



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Jacqueline Lecates

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

Organization: Office of the Under Secretary of War for Comptroller

Education:

- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Master of International Relations (2026)
- Rutgers University, Joint Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration (2021)
- State University of New York, Bachelor of Science in International Trade & Marketing (2017)

Jacqueline has long been passionate about public service and national security- her interest in executive branch agencies began as a Rutgers Eagleton Fellow in Politics and Government while interning with a state-level housing agency. As a McCain Fellow, Jackie looks forward to gaining a deeper understanding of how the Department balances priorities and resources to remain adaptive, capable, and responsive to the needs of the warfighter. Her additional interests include the budgeting process, acquisitions, net assessment, and engagement with international organizations. Jacqueline entered federal service as a 2021 Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) in the Office of Strategy, Planning, and Innovation at the U.S. Secret Service, where she worked on initiatives related to records management, knowledge management, governance, and artificial intelligence. During her fellowship, she also completed a detail with the Human Rights Violators Law Division (HRVLD) at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, supporting the Regional Support Team for Europe and the Balkans. In 2022, she received the USSS Director's Impact Award. A Pennsylvania native, Jacqueline enjoys studying languages and spending time with her two children.

