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Academy Securities Geopolitical SITREP

Geopolitical Flashpoints: The Macroeconomic Impact of the Geostrategic Landscape

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- Helsinki Summit Response: 00:00 - 24:53
- Market Update: 24:54 - end

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Key Points:

- The focus has been on the political process, not the product
 - The work of diplomacy is complicated and often messy
- There is progress on some fronts
 - ISIS no longer maintains control of the caliphate it once did two-three years ago
 - The summit with North Korea was a significant event
 - The US economy is strong
- Cooperation with other nations is necessary (including Russia)
 - Russia is inherently a global power given their nuclear capabilities
 - It is not uncommon for state leaders to meet with Putin, especially European leadership
 - Russia's overall economy is struggling; they have been hit hard by sanctions and are looking to find ways to recover
- NATO stands solid but is weak without US leadership
 - Russia sees a growing NATO as a threat - many of the former USSR nations are members
 - The push for the 2% GDP commitment is not a big ask
 - Debate is less about the 2%, but more about the deadline to meet the funding
- The intelligence community is vital but not perfect
 - US intelligence agencies are in good shape
 - They do make mistakes but that does not mean the President, or leadership, should "air dirty laundry"
 - Sharing of intelligence is what keeps our alliances strong
- Facts need to be promoted...and this takes courage
- These are not the end of days
- Threats posed by Russia
 - Russia is still a nuclear threat with the capability to launch nuclear weapons
 - Russia continues to stir-up instability abroad
 - Russia has a large and capable military with extensive ground armor capacity
 - Russia will continue their cyberespionage during the US' 2018 and 2020 elections
- Market Update
 - While politically interesting, the markets are more concerned with the Fed updates and trade war developments

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Major General (Ret.) James A. "Spider" Marks is Head of Geopolitical Strategy and Academy Securities' Senior Advisory Board Member. General Marks is the Founder and President of The Marks Collaborative, an advisory for corporate leader development, education and training and has led entrepreneurial efforts in global primary research and national security. He served over 30 years in the Army holding every command position from infantry platoon leader to commanding general and was the senior intelligence officer in the LA Riots, the Balkans, Korea, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He culminated his career as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, and multiple combat, expeditionary and service ribbons. General Marks is a Master Parachutist, authorized to wear Korean and Canadian Airborne wings, Air Assault qualified, and Honor Graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School. General Marks is a national security contributor to CNN and member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.

Peter Tchir is head of Macro Strategy at Academy Securities. He has 25 years in the industry focusing on fixed income. He has traded and structured products ranging from complex transactions, junk bonds, liquid CDS indices, and ETFs. This background helps bring a unique frame of reference to his market strategies and analysis. It helps him focus on what is relevant for the here and now for investors and issuers. He has worked closely with a wide range of investors and portfolio managers since he established TF Market Advisors as an independent firm in 2010. He is regularly quoted in the media for his views on the macro outlook and fixed income strategies. His expertise provides insight into risk, identifying opportunities on a global macro basis, with an emphasis on fixed income. As the Head of Macro Strategy, Peter communicates these opportunities and approaches effectively to customers. Peter received a B.S. in mathematics and computer sciences from the University of Waterloo and an MBA with distinction from Vanderbilt University, where he also won the Matt Wiggington Leadership Award for outstanding performance in finance.

Rachel Washburn is an Associate of Geopolitical Strategy at Academy Securities. Rachel served six years in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence Officer. While serving, Rachel deployed twice to Afghanistan; first as a member of the pioneer Cultural Support Team attached to Special Forces and second as an intelligence Platoon Leader. Since leaving the Army in 2016, Rachel continued to pursue a career addressing global security and instability, most recently acting as a regional director with a nonprofit focused on bringing relief in the wake of disasters and armed conflicts. Rachel is a graduate of Drexel University.

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