



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Zachariah Hoydich

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

Organization: Department of the Army

Education:

- University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, Master of Public and International Affairs, December 2022
- University of Pittsburgh, Bachelor of Science in Psychology, December 2013

Zach is excited to leverage his civilian career, military experience, and educational background to improve the lives of soldiers in the United States Army as a John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellow. Making a career change from medical and healthcare research to national security, Zach will use this experience to meaningfully contribute to the Mission and Vision of the Army and to expand his professional network. He intends to make a career of public service, and the McCain Fellowship will prepare him with the knowledge and connections needed to succeed. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Zach began his career managing clinical studies investigating palliative care and hemostatic responses to traumatic injuries, culminating in a position managing the research collaborations and tracking systems of a large payer/provider healthcare organization. Simultaneously, Zach served in the PA Army National Guard as a battalion CBRN Officer and Headquarters Company Executive Officer, where he received numerous commendations and is most proud to have served as the OIC of the task force's security footprint within the Capitol during the 2021 Presidential Inauguration. Wanting to combine his program management and national security interests, Zach attended the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, majoring in Security and Intelligence Studies with a minor in Policy Research and Analysis. Zach is learning French and Japanese, reads voraciously, loves board games, and is honored to be part of the next generation of national security leadership.

