



# John S. McCain Strategic Defense Fellowship Program



## Nicholas Vargish

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

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

**Education:**

- John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Master in Public Policy (International and Global Affairs), 2024
- Vassar College, Bachelor of Arts (International Studies and Arabic Language), 2016

Nick Vargish serves as a McCain Fellow in the Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and is interested in the intersection of Middle Eastern regional politics and American defense strategy. Before being selected for the Fellowship, Nick served as a David Boren Graduate Fellow in Amman, Jordan, where he studied Modern Standard Arabic and the Levantine Dialect. During graduate school, Nick worked as a Research Assistant for the Geopolitics of Energy Project at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, an editor for the Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy, and a fellow at the Department of State's Office of Analysis for Near Eastern Affairs. Previously, Nick served as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he managed the foreign affairs, trade, and international financial policy portfolios. In his free time, Nick likes to take long bike rides around DC and root for the Seattle Seahawks.

