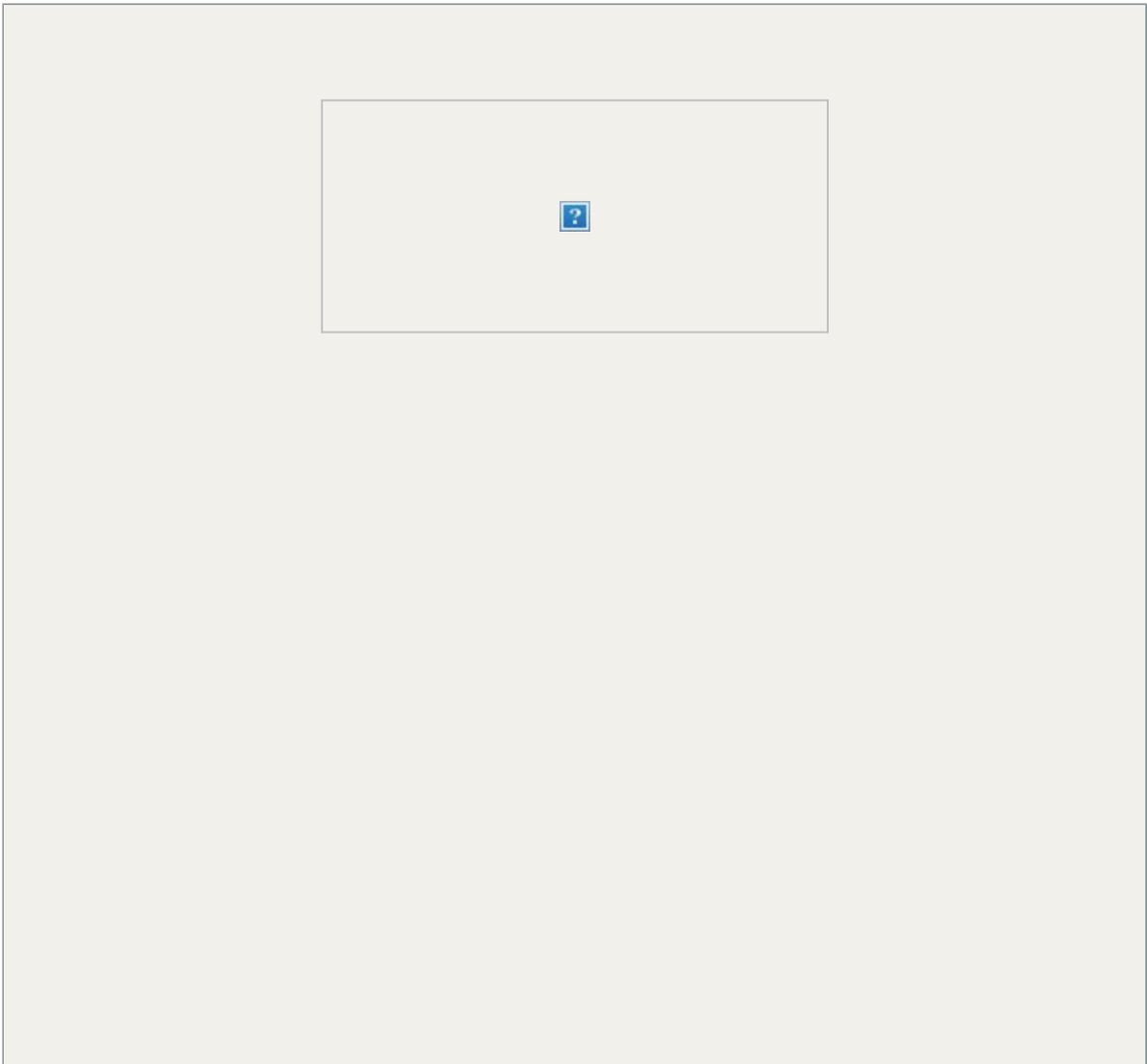


**From:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**To:** [Rick Dwyer](#)  
**Subject:** Executive Insight Brief  
**Date:** Friday, October 31, 2025 10:43:21 AM

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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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October 31, 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

[Trump counts on public support for drug boat strikes without congressional approval](#)

[Ukraine isn't just hurling attack drones; they're waging real robot warfare](#)

[Marine Corps axes plan for third littoral regiment, ready to move on medium landing ship](#)

[Exclusive: Pentagon's DOGE unit to revamp military drone program, sources say](#)

[Golden Dome hype meets information vacuum as industry awaits Pentagon direction](#)

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## TRG Team Members

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Meet five subject matter experts who recently joined The Roosevelt Group's network. Their expertise enhances our ability to help our clients navigate complex policy and national security challenges.



[\*\*The Honorable Alex Wagner\*\*](#)

**Former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs**

Alex is an expert in talent development, having served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, where he oversaw all matters related to manpower, military and civilian personnel, the Reserve

component, and readiness support for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force.

He previously served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Army, spearheading the creation of the Army Rapid Capabilities Office and the Army Digital Service, and worked alongside tech industry leaders to launch “Hack the Army.”



**Eric Felt, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)**

**Former Director of Space Architecture and Integration**

Eric is a defense innovation leader with broad expertise in space technology, defense innovation, and acquisition strategy. He most recently served as Director of Space Architecture and Integration in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration. Prior to that, he led the Air Force Research Laboratory’s (AFRL) Space Vehicles Directorate, served as Commander of the Phillips Research Site, and was the Director of Intelligence, Analyses, and Assessment with the Air Force Operational Test & Evaluation Center at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.



**Joe Carlile**

**Former Associate Director for General Government Programs at OMB**

Joe is a senior public-sector strategist with over two decades of experience in federal budgeting, policy, and organizational transformation. Most recently, he

served as Associate Director for General Government Programs at the White House Office of Management and Budget, overseeing housing, transportation, justice, and homeland security budgets across over thirty federal agencies. Joe also served as Senior Advisor to the Secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and spent over a decade on the House Appropriations Committee.



**John Morrison Jr., Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Retired)**

**Former Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6**

John is a recognized leader in military communications, IT networks, and cyber operations, most recently serving as the first-ever Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6, working closely as principal military advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Army. Previously, John served as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Cyber Command, Executive Officer for the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, and LandWarNet/Mission Command Director in the Department of the Army G-3/5/7.



**Robert Fookes**

**Former Chief Engineer for the Air Force Materiel Command**

Robert most recently served as Director of Engineering and Technical Management and Chief Engineer for the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Previously, he served in a similar role in the F-

35 Lightning II Joint Program Office (JPO) within the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). Robert's expertise in acquisition has been recognized with the John J. Welch, Jr. Award for Excellence in Acquisition Management.

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## View From The Hill

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Outlook for ending the ongoing federal government shutdown remains spooky, as the Senate broke after another week of deadlock, and the House remains in recess. The White House has been mostly unengaged with Congress on government funding to date, though both sides are anticipating a shift in the mood next week when federal food aid, known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, **runs** out for 42 million Americans, and **expiring** Affordable Care Act health insurance subsidies will lead to burgeoning insurance premiums for millions more. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) was particularly **incensed** when he took to the Senate Floor on Wednesday, after the House-passed Continuing Resolution (CR) failed to pass with enough Democratic votes for the thirteenth time in a month. If the shutdown extends beyond next week, it will mark the longest lapse in appropriations in American history.

In another rebuke of President Trump's approach to trade this week, the Senate **passed** a resolution aimed at cancelling the administration's tariffs on Canada, America's second-largest trading partner. Four Republicans, Senators Rand Paul (R-KY), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Mitch McConnell (R-KY), joined with Democrats on the measure, in a move that played out similarly to other resolutions on trade tariffs in recent months. GOP Senators are also **growing** increasingly vocal about some of the administration's other trade moves, including the White House's decision to increase imports of beef from Argentina—a move that has spurred outrage among dozens of lawmakers representing cattle farm districts.

The Senate Committee on Healthcare, Education, Labor, and Pensions was **forced** to postpone a confirmation hearing for the Trump administration's nominee to be the next Surgeon General after the nominee, Casey Means, went into labor for her first child just before the hearing was set to begin. Senators also **unveiled** a bipartisan bill aimed at protecting children from dangerous conversations with artificial intelligence (AI) powered chatbots this week, after reports that minors have sometimes engaged in sexually explicit conversations or have been led to self-harm after interacting with the AI technology. Senators Josh Hawley (R-MO), Katie Britt (R-AL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Chris Murphy (D-CT), announced the legislation to create criminal penalties for companies that fail to protect children from harm and require them to verify a user's age before allowing certain conversations.

As the Trump administration continues destroying suspected drug trafficking vessels in the Pacific and Caribbean, Democratic Senators were **angry** to learn that a classified briefing was organized for Republicans only, marking a significant break from common practice when it comes to briefing lawmakers on national security matters.

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## Pentagon News

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Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is slated to announce significant **changes** to the U.S. foreign military sales process at an unusual meeting of defense contractors on November 7, according to people familiar with the planning of the event.

Many in the defense industry are eager to see the finer details of the planned reforms that previous administrations have also sought to improve. The core of the plan is to move the Pentagon's arms-sales office, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, from under the policy chief to the acquisition and sustainment shop, which manages the Pentagon's \$400 billion weapons-buying operations. The plan aims to accelerate both weapons production and government-led foreign military sales. The war in Ukraine has galvanized this reform effort, as countries that depend on the U.S. are unable to restock supplies quickly enough and have started to look to suppliers in other nations that can move more quickly.

To avoid a first-ever lapse in pay for troops, the White House is reallocating funds from three sources. It will cover \$5.3 billion in military pay from the following sources: \$2.5 billion from the reconciliation bill's military housing fund to pay for housing allowances, \$1.4 billion from the Department of Defense's (DOD) procurement account for Navy vessels to cover the Navy and Marine Corps, and \$1.4 billion from Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDTE) to fund the Army and Air Force. The RDTE fund was already heavily relied on for the October 15 paycheck for service members, and Vice President Vance [warned](#), "We believe that we can continue to pay the troops on Friday. Unfortunately, we're not going to be able to pay everybody, because we've been handed a very bad hand by the Democrats."

While the Pentagon is focused on foreign arms sales and troop pay, President Donald Trump has made significant announcements regarding nuclear weapons testing while on his Asia Trip.

Hours before [meeting](#) Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday, President Trump [announced](#) on Truth Social that he had ordered the DoD to immediately start testing nuclear weapons on an "equal basis," just days after Russia [tested](#) its new Poseidon weapon, a nuclear-capable underwater drone that can be launched from a carrier submarine. Russian President Vladimir Putin has also [boasted](#) progress in other strategic systems, such as the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile, which Moscow says can fly indefinitely and evade

missile defenses. When asked about the decision **during** the official greeting at the meeting with President Xi Jinping, President Trump evaded the question and answered, "Thank you very much, everybody."

The Kremlin's Press Secretary, Dmitry Peskov, **clarified** that Russia's recent tests were focused on developing defense systems, not nuclear weapons. The same day, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun **urged** the U.S. to "take practical actions to safeguard the international nuclear disarmament." The U.S. last performed explosive testing of nuclear weapons in 1992 to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the existing nuclear weapons before a moratorium on such testing was enacted in 1992. The possibility of resuming tests on an "equal basis" may **indicate** expansion in missile production similar to Russia's actions in the prior days. With the **New START Treaty**, which limits deployed strategic warheads between the U.S. and Russia, set to expire in 2026, these announcements collectively point to a potential escalation between the two powers.

On Tuesday, President Trump **delivered** a rally-style speech aboard the USS *George Washington*, an aircraft carrier docked at Yokosuka Naval base near Tokyo, Japan. Under a large banner that read "Peace Through Strength," President Trump addressed a gathering of 6,000 American service members and 200 Japanese military personnel. During the 53-minute speech, the President asserted that his global trade agenda was an effective tool for keeping U.S. troops out of active combat zones, which was received enthusiastically by his audience.

Earlier that day, President Trump met with Japan's new Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi, for the first time. Both leaders had been close with Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan during the first Trump Administration, who was assassinated in 2022. During their meeting, Prime Minister Takaichi **gifted** President Trump a putter formerly owned by Prime Minister Abe. Prime Minister Takaichi also spoke briefly aboard the carrier before the President. In his speech, President Trump announced major trade agreements between the two countries, including a \$10 billion investment in U.S. auto plants by Toyota, and

this week's planned delivery to Japan of the first batch of missiles for the F-35 aircraft.

President Trump and Prime Minister Takaichi **signed** a framework to secure the supply of critical minerals and rare earth elements, essential for defense and high-tech manufacturing, through mining and processing. When visiting the Republic of Korea, President Trump announced that he **secured** billions of dollars in U.S. investment from many Korean companies, which will deepen cooperation between the U.S. and Korea in advanced technology sectors such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and semiconductors.

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## Next Week's Hearings

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### Armed Services Committee

#### House of Representatives

- NONE

#### Senate

- 11/4, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nominations of Austin Dahmer, of Arizona, and Robert Kadlec, of New York, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

- 11/6, 9:30 AM - Hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Alexander Velez-Green, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Timothy Dill, of Ohio, and Maurice Todd, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

## **Appropriations Committee**

### **House of Representatives**

- NONE

### **Senate**

- NONE

## **Homeland Security Committee**

### **House of Representatives**

- NONE

### **Senate**

- 11/5, 10:00 AM - Business meeting to consider the nominations of Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services, Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, and John Cuong Truong, Elana S. Suttentberg, and Stephen F. Rickard, each of the District of Columbia, all to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.



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