



John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



Elborz Mazanderan

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

Organization: Washington Headquarters Services, Financial Management Directorate

Education:

- Georgetown University, Master of Arts, Security Studies (2024)
- University of Maryland Baltimore County, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (2019)

Elborz Mazanderan is honored to serve his country as a McCain Fellow in the Financial Management Directorate at the Washington Headquarters Services. Elborz is passionate about the intersection of advanced technologies, space and AI policy, federal budgeting, and national security. As such, he aims to become an experienced public servant with a focus on budgeting, innovation, and the resource optimization that brings the two together. Through the fellowship, and through work on the Programming Objective Memorandum, Budget Estimation Submission, and President’s Budget, Elborz looks forward to gaining hands-on experience in program and budget analysis, formulation, and justification—crucial skills for the Department as it seeks to drive efficient defense operations and face future strategic challenges. Before becoming a McCain Fellow, Elborz represented defense companies and scientific organizations before Congress and federal agencies, focusing on appropriations and regulatory issues surrounding critical emerging technologies and advanced research. Elborz is the son of Prince George’s County public school teacher and a DC cab driver, and takes pride in knowing and sharing the history of his hometown.

