



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Conner Bolanos

Cohort 5 Fellow, John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program

Organization: Washington Headquarters Services, Financial Management Directorate

Education:

- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Master of Arts in Strategy, Cybersecurity, and Intelligence, August 2024
- Hillsdale College, Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics, May 2023

As the United States steps forward to confront the myriad challenges of the 21st century, Conner is excited to be a John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellow and support the Department of Defense in its mission to protect the security of the nation. A student of history, Conner is always looking at historical parallels to inform analysis and is interested in the ever-changing future of warfare and how it will be organized, fought, and resourced. Conner's selection as a McCain Strategic Defense Fellow is but the start of fulfilling his long-held dreams, and he hopes that his time in the Department will not only be a learning experience, but a springboard to making long-lasting and meaningful impact on U.S. national security. Prior to his time as a McCain Fellow, Conner earned a Master of Arts in Strategy, Cybersecurity, and Intelligence from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) where he studied topics such as defense budgeting, net assessment, and grand strategy. During this period, Conner had his first experience with the Department as an intern at the National Security Innovation Network. Prior to his Masters, Conner earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics from Hillsdale College. At SAIS and Hillsdale, Conner had the privilege to serve as Chapter President for the Alexander Hamilton Society and is currently a National Defense Fellow at the organization. Conner is also an avid fan of talk radio and hosted two radio shows discussing history and national defense on Hillsdale College's radio station.

