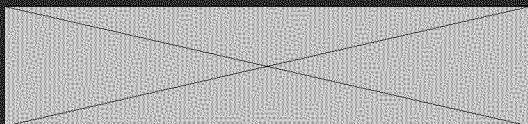


To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: The Washington Post
Sent: Wed 10/11/2017 4:04:39 PM
Subject: Checkpoint: Their families are suffering in Puerto Rico. The Army needs them in Alaska.



A military blog by Dan Lamothe

Their families are suffering in Puerto Rico. The Army needs them in Alaska.

In Hurricane Maria's aftermath, these soldiers have felt uniquely isolated and alone.

By Matt White • [Read more »](#)

Navy fires two officers over USS McCain collision, says deadly accident was 'preventable'

Ten sailors died as a result of the accident.

By Andrew deGrandpre • [Read more »](#)

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Navy relieves two officers of their duties over USS John McCain's 'preventable' collision in August, which killed 10 sailors

The Navy blamed "poor judgment" and "poor leadership" for the incident in a statement announcing that the vessel's commanding officer and executive officer would be relieved of their duties because of a loss of confidence. This is a

developing story. It will be updated.

By Washington Post Staff • [Read with my head.](#)

Here's how I found peace — and hope.

As America's longest conflict marks its 16th anniversary, a war hero finds meaning in his painful past.

By Florent Groberg • [Read more »](#)

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The body of a fourth U.S. service member has been recovered following a deadly ambush this week in Niger

The service member went missing Wednesday during a joint patrol with Nigerien forces near the Mali border. The troops were ambushed and three other Americans were killed. Details about their mission remain unclear, though it appears the patrol encountered a brutal fight involving dozens of armed militants. This is a developing story. It will be ...

By Washington Post Staff • [Read more »](#)

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer Jake Sherman Daniel Lippman
Sent: Tue 10/17/2017 4:40:23 PM
Subject: Playbook Power Briefing, presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co.: Obamaworld pushes back after POTUS invokes death of John Kelly's son -- PAUL says he won't vote for Senate GOP budget right now -- TRUMP tumbles in FORBES 400 -- TOM MARINO withdraws as drug czar

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Today's Playbook Power Briefing presented by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

By JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](#)), ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](#)), DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](#)) and ZACH MONTELLARO (zmontellaro@politico.com; [@ZachMontellaro](#))

Good Tuesday afternoon. OBAMA WORLD PUSHES BACK ON TRUMP -- From a former Obama White House official: "President Trump's claim is unequivocally wrong. President Obama engaged families of the fallen and wounded warriors throughout his presidency through calls, letters, visits to Section 60 at Arlington, visits to Walter Reed, visits to Dover, and regular meetings with Gold Star Families at the White House and across the country."

-- **OBAMA'S OFFICE** declined to comment on the existence -- or lack thereof -- of a call between Obama and John Kelly about the general's son passing away. **OBAMA**, however, did host a breakfast for Gold Star Families on May 30, 2011. **KELLY** and his wife sat at Michelle Obama's table, according to someone familiar with the breakfast. White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders did not immediately respond to an email request for comment.

TRUMP ON TALK RADIO, EARLIER -- "Trump invokes death of John Kelly's son in furor over calls to fallen soldiers," by Nolan McCaskill: "President Donald Trump on Tuesday invoked the death of the son of his chief of staff, John Kelly, as he defended his claim from a day before that Barack Obama and other past presidents didn't always call the families of slain service members. Trump also said he doesn't feel a need to clarify his remarks. ...

"So they ask me that question, and for the most part, to the best of my knowledge, I think I've called every family of somebody that's died, and it's the hardest call to make, and I said it very loud and clear yesterday. The hardest thing for me to do is do that. ... Now, as far as other representatives, I don't know," he continued. "I mean, you could ask General Kelly did he get a call from Obama. You could ask other people. I don't know what Obama's policy was. I write letters, and I also call." <http://politi.co/2zfFgdu>

THIS SEEMS LIKE IT'S A GIGANTIC PROBLEM -- BURGESS EVERETT SCOOP: **"Rand Paul opposes Senate GOP budget":** "Sen. Rand Paul is prepared to vote 'no' on the Senate GOP budget if leaders do not agree to cut billions in spending from the

plan, he said in an interview Tuesday.

"The Kentucky Republican said he spoke to President Donald Trump on Tuesday morning about the impasse with GOP leaders, which could lead to a high-profile intraparty defection on the budget this week.

"With Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) out indefinitely, Republicans may be able to lose only one vote and still pass the budget, which is needed to pave the way for the GOP's tax push.

Paul said he wants to get rid of the \$43 billion that exceeds federal budget caps Congress agreed to in 2011. 'I've told them I'm a 'yes' if they'll not exceed the budget caps,' Paul said. 'If leadership is unwilling to compromise with somebody who is concerned about the debt, then they deserve to lose.'" <http://politi.co/2gLNi7e>

-- QUICK REMINDER: No budget means no tax reform. Period. The end.

TRUMP VS. MCCAIN, CONTINUED -- "Trump and McCain smack at each other over 'spurious nationalism' comments," by Louis Nelson and Elana Schor: "President Donald Trump on Tuesday slapped at Sen. John McCain's condemnation the previous night of 'spurious nationalism,' warning the Arizona Republican that 'at some point I fight back and it won't be pretty.'

"Well it's a shocker,' the president told radio host Chris Plante in response to a question about McCain's comments. 'Yeah, well I hear it and people have to be careful because at some point I fight back. You know, I'm being very nice. I'm being very, very nice. But at some point I fight back and it won't be pretty.' The Arizona senator brushed off the apparent threat. 'It's fine with me,' McCain told reporters on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. 'I've faced some fairly significant adversaries in the past.'" <http://politi.co/2zvE6f6>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- @JenniferJJacobs: "Trump will announce his Federal Reserve chair pick before he leaves on Asia trip Nov. 3, person familiar confirms to me."

******* A message from JPMorgan Chase & Co.: 30 Years in the Waiting** It's been more than three decades since America reformed its tax system. As the world became more competitive, our tax code remained the same, putting America at a disadvantage when it comes to creating new jobs. Learn how tax reform can jump-start our economy: <http://politi.co/2xE3l1i> *****

A LIST THE PRESIDENT WON'T LIKE -- THE FORBES 400 ranking of the richest Americans is out today. The total combined net worth of this year's list is a whopping \$2.7 billion and to even make the list, a person must have at least \$2 billion. Forbes estimated that President Trump's net worth tumbled by nearly \$600 million to \$3.1 billion due to a "tough New York real estate market, particularly for retail locations; a costly lawsuit and an expensive presidential campaign." **THE TOP TEN:** Bill Gates, Jeff

Bezos, Warren Buffett, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, Michael Bloomberg, Charles Koch, David Koch, Larry Page and Sergey Brin. **The entire list** <http://bit.ly/2zvvd4X>

NEW PHILANTHROPIC GIANT -- "George Soros Transfers \$18 Billion to His Foundation, Creating an Instant Giant: The pioneer of hedge-fund investing has transferred the bulk of his wealth to Open Society Foundations," by WSJ's Juliet Chung and Anupreeta Das: "George Soros, who built one of the world's largest fortunes through a famous series of trades, has turned over nearly \$18 billion to Open Society Foundations, according to foundation officials, a move that transforms both the philanthropy he founded and the investment firm supplying its wealth.

"Now holding the bulk of Mr. Soros's fortune, Open Society has vaulted to the top ranks of philanthropic organizations, appearing to become the second largest in the U.S. by assets after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, based on 2014 figures from the National Philanthropic Trust." <http://on.wsj.com/2kVUGBA>

WAPO/60 MINUTES REPORT FALLOUT -- @realDonaldTrump at 8:39 a.m.: "Rep. Tom Marino has informed me that he is withdrawing his name from consideration as drug czar. Tom is a fine man and a great Congressman!"

WAR REPORT -- "U.S.-Backed Forces Capture Raqqa From ISIS," by NYT's Anne Barnard: "Kurdish-led forces said on Tuesday that they had taken all of the northern Syrian city of Raqqa from the Islamic State, a major blow to the militant group, which had long used it as the de facto capital of its self-declared caliphate.

"Officers with the Syrian Democratic Forces, an American-backed militia group made up of Syrian Kurds and Arabs, said by phone and in press statements that they had taken control of the city after a monthslong campaign. But the United States Central Command stopped short of declaring victory, saying that fighters were checking to make sure all areas were clear.

"Celebrations had already begun in Raqqa, where residents had lived under the repressive rule of militants who beheaded people in a central square for offenses as minor as smoking or communicating on the internet without permission. Fighters could be seen cheering in the streets, according to residents reached by phone and text message." <http://nyti.ms/2zhtJul>

AFTERNOON READ -- JASON ZENGERLE in the NYT Magazine, **"Rex Tillerson and the Unraveling of the State Department:** With an isolated leader, a demoralized diplomatic corps and a president dismantling international relations one tweet at a time, American foreign policy is adrift in the world": "Accommodating the president, rather than working with him, is not a normal mission for a secretary of state - and for Tillerson, it seems to be an increasingly doomed one. 'The president's always saying, 'Rex's not tough,' and 'I didn't know he was so establishment,'" says one Trump adviser. ... The question among many people inside and outside the Trump administration is not necessarily what's keeping Tillerson from resigning; it's what's stopping Trump from

firing him. One Trump-administration official offered me a tentative theory: 'Losing a chief of staff in the first year is a big deal, but losing a secretary of state is an even bigger one.'" <http://nyti.ms/2zv1pFE>

SCOTUSWATCH -- "It's a Fact: Supreme Court Errors Aren't Hard to Find," by ProPublica's Ryan Gabrielson: "The decisions of the Supreme Court are rich with argument, history, some flashes of fine writing, and, of course, legal judgments of great import for all Americans. They are also supposed to be entirely accurate. But a ProPublica review of several dozen cases from recent years uncovered a number of false or wholly unsupported factual claims.

"The review found an error in a landmark ruling, *Shelby County v. Holder*, which struck down part of the Voting Rights Act. Chief Justice John Roberts used erroneous data to make claims about comparable rates of voter registration among blacks and whites in six southern states. In another case, Justice Anthony Kennedy falsely claimed that DNA analysis can be used to identify individual suspects in criminal cases with perfect accuracy.

"In all, ProPublica found seven errors in a modest sampling of Supreme Court opinions written from 2011 through 2015. In some cases, the errors were introduced by individual justices apparently doing their own research. In others, the errors resulted from false or deeply flawed submissions made to the court by people or organizations seeking to persuade the justices to rule one way or the other." <http://bit.ly/2zxfRNA>

--"Book's challenge: Can you do squats like Justice Ginsburg?" by AP's Jessica Gresko: "[A] new workout book written by [RBG's personal trainer Bryant] Johnson, out Wednesday: 'The RBG Workout: How She Stays Strong ... and You Can Too!' ... came about this year after Politico Magazine wrote a piece on the workout. Johnson, 53, took reporter Ben Schreckinger through Ginsburg's workout. The result was a piece titled, 'I did Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Workout. It Nearly Broke Me.' ... Ginsburg ... [wrote] the book's foreword. Schreckinger helped **Johnson write** the text. The result is an approximately **120-page volume** that walks readers through Ginsburg's hour-long workout with illustrations of the justice doing each exercise." <http://bit.ly/2gLKOWA> ... \$10.52 on Amazon <http://amzn.to/2ig0IMh> ... *Ben's original piece* <http://politi.co/2ihia30>

IN NEVADA, POST-SHOOTING -- "Nevada law on background checks for gun purchases not enforced," by CBS' Julianna Goldman: "Gun control advocates acknowledge that the expanded background checks they want would not have prevented the Las Vegas massacre. But last week, they went to court to try to make Nevada enforce the background checks that are already on the books. Last year, the NRA spent more on a Nevada ballot initiative than in any congressional race, fighting a proposal to expand background checks, including at gun shows. ...

"Nearly a year later, however, the law is not being enforced. State and federal officials are in a standoff over who does the background checks on private gun transfers. So at a Reno, Nevada, gun show just days after the country's deadliest mass shooting in Las

Vegas, Everytown for Gun Safety easily and legally bought four semi-automatic rifles and a 100-round capacity magazine without any background checks."

<http://cbsn.ws/2xOpKci>

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- Former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush are launching a new Bush Institute project that is "affirming faith and U.S. leadership in freedom, free markets, democracy, and institutions" with an event at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City on Thursday. The former first couple will give remarks and panel discussions will include U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Jean Case, Mel Martinez, Wes Moore, Jeffrey Rosen and Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.).

DANIEL'S POSTCARD FROM THE HOOVER INSTITUTION -- MICHAEL MCFAUL, former U.S. Ambassador to Russia and now a Stanford professor, spoke at a media roundtable on Monday: "What I thought I would do ... is just go through the list in U.S.-Russian relations over the last several months and talk about wins vs. losses ... What I want you to understand is that's the way Putin thinks about the world ... The score is 13-1-1. 13 wins for Putin, one draw and one win for us ... **[The wins for Putin and losses for the U.S.:]** Withdrawal from TPP ... Withdrawal from the Paris Accords ... Threat to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal ... Threat of NAFTA withdrawal ... Syria ... Internal divisions within the United States ... Absence of any discussion of democracy or human rights abroad ... Decline in America's image ...

"Leader of the free world": how many people use that phrase when describing the American leadership today? ... Ukraine can see an indifference [from the U.S.] ... Momentum of the nationalist-populist movement ... Tensions with North Korea ... Closer Russian-Chinese ties ... Reducing our staff in Russia at the embassy ... **Draws:** backlash from violating our sovereignty in 2016 ... And finally ... **we got one victory!** The closing of the consulate in San Francisco: Score that one for the United States of America, minus for Putin ... that facility did other things besides just having a National Russia Day there."

--KORI SCHAKE, a Hoover Institution fellow and an NSC, State and DoD alum: "The most alarming thing to me about the Trump administration ... is that Mick Mulvaney ... who was an entirely sensible, [fiscal] conservative when he was in Congress is now arguing that debt shouldn't matter at all and that economic growth is going to take care of this problem. ... If markets lose confidence in the dollar or if interest rates go up or if Europeans, Chinese or bitcoin become more reliable as alternative holding currencies this is actually going to be an enormous problem for the American government.

"And if you want a near term parallel, watch what is happening to British ability to pay for their defense articles now that Brexit begins to be a real thing because the British are buying Joint Strike Fighters and other things from the United States, they're being required to pay for them in dollars and they're having to cut fighter planes off the list because the appreciation of the dollar relative to the pound is actually foreclosing what they thought they could buy."

MEDIAWATCH -- Mike Zapler has been promoted to the role of deputy managing editor at POLITICO. He'll oversee a combined political reporting unit and continue to lead the Congress team.

SPOTTED Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Jim Messina having breakfast at Bistro Bis this morning

--**SPOTTED** in and around the Kennedy School and the Charles Hotel in the last day: Ash Carter, Jeh Johnson, Ernie Moniz, Sally Jewell, Shaun Donovan, Samantha Power, John Podesta, Caroline Kennedy, Eric Rosenbach, Liz Sherwood Randall and Juliette Kayyem. Rachel Maddow moderated a national security-focused Institute of Politics event Monday night (<http://bit.ly/2xMnaUj>) with Carter, Johnson, Moniz and Power.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Chicago WLS-AM morning host John Howell and his wife Sarah

***** **A message from JPMorgan Chase & Co.: Keeping Jobs at Home** America is falling behind when it comes to a tax system that helps spur job growth and expand economic opportunity. A 2017 EY report found that the existing tax structure has put job creators here at home at a disadvantage: updating the outdated tax system could have kept nearly 4,700 companies in the United States. That could mean more products made here in America, more parts sourced from American companies and billions of dollars spent here at home. As JPMorgan Chase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon put it, "Reforming the tax code is the single most important thing that Congress could do to jump-start our economy, create jobs, and raise wages for American workers." Learn more: <http://politi.co/2z6j0D8> *****

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