MAC THORNBERY
Introductory Guest Speaker

Serving on the House Armed Services Committee throughout his time in Congress, Mac was its Chairman from January 2015 to January 2019, the first Texan of either party to hold this position. When House Democrats won the majority in 2018, he became the Ranking Member of the Committee. Mac also served on the House Intelligence Committee for 14 years. For each of the six years, he led the Armed Services Committee, Mac has introduced and had signed into law a package of reforms to update and streamline DOD acquisition to get new technologies into the hands of the warfighter faster and to enhance innovation within the Department. He has also been steadfast in his support of the men and women who serve and their families.

Widely respected as an innovator and a strategic thinker, Mac has consistently been on the leading edge of critical national security issues. He led in creating the National Nuclear Security Administration to improve management of the nation’s nuclear weapons complex; establishing the Department of Homeland Security, introducing a bill to do so six months before the attacks of 9/11; preparing the military to defend the nation in new domains of warfare such as space and cyber; and improving oversight of sensitive military and cyber operations. He also chaired a Cyber Task Force in 2011, bringing together nine committees for a common approach.

Recognized for his nonpartisan approach to national security and for being a persuasive, effective communicator, Mac has written widely on defense matters and appeared on all major television channels providing insight on national security-related issues.

RAPHAEL COHEN
Session 1: Introduction to National Defense

Raphael "Rafi" Cohen is the associate director of the Strategy and Doctrine Program in Project AIR FORCE at RAND. He works on a broad range of defense and foreign policy issues, including defense strategy and force planning, Middle East and European security and civil-military relations. Cohen previously held research fellowships at the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute and the National Defense University’s Center for Complex Operations.

He has written for a variety of forums, including the Journal of Strategic Studies, Foreign Affairs, The Washington Quarterly, Orbis, Fox News, War on the Rocks, Lawfare, The National Interest, and other publications. He also served as a staffer on the Congressionally-appointed 2018 National Defense Strategy Commission. A military intelligence branched lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve, Cohen has held a variety of command and staff positions in both the active and reserve components, including during two combat tours in Iraq from 2005 to 2006 and again from 2007 to 2008. He holds a B.A. magna cum laude in government from Harvard University and an M.A. in security studies and Ph.D. in government from Georgetown University.
ERIC EDELMAN
Session Two: Developing and Implementing Defense Strategy

Ambassador Eric S. Edelman retired as a career minister from the U.S. Foreign Service on May 1, 2009. He is currently a Roger Hertog Practitioner in Residence at Johns Hopkins SAIS and Counselor at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. Edelman has served in senior positions at the Departments of State and Defense as well as the White House where he led organizations providing analysis, strategy, policy development, security services, trade advocacy, public outreach, citizen services and congressional relations. As the undersecretary of defense for policy (August, 2005-January 2009) he oversaw strategy development as DoD’s senior policy official with global responsibility for bilateral defense relations, war plans, special operations forces, homeland defense, missile defense, nuclear weapons and arms control policies, counter-proliferation, counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, arms sales, and defense trade controls. He served as U.S. ambassador to the Republics of Finland and Turkey in the Clinton and Bush Administrations and was principal deputy assistant to the vice president for national security affairs. In other assignment he has been chief of staff to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, special assistant to Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Robert Kimmitt and special assistant to Secretary of State George Shultz. His other assignments include the State Department Operations Center, Prague, Moscow, and Tel Aviv, where he was a member of the U.S. Middle East delegation to the West Bank/Gaza autonomy talks.

He has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, and several Department of State Superior Honor Awards. In January 2011 he was awarded the Legion d’Honneur by the French Government.

DIEM SALMON
Session Three: Budget, Industrial Base, and Acquisitions Policy

Diem Salmon currently works at Anduril Industries, a defense technology company, and is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for New American Security (CNAS). Diem has worked in the national security field for over 10 years, including the private sector, non-profit, and Congress, with a specific emphasis on defense budgets and requirements. Currently at Anduril, Diem is responsible for growth and strategy for Anduril’s autonomy technologies.

Prior to that, she was the Budget Director and Deputy Policy Director for the Senate Armed Services Committee. While there, Diem worked on five annual National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA’s) and navigated the committee and NDAA’s through three separate budget deals. Her work at the committee included advocating for higher defense budgets, including the increase for FY 2018 and FY 2019, and passed legislation requiring the Department of Defense to reevaluate force design in light of the new National Defense Strategy. Diem was previously a Senior Policy Analyst at the Heritage Foundation and worked at The Avascent Group, a management and strategy consulting firm. Diem received a master’s degree in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with a concentration in International Economics and Strategic Studies. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Irvine, the home of the anteater.
THOMAS MAHNKEN
Session 4: Force Structure & US Weapons Capabilities

Dr. Thomas G. Mahnken is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. He is a Senior Research Professor at the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at The Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). He currently serves as a member of the Congressionally-mandated National Defense Strategy Commission and as a member of the Board of Visitors of Marine Corps University. His previous government career includes service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Policy Planning from 2006–2009, where he helped craft the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review and 2008 National Defense Strategy. He served on the staff of the 2014 National Defense Panel, 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel, and the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. He served in the Defense Department’s Office of Net Assessment and as a member of the Gulf War Air Power Survey. He served for 24 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, to include tours in Iraq and Kosovo. In 2009 he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and in 2016 the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Medal.

WILL ROPER
Session 5: Technology and the Future of Warfare

Dr. Will Roper previously served as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. As the Air Force’s Service Acquisition Executive, Dr. Roper is responsible for and oversees Air Force research, development and acquisition activities totaling an annual budget in excess of $60 billion for more than 550 acquisition programs. In this position, Dr. Roper serves as the principal adviser to the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for research and development, test, production and modernization efforts within the Air Force.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Roper was the founding Director of the Pentagon’s Strategic Capabilities Office. Established in 2012, the SCO imagines new—often unexpected and game-changing—uses of existing government and commercial systems: extending their shelf-life and restoring surprise to the military’s playbook. Since 2012, SCO has grown from an annual budget of $50 million to the current $1.5 billion request in the President’s 2018 budget with projects spanning new concepts such as hypervelocity artillery, multi-purpose missiles, autonomous fast-boats, smartphone-navigating weapons, big-data-enabled sensing, 3D-printed systems, standoff arsenal planes, fighter avatars and fighter-dispersed swarming micro-drones which formed the world’s then-largest swarm of 103 systems. During his tenure as SCO Director, Dr. Roper served on the Department’s 2018 National Defense Strategy Steering Group, Cloud Executive Steering Group and Defense Modernization Team. Previously, Dr. Roper served as the Acting Chief Architect at the Missile Defense Agency where he developed 11 new systems, including the current European Defense architecture, advanced drones, and classified programs. Before this, he worked at MIT Lincoln Laboratory and served as a missile defense advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.
KORI SCHAKE

Dr. Kori Schake is a senior fellow and the director of foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). Before joining AEI, Dr. Schake was the deputy director-general of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. She has had a distinguished career in government, working at the US State Department, the US Department of Defense, and the National Security Council at the White House. She has also taught at Stanford, West Point, Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies, National Defense University, and the University of Maryland.

Dr. Schake is the author of five books, among them “America vs the West: Can the Liberal World Order Be Preserved?” (Penguin Random House Australia, Lowy Institute, 2018); “Safe Passage: The Transition from British to American Hegemony” (Harvard University Press, 2017). Dr. Schake has been widely published in policy journals and the popular press, including in CNN.com, Foreign Affairs, Politico, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. She is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and War on the Rocks. Dr. Schake has a PhD and MA in government and politics from the University of Maryland, as well as an MPM from the University of Maryland School of Public Policy. Her BA in international relations is from Stanford University.

JEN STEWART

Jen is a Senior Fellow at WestExec Advisors. She is the former chief of staff to the Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper, the twenty-seventh Secretary of Defense. In this capacity, she was responsible for leading the Secretary of Defense’s executive staff, working with civilian executives and senior military leaders across the Department, and providing counsel and advice to the Secretary on all matters concerning the Department. Previously, Jen served as both the majority and minority staff director at the House Committee on Armed Services for the Honorable William M. “Mac” Thornberry. In this capacity, she was the principal staff advisor responsible for the formulation, passage, and enactment of annual defense authorization legislation, which covers all programs and activities at the Department of Defense as well as the national security programs at the Department of Energy. She was also responsible for the strategic planning and execution of all committee oversight and legislative operations.

Prior to her tenure as staff director, Jen served as senior advisor to General (ret.) Joseph F. Dunford during his first term as Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this role, she was responsible for facilitating his relationships across the interagency and with Congress. She also co-led the Joint Staff’s presidential transition team. Jen started her career working in the U.S. House of Representatives for the Honorable John A. Boehner. In addition to serving as policy advisor on all national security matters for Speaker Boehner during his ten years in leadership, she also served in a similar role in assisting the Honorable Paul D. Ryan transition into his responsibilities as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
SARAH CHEN  
Claremont McKenna College '22

Sarah Chen is a senior at Claremont McKenna College studying a dual major in International Relations with Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. She discovered her interests in wargaming, cyber conflict, and influence operations while working with the Office of Director of National Intelligence to create a future intelligence warfare simulation. Since then, she has pursued opportunities in wargaming and exercise planning: designing her own technology stakeholder simulation under the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies, proposing a counter-disinformation educational game for the Global Engagement Center, and helping construct inserts for an industrial plant explosion exercise while at FTI Consulting. Sarah leads foreign policy and international relations initiatives on campus as the student ambassador for the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies, the President of the Claremont International Relations Society, and the founder of the new Claremont McKenna College AHS Chapter. Upon graduation, she hopes to work in wargaming or intelligence. Sarah is excited to be a part of NDF 2021 and looks forward to meeting her fellow cohort members and discussing new developments in U.S. defense policy.

ALYSSA EDMOND  
University of California Berkley ’23

Alyssa is a graduate student at the University of California Berkeley pursuing my Masters in Cyber Security. Her passion in life is solving puzzles and telling stories. Cyber Security allows her to do both while also creating a space for me to be front and center in a newly developing field. Within the next five years she aims to be working within the federal government on cyber intelligence and defense strategy. She is extremely excited to connect in person with like minded individuals at an academic event for the first time in so long. The atmosphere of in person conferences has been deeply missed and she is ecstatic for the opportunity to connect with professionals in her field as well as learn more about the national security workforce.

CAROLINE BRYANT  
Wake Forest University '21

Caroline Bryant is a recent graduate of Wake Forest University with a degree in Politics and International Affairs. In the past, she interned with the Alexander Hamilton Society and was the founder and president of her Alexander Hamilton Society chapter. She is currently the International Religious Freedom Fellow for U.S. Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE) working on issues related to China and Afghanistan. She thinks the fellowship will be invaluable tool to understand how to merge America’s hard and soft powers to advance national interest by increasing the reach of freedom. Caroline hopes to work on Capitol Hill before returning to graduate school to continue to study international relations, pursuing a career in public service.
COLE PENZ
George Washington University '23

Cole is studying international affairs with a concentration in Europe and Eurasia at the George Washington University. Initially going into college, he wanted to be a foreign service officer. For that reason, he wanted to be in Washington learning about America’s role in the world. Now his goals have changed slightly. While working in the State Department is still a career of interest to him, his goals are now more centered on the intelligence community. He wants to analyze intelligence for American policymakers and warfighters. From this fellowship he hopes to better understand the creation and execution of American defense policy. He hopes to use that knowledge to add value to his prospective role in the intelligence community. He looks forward to speaking with former American defense officials to add a personal dimension to what he reads about their work and US defense policy in the classroom. Finally, from this fellowship Cole wants to connect with like-minded students to grow his personal and professional networks.

COLE SPILLER
College of William & Mary '22

Cole is currently a senior studying international relations and data science at the College of William & Mary. He has long had an interest in European history, which has led him to center his studies on the transatlantic relations of the United States. Through his studies he has focused his attention on security issues regarding the Balkans and Eastern Europe, which has also inspired his deep interest in Russian security policy and grand strategy. He is particularly excited for the Peace Through Strength Bootcamp, as the topics and speakers are of great interest to him and cover subjects that are not often offered in traditional classes at his university. While he has not decided on his career path quite yet, within the next five years he hopes explore opportunities that combine his interest in security studies and data science to find new and improved ways to track ever-changing security developments for policymakers, whether that be through the private sector or through public service.

EMANUELLE HANNIBAL
Columbia University '23

Emmanuelle Hannibal is a junior majoring in history at Columbia University, and she is the Vice President of the Alexander Hamilton Society chapter on her campus. This summer, Emmanuelle completed an international affairs fellowship with her mentor Adam Tooze, where she conducted a historical case study on the American military figure Colin Powell and the Powell Doctrine. This winter, Emmanuelle intends to apply to a dual degree program at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) to earn an M.I.A. and B.A. from Columbia University in five years. Emmanuelle is interested in the intellectual history of U.S. defense policy and hopes to learn how different institutions in the federal government shape and reflect modern theories on war, defense, and national security.
EVAN WRIGHT  
Indiana University Bloomington '22

Evan Wright is a senior at Indiana University majoring in East Asian Languages and Cultures and minoring in Intelligence Studies, working at the intersection of area studies, national security, and intelligence. Wright has worked at Indiana University, Johns Hopkins SAIS at the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asia Studies, and the U.S. Department of State, Embassy Tokyo, where he researched the security environment of East Asia, East Asian political economy, and Japanese foreign policy. He is currently writing an honors thesis on the evolution of the Japanese intelligence community since the end of the Cold War. His interest in national security and East Asia developed in high school as a participant in Stanford University’s Reischauer Scholars Program on U.S.-Japan relations. He hopes the RRI-AHS National Defense Fellowship will give a firm understanding of defense policy, force structure, and the relationship between war and intelligence. Upon graduation, Wright hopes to join Georgetown University’s Security Studies Program (SSP) and work at the Reischauer Center as a fellow, researching U.S.-East Asian security issues, intelligence cooperation, and the security implications of internet infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific.

GORDON JAMESON CROUSE  
College of William & Mary '22

Gordon is currently a senior at the College of William & Mary studying Physics and Government. He chose these two majors due to their overlap in the fields of nuclear deterrence and energy policy, both of which he is very interested in. Specifically, he has had the amazing opportunity to study nonproliferation issues as an undergraduate fellow at the Middlebury Institute’s Center for Nonproliferation Studies. As part of this fellowship, he researched new detection methods for clandestine nuclear sites that used trace particles from fission to track shielded facilities. With the AHS-RRI National Defense Fellowship he is excited for the amazing opportunity to hear from distinguished speakers from a wide variety of fields and backgrounds. He is especially excited to hear about the evolving nature of our relationship with China and our Asian partners, including how new developments in technology will play into our deterrence efforts in the strait of Taiwan and elsewhere. After graduation he plans to pursue a grad program in nuclear engineering, so that he can build my technical skills and understanding of energy issues.

JACKSON GRASZ  
Pepperdine University '24

Jackson Grasz is attending the Pepperdine School of Public Policy and Pepperdine Caruso School of Law where he is pursuing a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree and a J.D., respectively. His studies include national security policy, international law, cybersecurity, and anti-terrorism. Currently, Jackson works as an analyst for a non-profit security consulting agency where he conducts research and publishes threat assessments for international humanitarian organizations. After graduation, Jackson hopes to begin his career working for the United States government in a role that makes use of his education and experiences in national security policy and international law. He loves spending time outdoors doing activities like hiking and sailing and is looking forward to learning a new hobby during his time on the West Coast, surfing!
JADA FRASER
Reischauer Center at Johns Hopkins SAIS

Jada Fraser works as a Policy Research Fellow for the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies where she focuses on the U.S.-Japan-China strategic triangle. Prior to joining the Reischauer Center, Jada worked as an intern and a research assistant with the Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. At CSIS, Jada’s research focused on U.S. alliance management in the Indo-Pacific, with particular attention paid to U.S. force posture and military readiness in the region and strategic competition with China. Jada graduated with High Honors and Special Honors from the University of Texas at Austin where she completed her B.A. in International Relations and Global Studies and was awarded a certificate in Security Studies from the Clements Center for National Security. Currently, her research interests pertain to the alignment of U.S. and Indo-Pacific allies’ and partners’ defense and security policies. In line with these interests, she hopes to gain a more robust understanding of U.S. defense strategy throughout the course of this program. Jada plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Asian Studies and hopes to build a career at the intersection of diplomacy and defense.

JOLISSE GRAY
Notre Dame of Maryland University ’23

Jolisse Gray is a double major of International Relations and Political Science at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her interest in international relations is due to her cultural backgrounds, and the experiences her families have gone through. As her family encouraged her to attend college, she found the study of many different fields of international relations. In particular, international security became her favorite after taking a class called: revolution and terrorism. Since then, she has embarked on endeavors such as a summer program in partnership with the Ronald Reagan Institute and The Fund for American studies to cultivate her newfound passion. Through this program, she was introduced to an internship placement that she is presently continuing with as a research assistant for the Global Disinformation Index. Her goal in participating in this program is to gain critical knowledge useful to entering a career of cyber and national security. She hopes to continue to find opportunities as enriching as this one, and continue to make useful contributions to the cybersecurity field.

KAITLYN ROMAINE
College of the Holy Cross ’22

Kaitlyn Romaine is a senior at the College of the Holy Cross from Long Island, New York. She is a Political Science and History double major with a concentration in Peace & Conflict Studies. Preferring to keep her eyes on the homeland, she focuses her studies on finding ways to better understand how to keep the United States safe. She finds more value in concentrating on how different nations impact U.S. national security. At Holy Cross, she serves as the president of the Alexander Hamilton Society, the co-president of College Republicans, and a staff writer for the Fenwick Review. In the summer of 2020, she interned for Congressman Lee Zeldin in New York’s 1st congressional district. This past summer she interned for The Heritage Foundation’s Center for National Defense where she focused on the defense budget, compiled research on naval capabilities for Heritage’s annual Index of U.S. Military Strength, and wrote op-eds for the Daily Signal. Kaitlyn is excited to learn from defense leaders through the RRI-AHS National Defense Fellowship so that she can develop her defense knowledge and do her part to keep America a safe and prosperous place.
KATHERYN WICKBERG  
Ashland University Dec. ’21

Katheryn is a senior majoring in International Politics with a minor in History at Ashland University. As an Air Force “brat”, she has always been fascinated by the role of the US in international affairs, especially the ways in which US domestic affairs impact the way we interact with the world, and vice versa. She has served as Ashland University's representative to the 2019 Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point and been awarded at multiple Model Arab League Conferences. Katheryn is currently an intern for the Ashbrook Center and an Associate Instructor at the Ohio School of Falconry. Through the fellowship, she hopes to gain a better understanding of our current defense community, the interaction between the private and public sector when it comes to defense, and the development of national defense policy. Katheryn is currently exploring a variety of options for post-grad careers including the Air Force, graduate school, and think tanks.

KATY SELINGER  
American University ’21

Katy Selinger graduated from American University in May 2021 with a degree in International Relations and a focus on national security and foreign policy. During her time at American she served for three years as an officer in the Alexander Hamilton Society chapter on campus. While interning on Capitol Hill as an undergraduate, she became passionate about the policymaking process and Congress’ role in international affairs and hopes to pursue a career in defense and national security policy. Currently, she is a grassroots organizer with Country First working to promote civil discourse on college campuses and support elected officials who prioritize a commitment to their country over their party. Katy is excited to take part in this year’s National Defense Fellowship and gain valuable insights from practitioners, thought leaders, and public officials to better inform her decision-making in her future career.

KEVIN XIAO  
Yale University ’23

At Yale, Kevin is studying Political Science, with an interest specifically in presidential power and political control of the bureaucracy. He first became interested in this topic after witnessing the strategic use of acting appointees during the Trump administration and was fascinated by the president’s ability to unilaterally shape policy in all areas of government. Since then, he has become increasingly interested in executive authority in the national security domain. From detention policies at Guantanamo Bay to civil liberties at home, he thinks that these questions are essential for competing in the digital age. From this fellowship, he wants to better understand military preparedness in cybersecurity and how we can better equip our military for war in an increasingly technology-dependent society. He would also love to explore the Internet of Things and technology norms, especially at a time when China is presenting a surveillance-based model of governance in Xinjiang. In the next five years, he hopes to complete his master’s thesis on presidentialism and one day attend law school. Kevin would love to work as a committee counsel on Capitol Hill or in a legal capacity at an executive department, such as Justice or Treasury.
MICK RASH  
The Ohio State University ’23

Mick is a junior at The Ohio State University studying economics and history. Naturally curious, he decided to study those academic disciplines because they foster a deeper understanding of our world in the past, present, and future. He has always been interested in military history and has always enjoyed studying the ultimate defense and national security questions facing the United States and other nations because many other governmental decisions and discussions flow from those made with security concerns in mind. In his professional life, Mick has always been passionate about public service and has worked in both the Ohio state government and in the federal government. As a part of the 2021 RRI-AHS National Defense Fellowship, Mick is incredibly excited to interact with the most prevalent figures in American national security policy and dive deeper into an ever-evolving arena of American governance. He values learning firsthand from individuals who have been tasked with decisions that would keep any individual up at night. Currently, he plans to attend law school after undergraduate graduation and will continue to work alongside policymakers across all levels of American government.

PAIGE SMITH  
University of Texas at Dallas ’22

Currently, Paige is in the process of obtaining her M.S. in criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she also got her B.A. in criminology and minored in sociology. As a humanitarian, she originally became interested in the field because of her passion for helping others and because of injustices endured by her family because of the Texas criminal justice system’s failure to protect victims of crime, specifically women. Because she is a humanitarian and criminology student, issues related to national security have piqued her interest as national security threats are a threat to human welfare everywhere.

Over the years Paige has become increasingly eager to play a hand in protecting our nation, its citizens, and securing justice for all Americans. Out of this fellowship, she hopes to obtain a more secure understanding of the threats our nation faces and learn how to maintain peace with all possible enemies, foreign and domestic. Over the next five years, she hopes to be hired by an intelligence agency and actively help maintain our and our allies’ national security.

SAM ABODO  
Carnegie Mellon University ’23

Sam Abodo is a junior at Carnegie Mellon University studying International Relations and Cybersecurity. Currently, he is an editorial intern at The National Interest in D.C. where he writes for the publication, edits submissions, and publishes articles. His interests lie in China policy, U.S.-Africa relations, and general national security. Sam loves to write, especially op-eds, so The National Interest is a perfect opportunity to enhance his writing skills. Thanks to the Alexander Hamilton Society Fellowship, he’ll be able to deepen his knowledge of defense policy and military technology with like-minded students and scholars from across the country and discuss national security across the aisle, something necessary in today’s politics. Sam hopes to come out of this fellowship able to write about military technology and understand the pressing issues of the future of warfare. After graduation, he hopes to get a Masters in International Relations or Security Studies, and subsequently work in government.
SOPHIE HESS
Miami University of Ohio ’22

Sophie Hess is a senior at Miami University. She plans to graduate in May 2022 with Bachelor of Arts Degrees in both Political Science and Spanish. She decided to study political science because she has always been interested in current events, history, government, and policy. Her political science degree focuses on national security and foreign affairs because she is interested in serving others, protecting United States values, and learning about the relationships between the United States and other countries. She also studies Spanish because of her interests in languages and diplomacy. Through the National Defense Fellowship, she hopes to learn more about problems the United States faces and further develop her knowledge on national security and defense to apply that information to a future career in national security. She accepted a position as an intelligence analyst for the Department of Defense to begin after her graduation in May 2022, so over the next five years, she hopes to develop her understanding of national security and intelligence within that career.