



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Kathleen Gallagher

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

Organization: Department of the Navy

Education:

- Pennsylvania State University, Master of International Affairs, International Cybersecurity Concentration (Spring 2023)
- Pennsylvania State University, Bachelor of Science, Security Risk Analysis, Information and Cybersecurity Concentration (Spring 2023)

Kathleen (Katie) is honored to be selected as a McCain Fellow and is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the nation while pursuing her own passions within the field of IT. While studying at the Pennsylvania State University, Katie was selected as a recipient for the prestigious Department of Defense Cyber Scholarship Program for three consecutive years, now known as the DoD Cyber Service Academy. Some of her collegiate awards and achievements include both an NSA Certificate of Achievement and NSA Letter of Recognition upon the conferral of her degrees (Spring 2023), Big Ten Distinguished Scholar (2020-2021), and Academic All-Big Ten award (2019-2021). She completed two separate internships with the Department of the Navy as a student, then went on to fulfill her post-graduation service obligation and began working full-time for the Department of the Navy as an IT System Analyst. She supported a naval supply system for an international partner and had the opportunity to travel abroad and provide hands on support and training to a nation partner in the Middle East. The Fellowship program will provide Katie with a unique opportunity for mentorship and experience in the early development of what she hopes to be a long-term career in public service with the Department of Defense. A fun fact about Katie is that she cleared a high jump bar of 1.70m at the 2021 Big Ten Track and Field Outdoor Championship.

