

Schott, Heather

From: Rick Dwyer <rdwyer@hrmffa.org>
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To: Rick Dwyer
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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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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

[US cybersecurity is 'slipping' under Trump, says congressional commission](#)

[B-1 Bombers Fly Off Venezuela's Coast](#)

[The Army wants drones that understand 'commander's intent'](#)

[US Air Force to lease base land for private AI data centers](#)

[Senators eye sanctions vote after Trump targets Russian oil](#)

Welcome New Team Members

The Roosevelt Group is pleased to welcome five new subject matter experts to the firm's network. Their expertise enhances our ability to help our clients navigate complex policy and national security challenges.



Amy Mitchell, SES

Former Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense

Amy is a former member of the Senior Executive Service and recognized expert in national security and foreign policy, most recently serving as Chief of Staff of Global Women's Issues in the Department of State. Prior, Amy served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, advising three Defense Secretaries including General James Mattis.



David Cattler

Former Director of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

David is a seasoned national security leader with over 35 years spanning the U.S. Intelligence Community, Department of Defense, and NATO. He most recently served as the Director of the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.



John Kline, Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)

Former Commanding General of the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training

John is a distinguished senior executive who served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training, and previously as Chief of Operations, Planning, and Training for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Most recently, he authored a classified report for the Army Chief of Staff on the Russia-Ukraine War, which is now reshaping the Army's modernization strategy.



Kelley Currie, U.S. Ambassador (Retired)

Former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues

Kelley is a recognized foreign policy expert with extensive experience in non-traditional and economic security issues focused on Asia. She most recently served as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. Kelley also served as Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Economic and Social Affairs and acting senior official in the Office of Global Criminal Justice.



Venice Goodwine, SES, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

Former Chief Information Officer for the Department of the Air Force

Venice is a former member of the Senior Executive Service, most recently serving as Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Department of the Air Force, leading the Enterprise Information Technology (EIT), Data and Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity directorates.

View From The Hill

The week came and went without a clear path out of the current government funding impasse that has shuttered federal agencies, put critical programs at risk, left federal employees in limbo, and pitted both parties starkly against each other on what is needed to alleviate the pain. On Thursday, lawmakers in the Senate [voted](#) down a bill introduced by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) that would have allowed for active-duty military personnel and some federal employees not on furlough to be paid during a shutdown. The bill failed to reach the sixty-

vote threshold needed for further consideration, 54-45, with Senators John Fetterman (D-PA), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) breaking with other members of their party to support the measure. Meanwhile, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) **stated** opposition to bringing his chamber back into session to vote on legislation that would provide pay for Air Traffic Controllers in the shutdown, arguing that doing so would alleviate pressure on Senate Democrats to vote on the House-passed bill sent to the Senate weeks ago.

Democrats have remained staunchly firm in their position, even amidst mass layoffs of federal employees and cancelled infrastructure projects in blue states. However, with a quickly **approaching** deadline of November 1st before the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) begins running out of funding, some are fearing that millions of Americans will soon lose key food access. At least twenty-five states have already indicated they will cut off recipients of SNAP after November 1st, creating a real pain point for Democrats and some Republicans. Both sides have, so far, continued to feel confident in their respective positions, with President Trump remaining relatively unengaged with Congress on the matter.

Does the Legislative Branch have a pulse? For most of this year, the unified Republican majority on Capitol Hill has seen fit to serve as a rubber stamp for the Trump administration's policies and nominees, with a few exceptions. This week, though, a rare rebuke for the White House came as more than one hundred GOP lawmakers signed a letter opposing the administration's shuttering of the Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. This program, largely leveraged by small businesses and home buyers, serves areas of the country lacking access to larger financial institutions and is popular on both sides of the aisle. And in another pushback, the administration's nominee to lead the Office of Special Counsel, Paul Ingrassia, was **forced** to withdraw after enough Republican senators informed the White House they could not support his nomination over shockingly offensive text messages from Ingrassia came to light.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) **set** the record for the third lengthiest speech on the Senate Floor this week, speaking for 22 hours and 37 minutes against the Trump

administration's policies. The speech caused floor activity to grind to a halt and delayed another vote on the House-passed continuing resolution.

Pentagon News

On Monday, President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese **met** at the White House to discuss defense cooperation, Indo-Pacific stability, and the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, & United States) nuclear submarine deal. This follows the Pentagon's earlier **announcement** of an AUKUS review, which raised concerns in Australia and the U.K. as they **feared** the White House would step away from the agreement meant to expand nuclear submarine production and technology partnerships to deter China. Instead, President Trump insisted the U.S. is committed and going "full steam ahead" on the nuclear-powered submarine pact. Australia has committed billions to developing submarine and naval shipbuilding facilities in its country. Reaffirming the U.S.'s commitment to AUKUS signals Washington's long-term prioritization of allied deterrence and industrial cooperation in the region, cementing Australia's role as a key security hub and reinforcing allied supply chains against Chinese expansion.

Prime Minister Albanese **asserted** the importance of the defense and security partnership with AUKUS and thanked President Trump for his continued support. U.S. Navy Secretary John Phelan, present at the meeting, **explained** that the review will "take the original AUKUS framework and improve it for all three parties, and make it better." AUKUS is key to closer cooperation among the three countries, especially in building quantum computers and hypersonic weapons. President Trump framed AUKUS as a deterrent to China, not a provocation, while expressing confidence in the U.S. military. This multibillion-dollar pact between the U.S., U.K., and Australia is important to warding off China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. Ultimately, the move sends a message beyond the region that allied resolve remains firm even amid shifting administrations and global uncertainty.

While work on AUKUS's efforts to strengthen Indo-Pacific security continues, the President offered a rare insight into his broader strategic thinking about potential future conflicts with China.

In [response](#) to a reporter's question on Tuesday, President Trump said he believes China "doesn't want" to invade Taiwan in the near future. The President went on to add that even though Taiwan may be "the apple of [Chinese President Xi Jinping's] eye," he still "doesn't see anything happening." President Trump's comments diverge from the [consensus](#) among China analysts in the West, who have long assessed that it is likely China plans to invade Taiwan as early as 2027. Further, President Xi has [called](#) for an escalation of efforts to "reunify" China earlier this week.

President Trump's comments come in the midst of an increasingly fraught trade conflict between the U.S. and China. In early October, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced expanded [export bans](#) to the U.S. of critical metals and rare earth elements. Last week, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent spoke of a need to "[decouple](#)" American supply chains with China if tensions continue to rise. Chinese and American leadership are set to meet in South Korea on October 30 to discuss a possible trade deal that could be an important bellwether for U.S. reliance on China in the future.

Despite the ongoing export controls, however, President Trump has rarely offered his views on a potential military conflict between China and the West. In August, President Trump [said](#) President Xi told him China would not invade Taiwan during President Trump's time in office, but that "China is very patient." In his Tuesday remarks, President Trump did not say if Taiwanese independence would be a negotiating tool at the upcoming trade talks. On October 7, Taiwanese President Lai Chin-te said in a [podcast interview](#) that President Trump should receive the Nobel Peace Prize if he stops China from invading.

Far away from the South China Sea, one of the U.S.'s closest allies in Western Europe has taken remarkable steps to support U.S. government workers who may miss their paychecks due to the ongoing government shutdown.

On Wednesday, the German government **announced** that it would pay the approximately 11,000 American and non-American civilian employees working on U.S. military installations in Germany. The move comes amidst uncertainty over pay for federal workers, including members of the military, during the ongoing Federal shutdown in Washington. Verdi, a trade union representing several base staff in Germany, emphasized that its members cannot lawfully work without pay. Even though staff on the American payroll in Germany have received pay during previous shutdowns, Verdi expressed fears that this time could be different. While Federal workers are guaranteed backpay under U.S. law, families could start to face major financial trouble if they miss multiple paychecks.

The German Ministry of Finance will **issue** an unscheduled expenditure of about €43 million to cover all paychecks from October. The money is available thanks to a deal between Germany's Federal Government and the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, which hosts the U.S.'s Ramstein Air Base. According to Berlin, the U.S. will reimburse them after the shutdown ends. Under U.S. law, employees paid by their foreign host countries are not automatically furloughed, but if that pay is reimbursed by Washington, they may be. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Chair of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, praised the German government for its show of support. It is unclear whether similar arrangements will be made in other countries that host U.S. military installations, like Japan, Italy, Qatar, and South Korea.

Next Week's Hearings

Armed Services Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- 10/28, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nominations of Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, and James Caggy, of New York, each to be an Assistant Secretary, and Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, all of the Department of Defense.
- 10/30, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nomination of Vice Admiral Richard A. Correll, USN, to be Admiral and Commander, United States Strategic Command.

Appropriations Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

Homeland Security Committee

House of Representatives

- NONE

Senate

- NONE

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