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Antitrust Hearings Continue on Capitol Hill with ‘Big Tech’

BREAKING: LTJG Madeline Swegle earns her ‘Wings’

NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) KINGSVILLE, TX — The U.S. Navy’s first Black female tactical air (TACAIR) pilot received her Wings of Gold on Friday, July 31, 2020, marking a significant milestone for Naval Aviation. LTJG Madeline G. Swegle was designated a naval aviator and received her ‘Wings of Gold’ with 25 classmates during a small ceremony at NAS Kingsville.

LTJG Swegle is part of America’s next generation of TACAIR pilots to qualify on state-of-the art Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) unique to aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78): the Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) and Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG). She completed carrier qualifications in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast, May 20.

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday, four tech titans — Chief executives of Alphabet (Google’s parent), Amazon, Apple, and Facebook — virtually appeared before a House Judiciary subcommittee on antitrust. According to WIRED, the subcommittee was armed with emails obtained by subpoena and informed by interviews with organizations and people who have been devastated by these companies’ overwhelming market power. Subcommittee members drilled down to get participating executives to admit their respective “monopolistic powers” was used to crush any and all competition.

Nonetheless, the true target of this week’s hearing was lack of accountability as an operating principle of these companies. Accountability is coming for ‘Big Tech’, a recent article from WIRED proclaimed. There is no choice but to reclaim unchecked power these platforms wield.

The House Judiciary Committee’s chairman, Rhode Island Congressman David Cicilline, concluded the virtual hearing by hinting at what might lie ahead as lawmakers ponder federal regulations to hold the four participating companies — worth nearly a combined $5 trillion — to account.

Big Tech’s market power underscored the deep discontent in Congress toward giant technology companies. So, what comes next? According to NPR, Cicilline will issue a report expected in about a month on the subcommittee’s investigation into the companies, providing a framework for what shape new regulations on ‘Silicon Valley’ could take.

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First Class and Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. and additional regional mailing offices.

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DAYTON, OH — The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program was established by Congress in 1982 to fund research and development (R&D) by small businesses of 500 or fewer employees. Eleven federal agencies participate in this program, including the Department of Defense (DoD).

The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program was established in 1992 to fund cooperative R&D projects with small businesses and non-profit U.S. research institutions, such as colleges or universities. Five federal agencies participate, including DoD. Both programs focus on projects and services with the potential to develop into products, solutions, or services for both military and commercial sectors.

Small businesses and new startups can respond to Air Force Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs), three times a year. These topics address critical needs identified by U.S. warfighters. Small business proposals are reviewed and awarded SBIR/STTR contracts based on their likelihood to fulfill the identified need.

With the initiation of open innovation topics, through work with AFWERX, Air Force SBIR contracts are being issued with unprecedented expediency. Small businesses that have been awarded a Phase I open innovation topic contract also are being invited to present their solutions for a Phase II contract at Air Force Pitch Day events, where contracts are awarded on the spot. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are highly encouraged to partner with start-ups and small businesses when pivoting from “Grants-To-Contracts.” Learn and earn more by visiting: https://www.afsbirsttr.af.mil/.

National BDPA is co-hosting an Air Force STTR HBCU Collider with Small Businesses, Start-Ups, and HBCUs during this year’s annual technology conference, BDPA2020.com.
For 40 years, BDPA has enabled the upward mobility of African Americans and other minorities in the Information Technology (IT) and STEM fields. Through its 40+ local community chapters in major cities across the United States, BDPA has been at the forefront of promoting the minority agenda within the IT profession since 1975. BDPA has been a leader and pioneer in technology and STEM training for IT professionals and High School students since 1986.

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