



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Charles Layman

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

Organization: Washington Headquarters Services, Executive Services Directorate

Education:

- University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Master of Public Policy (May 2025)
- University of Virginia, Bachelor of Arts in History and Foreign Affairs (May 2023)
- Blue Ridge Community College, Associate of Arts (May 2021)

Charles' motivation for service is grounded in his family's history of military service and a personal commitment to upholding that legacy. He is honored to serve as a McCain Fellow and is keen to strengthen his leadership abilities, seeking mentorship and development opportunities that support his long-term goal of continuing a career dedicated to serving. His professional experience centers on public service, including in the House of Representatives with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, an internship with the National Security Innovation Network, and research for the Defense Innovation Unit focused on improving collaboration with non-traditional contractors and strengthening the defense industrial base through OTAs. He also completed an externship with the U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory, where he worked with a team to develop a white paper offering recommendations to support U.S.– Colombian 5G infrastructure efforts. He is an enthusiastic home cook, regular exerciser, avid reader, traveler, and he enjoys spending time with friends.

