



# John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



## Sean Pyles

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

**Organization:** Office of the Under Secretary of War for Policy

**Education:**

- University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business, Master of Business Administration (May 2026)
- Clemson University Powers College of Business, Bachelor of Arts, Economics (May 2014)

Sean Pyles serves as a McCain Fellow in the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Policy and is interested in issues related to security cooperation across the Middle East and Asia, as well as emerging capabilities across the national security space. Sean's long-term career goals center on contributing to U.S. defense policy at the intersection of emerging technology, strategic competition, and alliance management with particular interest in defense innovation, the integration of autonomous systems and AI into military operations, and the role of special operations in shaping foreign policy outcomes.

Prior to the McCain Fellowship, Sean served in Army special operations for more than a decade on both active and National Guard duty. Beyond his military service, he has held a Summer Legislative Fellowship in the U.S. Senate focused on national security and foreign policy issues, an internship with a geopolitical consulting firm in New York, and been honored with the Wharton Sodha Family MBA Fellowship, the Henry Morgenthau Public Policy Fellowship, and selection as a Perry World House Graduate Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Sean has traveled to more than 35 countries and is a die-hard fan of Philadelphia sports teams.

