



**Carlton Haelig**  
**CERL Junior Fellow**

Carlton G. Haelig is a graduate student based out of the Washington, DC metro area. He is pursuing a master's degree in international security at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University in Arlington, VA. His areas of academic and professional interest include strategic planning and policy with regard to emerging issues in national security (e.g. limited war, non-state actors, hybrid/asymmetrical warfare), the politico-military dimensions of international power projection, and armed conflict within areas of contested control.

During the summer of 2016, Carlton was an intern at CERL where he was integral in the formulation and execution of briefings given to the U.S. Army JAG Corps on Using Law to Fight Terror, as well as a counter-Islamic State finance briefing given to the Joint Staff J5 (Middle East). His further work at CERL included a range of briefing papers and research on multiple contemporary issues in national security. Additionally, Carlton currently serves as a volunteer student intern within the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a research assistant in the OSD Historical Office.

Recent graduate work of his includes an in-depth analysis of the Obama administration's use of force against the Islamic State in Syria during Operation Inherent Resolve, entitled "President Obama and the Fight Against the Islamic State: Legality, Justifications, and the Path to Solutions." As well as "Domestic Decision-Making and the 2003 War in Iraq: Individual Leaders, Their Inner Circles, and the Mass Public," a research thesis that outlines existing theoretical frameworks of domestic decision-making units and war initiation using the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a case study.

Carlton, a New Jersey native, is a graduate of Rutgers University where he received a bachelor's degree double-majoring in history and political science.