans heartburn by forcing a vote. For their part, Senate Republicans **voted** to table a surprise amendment offered by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) on Thursday that would direct Attorney General Pam Bondi to release all files related to the Epstein investigation.

There **appears** to be a renewed push in the Senate to pass a bipartisan sanctions package authored by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) against Russia, after Moscow flew armed drones into Polish airspace. The provocative incursion into NATO airspace prompted concern across Western Europe and Washington, leading the national security hawks in Congress to call for bolder action against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The House Committee on Homeland Security **led** a bipartisan delegation to Ground Zero this week to mark the 24th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. The Members laid a wreath at the World Trade Center Memorial and toured the 9/11 Museum as part of the visit.



Pentagon News



A major step forward has been taken in Guam, where the Missile Defense Agency has finalized a [Record of Decision](#) (ROD) to deploy the Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense (EIAMD) system. While the system is designed to provide a persistent 360° defense against evolving regional missile defense threats, its rollout comes after extensive environmental review and coordination with the Air Force, Navy, FAA, and public stakeholders. The ROD has been [criticized](#) by the Governor of Guam, Lou Leon Guerrero, as incomplete because cumulative impacts were not properly mitigated in the official document. The Governor will continue to pursue calls for a "whole of government" Economic Adjustment Committee to be convened to address these impacts.

The overall action in establishing a robust 360-degree missile defense system on Guam underscores a broader push by the US military to strengthen missile defense capabilities in the Pacific, signaling that Guam will remain a strategic focal point for layered defense.

Missile defense is only one element of the Pentagon's modernization agenda; cybersecurity has become equally central to safeguarding U.S. national security.

The Department of War (DoW), formerly known as the Department of Defense (DoD), has finalized a major cybersecurity move, issuing the [Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement rule](#) to implement the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program. While the rule primarily ensures defense contractors safeguard federal contract information and Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), it also marks a broader push for consistent cybersecurity standards across all DoW procurements. Compliance is not optional; officials emphasize that vendors must put U.S. national security first, and CMMC certification is now the benchmark.

The program's implementation signals that cybersecurity isn't just an administrative check but a central component of Defense contracting, reinforcing the expectation that all partners meet strict standards before handling sensitive information. Defense contracting in the U.S. is entering a more tightly regulated, cybersecure era, and companies that lag behind could quickly find themselves on the outside.

While these initiatives reflect long-term defense priorities, the administration continues to confront immediate challenges abroad, most recently in the Middle East.

Tuesday, the Israeli Defense Forces launched a surprise attack on a series of residential buildings known to be occupied by Hamas Leaders in Doha, the capital city of Qatar. The strike involved the use of more than ten fighter jets, according to an Israeli [official](#). While this is not the first time the conflict in Gaza has spilled over into other parts of the Middle East, including Israel and Iran's [traded missile strikes](#) in June, this strike marks the first Israeli military action on the territory of a major U.S. ally.

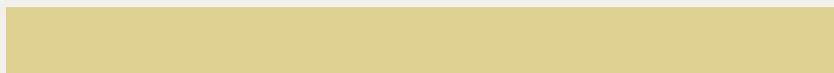
Later the same day, President Donald Trump posted [on Truth Social](#) that he had received no warning from Israel prior to the operation. According to Hamas, the attack failed to kill any of its senior officials. Despite expressing some frustration

with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Trump qualified his criticism of the Israeli leader with praise for the effort to “eliminate Hamas,” calling it a “worthy goal”.

The President’s post followed a similar statement from White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt. However, President Trump clarified in his message that a call from Special Envoy Steve Witkoff to Qatari officials [came too late](#) to warn them of the impending strike.

A [Qatari official](#) pointed out that Hamas leadership had traveled to Doha for talks about President Trump’s proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza and that Israel’s attack was likely to undermine the negotiations. Qatar also hosts a major U.S. military base, in addition to a large cohort of civilian personnel, and the Gulf State has become an even closer ally to the United States since the beginning of President Trump’s second term. In May, President Trump signed a [\\$1.2 trillion economic](#) partnership with Qatar and accepted a [\\$400 million Boeing 747 jet](#) to be refurbished for use as Air Force One.

[This is not the first time](#) President Trump has diverged from Prime Minister Netanyahu over the past few months. In July, Prime Minister Netanyahu cast doubt on reports of famine in Gaza, while President Trump asserted that there was “[real starvation](#)” in the Palestinian enclave. Towards the end of his Tuesday post, President Trump assured Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani that “such a thing will not happen again on [Qatari] soil.” President Trump and the U.S. remain staunch supporters of Israel, but this messaging from the President may indicate a shifting dynamic.



Next Week's Hearings



Armed Services Committee

U.S House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Appropriations Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

- 9/16, 2:00 PM - Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology will hold a hearing titled, “Surveying the Threat of Agroterrorism: Perspectives on Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense.”

U.S. Senate

- 9/18, 9:00 AM - Business meeting to consider proposed legislation entitled, "Free Speech Protection and Reforming Expiring Authorities", proposed legislation entitled, "Safer Counter-Drone Authorities", S.1221, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, S.2283, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office", and S.252, to increase access to agency guidance documents.

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