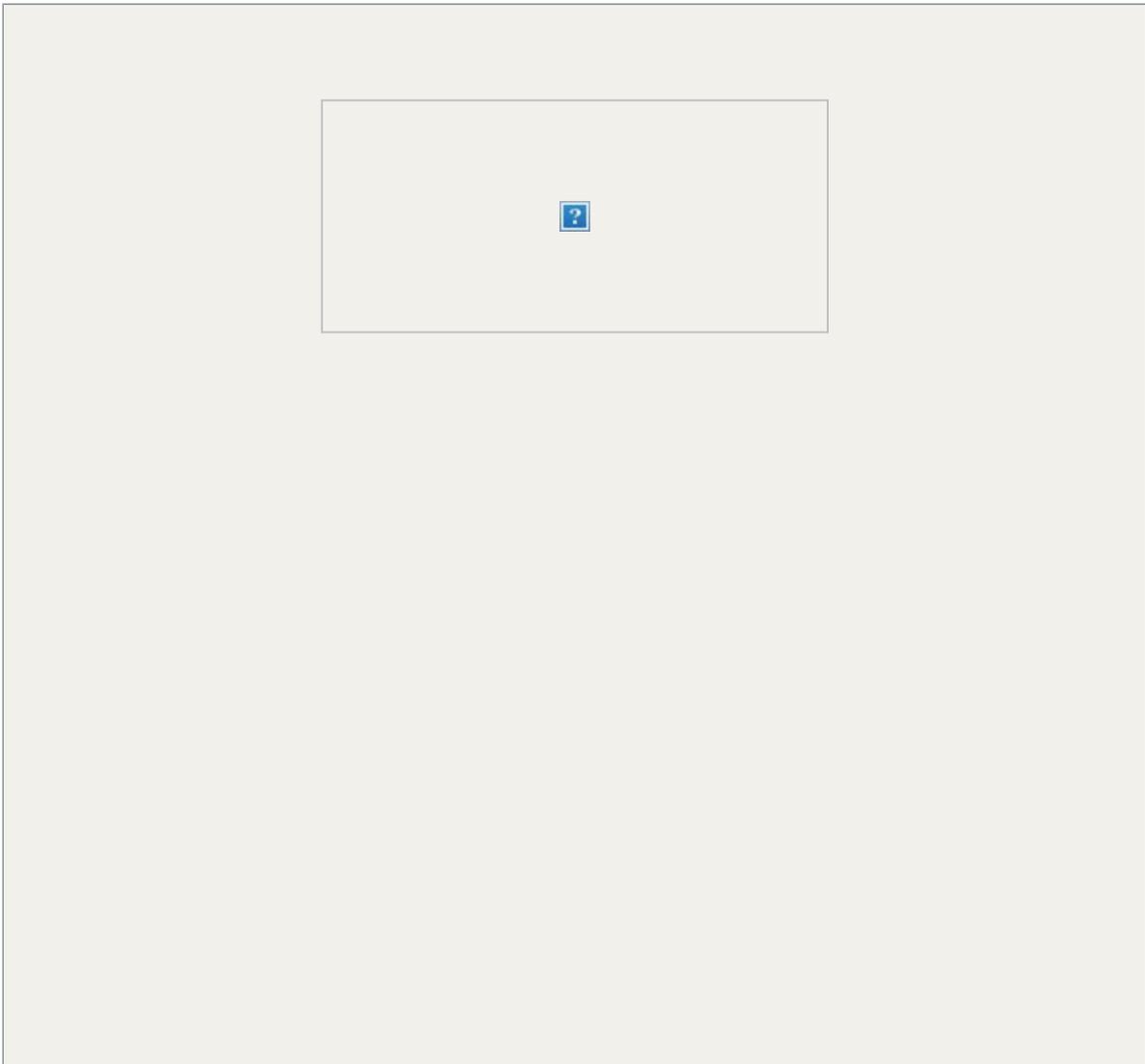


From: [Rick Dwyer](#)
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Subject: Executive Insight Brief
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Ladies & Gentlemen,
Below please find this week's edition of *Executive Insight Brief* from The Roosevelt Group.

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September 19, 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

[Senate confirms 48 of Trump's nominees at once after changing the chamber's rules](#)

[U.S., U.K. Warships Transit Taiwan Strait, Pentagon Confirms](#)

[Kirsten Davies, nominee for Pentagon CIO, advocates for 'great change' at the department](#)

[U.S. military observers pay surprise visit to Belarus to observe war games with Russia](#)

[TikTok deal looms as China talks stall](#)

View From The Hill

With less than two weeks until current federal funding expires, Congress is still figuring out how exactly it will fund the government and avoid a shutdown. This morning, the House GOP leadership will **attempt** to pass a clean seven-week Continuing Resolution (CR), over Democratic objections, and then move to recess the chamber for two weeks. In so doing, the House will effectively jam the Senate by recessing until after the September 30th fiscal deadline, daring Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to force a government shutdown.

Democrats are left with little leverage if the House GOP can pass a CR with only Republican votes, meaning Schumer will be left—yet again—to choose between appeasing his progressive base, who are angling for a fight, or risk being blamed for a politically unpopular shutdown. Currently, Democrats **remain** coalesced around a strategy to oppose stopgap funding unless Republicans

agree to a permanent extension of healthcare insurance subsidies in the *Affordable Care Act*, which are slated to expire at the end of the calendar year.

There were a number of high-profile hearings on Capitol Hill this week. Over in the Senate, the ousted former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Susan Monarez, **testified** before the Senate Health Committee that she was fired from her role by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., for refusing to rubber-stamp vaccine recommendations from an advisory committee to which he has appointed key allies. Monarez, who was only just confirmed by the Senate to lead the CDC on July 29th, stated that Kennedy became heated after she said she would only approve recommendations after reviewing the science. Now, the panel's chairman, Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), who himself is a physician, is calling on Kennedy to testify before the panel to give his version of events.

Embattled Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel **faced** grilling in a pair of hearings before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees this week. Patel faced scrutiny mostly from Congressional Democrats over the FBI's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files, which have become a major distraction for the administration in recent weeks. Patel defended himself and the FBI, claiming that more documents had been shared with Congress and the public about the Epstein investigation under his tenure than ever before. He also faced heat over his handling of and public **communications** during the manhunt following last week's assassination of conservative political figure Charlie Kirk in Utah. Patel had initially and erroneously claimed the shooter had been identified and captured, hours before the actual shooter, Tyler Robinson, was arrested.

The Senate **confirmed** dozens of new Trump administration officials this week under a process known as *en bloc* consideration, in which multiple nominees can be bundled together under a single resolution for a vote. This comes after the Senate GOP tweaked the chamber's rules to allow such consideration via only a simple majority vote.

The first-of-its-kind Congressional Pickleball Match [took](#) place on the National Mall last night, as Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle gathered to celebrate one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States. The match was set up by the Congressional Sports for Charity, which also plays host to the Congressional Baseball Game, in partnership with the Trust for the National Mall.

Pentagon News

The Pentagon has reached a [key milestone](#) in President Trump's \$175 billion Golden Dome missile defense project, with the program's overseer, Steve Feinburg, receiving his first full briefing on the system's initial architecture. General Mike Guetlein, tasked with managing the day-to-day progress, outlined an ambitious plan that features space-based sensors, radar arrays, interceptors, and potentially lasers. This architecture includes four integrated layers, one satellite-based and three land-based, aimed at countering ballistic, hypersonic, and cruise missile threats.

The Golden Dome, inspired by Israel's Iron Dome but scaled for U.S. territory, carries a 2028 deadline and envisions 11 short-range missile batteries spread across the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii. The next major benchmark for the ambitious project comes in November, when Guetlein must present a detailed implementation plan.

While the Pentagon makes progress on bold defense initiatives like the Golden Dome, senior leaders are simultaneously confronting scrutiny over the handling of sensitive information.

This past week, the Department of Defense's (DoD) Office of the Inspector General (IG) [completed its investigation](#) into Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's use of the encrypted messaging app, Signal, to share potentially classified information. In March, *The Atlantic* released an [article](#) revealing that its editor, Jeffrey Goldberg, had been inadvertently added to a [Signal group chat](#) with several high-ranking national security officials, including Vice President JD Vance, National Security Adviser Mike Waltz, and Secretary Hegseth. In the chat, the officials shared details about a forthcoming strike on Houthi militants in Yemen. Mike Waltz later [resigned](#) from his role amid public fallout from the publication of Mr. Goldberg's article.

Following the publication of Mr. Goldberg's article, the top Democrat and top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee requested an IG investigation. The IG has not yet commented publicly on its findings. In contrast, Chief Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell condemned the investigation in July and alleged that it had been conducted in a biased manner by officials appointed by President Joe Biden. Secretary Hegseth will now have an opportunity to comment on the IG report's findings, which is standard practice at this stage in the investigation.

The information the Secretary of Defense shared in the Signal group chat was taken from a U.S. Central Command document marked Secret/NOFORN, meaning the document was classified and no foreign nationals were allowed to see it. Secretary Hegseth's position holds the power to declassify any information in advance of sharing it, but it is unclear if he did so before Mr. Goldberg was added to the Signal chat. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, [said Tuesday](#) that the committee expects to see the completed report "soon".

Across the Pentagon, a series of moves to bolster the security of sensitive information continues to unfold, spearheaded not only by Congress but also by other federal agencies.

On Wednesday, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a [report](#) examining the state of DoD cyberspace operations as talks of standing up a separate cyber force within the Army continue. With roughly 61,000 military and civilian personnel dedicated to cyberspace across 440 organizations, the study identified 70 organizations (3,400 personnel) that serve to enable and support those executing the missions. Cyber personnel may deal with offensive cyberspace operations, defensive cyberspace operations, or DoD Information Network (DODIN) operations. Many of these groups belong to each service (75%), 18% work under CYBERCOM, and 5% work for non-service requirements.

Watchdogs have indicated signs of redundancy, suggesting the \$14.5 billion budget for related activities may be inflated by overlapping services—particularly regarding training courses and cybersecurity service provider duties. The DoD has acknowledged these areas as places of growth and plans to assess consolidation opportunities. While the complexity of military cyber operations can benefit from ample protection, the GAO seeks to mitigate inefficiencies that arise from oversaturated objectives and strategies.

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

- NONE

U.S. Senate

- NONE



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