



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Kyla Denwood

Cohort 6 Fellow, John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program

Organization: Office of the Under Secretary of War for Policy

Education:

- Georgetown University, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Master of Global Human Development (2025)
- Tulane University, Bachelor of Science in Economics (2021)
- Tulane University, Bachelor of arts in Political Science – International Development (2021)

Kyla is honored to serve as a McCain Fellow and looks forward to deepening her understanding of the Department of War’s role in shaping U.S. foreign policy. She brings a strong foundation in foreign policy and international affairs, with experience spanning government, multilateral institutions, and the private sector. Kyla most recently served as a Research Analyst supporting the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, where she specialized in critical minerals and digital infrastructure projects across the Global South. Prior to that, she was a Research Assistant for the Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where her work focused on technology policy and Africa-Europe relations.

Throughout her graduate studies, Kyla held a range of internships, fellowships, and consultancies at leading policy institutions with a focus on emerging technology, economic statecraft, and private sector investment. Her experience includes the White House, the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, McLarty Associates, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. Kyla speaks Spanish with studies in French and Swahili. Originally from Dallas, Texas and Chicago, Illinois, she is also a former Division I shot put and discus thrower for the Tulane Green Wave and led the Tulane University Marching Band as drum major in several Mardi Gras parades.

