



Steven A. McCain

Government Affairs Counselor

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OVERVIEW

Colonel Steve McCain retired from the Department of Defense (DOD) after twenty-six years of service and now leads the firm's national security policy practice providing legislative and appropriations counsel to defense, energy, aerospace, and homeland security industries, academia, and other nonprofit organizations regarding federal business development, budget and acquisition, as well as congressional actions.

Prior to joining the firm, Steve was the director of legislative affairs, U.S. Pacific Command, and principal advisor to the combatant commander for all congressional liaison. He advocated directly with Congress and professional committee staff for programs, budgets, and policies, and executed legislative strategy, which improved global defense force capability. He provided critical support for senior military leadership testimony before Congress regarding the Asia-Pacific region.

In the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom, he served as commander of an Air Expeditionary Wing, where he led support and combat operations of Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and coalition forces in Afghanistan. He also commanded a combat search and rescue operations group, where he was responsible for flying, training, maintenance, and deployment of personnel and aircraft to combat operations worldwide.

In his capacity as the principal deputy legislative assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he coordinated legislative efforts with senior military leaders, which helped galvanize congressional support for billions of dollars in healthcare reform, operational readiness, and weapon modernization programs. Prior to his tour with the Joint Staff, he was the director of legislative affairs in the Washington, D.C., office of the U.S. Special Operations Command, where he built congressional advocacy for special operations missions and for significant funding increases in key classified programs.

His experience also includes service as a Branch Chief of Aircraft Systems at Warner Robins Air Logistics Center in Georgia, where he managed aircraft and helicopter modification programs. In this capacity, he resolved acquisition, contracting, and logistics challenges with the defense industry.

Steve has over 2500 hours in various aircraft as a navigator, including 150 in combat. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Aerial Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Department of Defense Utilities Privatization Panel, Moderator, Association of Defense Communities, November 2018
- 2017 Defense Innovation Summit: Politics & Policy - National Security Space
- 2017 Asia Pacific Resilience Innovation Summit & Expo: Politics & Policy - Defense Energy & Cybersecurity

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Army War College, 1997
- Air War College, 1996

EDUCATION

- M.S., Air Force Institute of Technology, 1987
- M.B.A., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1983
- B.S., University of Georgia, 1978

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 21 May 2020, FAR Council Offers Opportunity to Comment on Buy American Act's Domestic Nonavailability List (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 6 February 2020, The CMMC Has Arrived: DoD Publishes Version 1.0 of Its New Cybersecurity Framework and Discusses Planned Rollout (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 3 December 2019, GAO Releases Report Providing Color on the Department of Defense's Use of Its Other Transaction Authority for Prototype Projects (*Articles*)
- 19 July 2019, Buy American III: How Does The Latest "Buy American" Executive Order Affect Government Contractors And Their Supply Chains? (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 22 May 2019, Policy Changes Highlight Contrasting National Security Acquisition Goals (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 9 January 2019, The National Quantum Initiative Act: A Bid for U.S. Quantum Leadership (*Alerts/Updates*)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch (*Rankings & Recognitions*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Power
- U.S. National Security Law and Policy

INDUSTRIES

- Aviation
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Promotes high-technology coalitions (e.g. Quantum Science, Satellite Communications) objectives with federal agencies, academia, congress and the Administration to ensure U.S. global leadership.
- Assists space industry with Defense Authorization and Appropriations promoting U.S. commercial space launch capabilities, domestic rocket engine production, integrated satellite communications and sensors, and stronger national security space capabilities/programs.
- Assists satellite companies that provide mission-critical satellite data to drive federal government initiatives with Defense Authorization and Appropriations advice and advocates on their behalf before Congress and Department of Defense.
- Teams business CEOs with the leaders in the Department of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Congress to advance robotics, materials, artificial intelligence, energy, healthcare, aerospace and cybersecurity to meet emerging national security requirements.
- Lobbying in support of NASA's satellite servicing program and Department of Defense Geospatial programs
- Represent semiconductor companies with federal business development and federal funding and advocate on their behalf before Congress and the Department of Defense.
- Provides public policy advice with respect to cybersecurity and the internet to multinational digital infrastructure company.
- Advocates for and provides policy advice to private-public partnership that produces COVID-19 targeted T-cell immunotherapy products.
- Assists public utility companies with legislative policy work and developing partnerships with the federal government via the Utilities Privatization Program for the Department of Defense.

- Provides commercial spaceflight company with assistance with policy issues related to export control and FAA jurisdiction.
- Provides policy representation before the legislative and executive branches of the federal government for National Security Space issues.
- Provides satellite company with advice relating to defense and federal business development development for Military Satellite Communications Systems (MILSATCOM) and Commercial SATCOM.