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His research at CNAS centers on U.S. and East Asian defense issues, including acquisition and nuclear weapons policy. Some of his recent work has focused on China's naval modernization, the U.S.-China nuclear relationship, South Korean defense capabilities and priorities, U.S. policy regarding North Korean nuclear activities, and Aum Shinrikyo's chemical and biological weapons programs. He also serves as the coordinator for CNAS's Next Generation National Security Leaders program, aimed at identifying and assembling a diverse and bipartisan group of top young analysts and practitioners to think creatively about U.S. national security issues.

Prior to joining CNAS, Hosford worked as a research intern at the Arms Control Association in Washington, DC and – through a program organized by George Mason University – at the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Hosford is currently enrolled in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and has completed additional graduate coursework in security studies at the University of Maryland. He earned his B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA with a major in Scientific and Philosophical Studies of the Mind and a minor in Astronomy.