

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR VETERANS

A Toolkit for Veteran Organizations





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Strengthen Our National Information Security

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is helping veterans join our nation's cybersecurity workforce.

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

Our nation faces a rising number of cyberspace-based attacks and threats. Since 2015, we have encountered more than 77,000 cyber-incidents¹. The average cost of a cyber-breach for U.S. companies is \$200,000 per incident². The impact of cyber-incidents are not limited to victimized companies; employees and customers can experience distressing aftermath such as identity theft and personal data loss. Cybercrime categorically ranks with drug trafficking as a worldwide economic danger³.

Cybersecurity professionals are needed to protect government and private industry networks. Veterans can help fill the growing openings in this field by learning new cybersecurity skills or brushing up on existing skills. Resonating with their past military experiences, veterans may understand the criticality to thwart cyber adversaries, make quick decisions in dynamic situations, and help defend our country. Veterans' adaptability may also make them ideal candidates for the cybersecurity field.

To help your veteran members build a career pathway into cybersecurity, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offers a variety of resources including on-demand training, scholarships, and a course catalog tool – all for **FREE**. All of these resources are included in this easy-to-use toolkit to help arm organizations like yours with resources to help veterans join the cybersecurity workforce of tomorrow.

We need *YOUR* help spreading the word about these **FREE** resources and this growing career opportunity - join us in this effort!

Your involvement in sharing and promoting these resources to your veteran members is **essential**. Help them learn more about the exciting, emerging, and growing career opportunities in cybersecurity!

¹ <http://www.newsweek.com/government-cyber-attacks-increase-2015-439206>

² <https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/2/2/121/2525524/Examining-the-costs-and-causes-of-cyber-incidents>

³ http://wapo.st/1hzU64H?tid=ss_mail



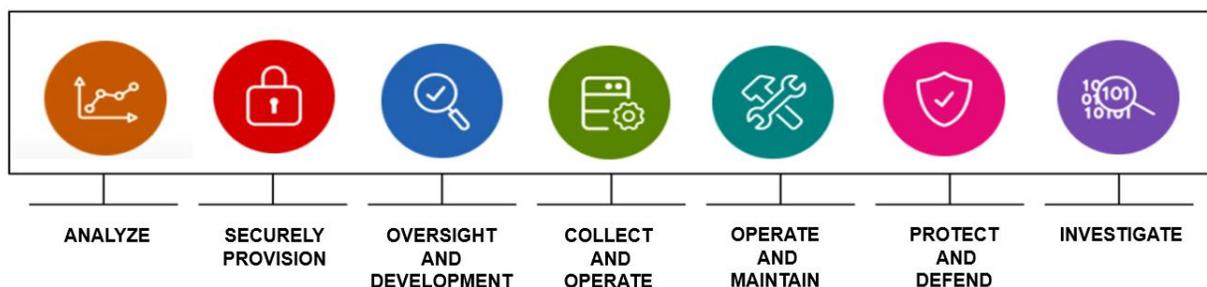
EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOURCES

DHS offers tools to help veterans explore a cybersecurity career at their own pace. Veterans can forge a pathway tailored to meet their specific professional goals.

UNDERSTANDING CYBERSECURITY WORK ROLES

NICE CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE FRAMEWORK

The [NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework](#), co-developed by DHS, provides a blueprint to categorize, organize, and describe cybersecurity work into seven Categories (as shown below). Each Category is comprised of several Specialty Areas, which outline knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) needed to fulfill cybersecurity work roles. [The Framework](#) delivers a common definition of cybersecurity to talk about cybersecurity jobs.



Veterans can explore the [Framework](#) to learn more about KSAs and tasks in cybersecurity work roles.

FINDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FEDERAL VIRTUAL TRAINING ENVIRONMENT (FEDVTE)



DHS and Hire our Heroes (HOH) have teamed up to provide veterans access to [Federal Virtual Training Environment \(FedVTE\)](#), a free, online cybersecurity training center. With 24/7 on-demand access to 60+ courses in varying levels of proficiency from beginner to advanced, veterans can explore and take courses at their own pace. All courses align to the [Framework](#), allowing veterans to build the necessary knowledge and skills to confidently enter the cybersecurity workforce.

Veterans can access the [Veterans Cybersecurity Training and Education Guide](#) to learn more about how to use [FedVTE](#) as a starting point to transition their career into cybersecurity.



NICCS EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSE CATALOG



The [NICCS Education and Training Course Catalog](#), co-developed by DHS, is an open source tool to help aspiring and current cybersecurity professionals locate nearby cybersecurity-related courses. All **3,000+** courses align to the [Framework](#) and users can easily filter them to find courses that are appropriate to their interest and level professional development.

Veterans can visit the [Catalog](#) to quickly find their next cybersecurity-related course.

LOCATING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Veterans can use their Post-9/11 GI Bill to pursue a cybersecurity degree. DHS offers academic resources that make the continuing education process easy.

TOP SCHOOLS



The [National Centers of Academic Excellence \(CAE\) program](#), jointly supported by DHS and the National Security Agency (NSA), recognize institutions and their outstanding cybersecurity-related degree programs with CAE designations. The curricula in these programs map to the [Framework](#), allowing students to graduate with the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the cybersecurity workforce.

Veterans can refer to the [Guide](#) to learn more about **200+** institutions with CAE designations.

SCHOLARSHIPS: A PATH TO EMPLOYMENT



The [CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service \(SFS\) program](#), co-sponsored by DHS and the National Science Foundation (NSF), offers cybersecurity scholarships to outstanding undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students. Students can receive up to **\$34,000** to cover the typical costs to attend a participating institution. There are currently **60+** institutions that receive SFS scholarship awards.

Upon graduation, students can attend job fairs to secure a cybersecurity role in federal, state, or local government. They will serve in this role for a period equivalent to the length of their scholarship (e.g., two academic years equal two calendar years).

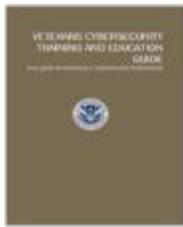
Veterans can learn more about how to participate in the SFS program for financial assistance in the [Guide](#).



NAVIGATING A CAREER PATH IN CYBERSECURITY

Launching a new cybersecurity career is exciting, but the prospect can be overwhelming at times. DHS has developed a resource to help veterans navigate their journey into the profession with ease.

VETERANS CYBERSECURITY TRAINING AND EDUCATION GUIDE



The [Veterans Cybersecurity Training and Education Guide](#) provides a systematic and easy-to-use approach for veterans looking to explore a career in cybersecurity. The Guide not only provides information about available DHS resources, but it also helps veterans assess their readiness to prepare and launch their new career. 4,000+ veterans have accessed and downloaded the Guide.

Veterans can refer to the [Guide](#) to:

- understand the cybersecurity field
- gain insight on the many cybersecurity work roles
- discover how they are a good fit for the field
- explore available cybersecurity training and education opportunities
- plan their transition into the cybersecurity workforce

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Use your voice and network to share the above information along with the enclosed [Guide](#). Take action today by helping veterans become the cybersecurity workforce for tomorrow!

GET THE WORD OUT

DHS offers ready-to-use messaging for your veteran members. Copy and paste the sample message into an email and share it with your network. Refer to the [Appendix](#) for sample language and templates.

WAYS TO DISTRIBUTE THE INFORMATION:

- ✓ Email the [Guide](#) to all veteran members
- ✓ Post the [Guide](#) to your organization's website for easy access
- ✓ Spread the word using your communication channels
 - Tweet on Twitter
 - Post a blog
 - Display the informational poster
 - Post on Facebook
 - Add it to your newsletter
 - Share the information at training-related event



THANK YOU

On behalf of DHS, we would like to thank you for your help in reaching our nation's veterans. We are excited to offer these resources to those who have served and are interested in launching a cybersecurity career.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!

We want you to hear from you!

Please send us an email at Cybersecurityworkforce@hq.dhs.gov to share:

- What parts of the **Toolkit** and **Guide** are helpful
- Any additional information that you would like for us to include
- Efforts on how you are helping veterans explore and join the cybersecurity workforce

PARTNER WITH US

- ✓ Send us an email at Cybersecurityworkforce@hq.dhs.gov to find out about other opportunities
- ✓ Share upcoming speaking opportunities at your events
- ✓ Regularly communicate with us on how to spread the word
- ✓ Become an official partner with the [Stop.Think.Connect.Campaign](#)
- ✓ Join our Workforce Development monthly newsletter



APPENDIX

Feel free to use any of the sample language below for your organization's communication channels - webpages, social media accounts, and newsletters.

SAMPLE EMAIL MESSAGE

To: [Veteran Member listserv]

Subject: Your Next Mission: A Cybersecurity Career

Continue Protecting Our Country- Join the Cybersecurity Workforce!

Did you know that cybersecurity professionals report an average salary of \$116,000? That's nearly three times the national average. The demand for cybersecurity experts is growing at 12 times the overall job market, making **cybersecurity one of the most highly sought-after careers in the country**. Check out the [Framework](#) to learn more about the [involved tasks](#), and needed [knowledge and skills](#) (KSAs) to perform the work.

Our nation needs more cybersecurity workers to protect networks in both government and industry. As a veteran with experience in serving and protecting our nation, you are well positioned to transition into this critically growing field. That's why the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is offering **you** a variety of resources including **FREE training**, information on **scholarships**, and **a guide to easily transition into this high-demand career field**.

Click the link below to access a complete guide to DHS's cybersecurity education and training opportunities for veterans.

[Click here to download the Veterans Cybersecurity Education and Training Guide.](#)

Inside the guide, you will find a number of tools to help you begin your cybersecurity career, including information to help you:

- **Assess** Your Readiness for a Cybersecurity Career;
- **Prepare** for a career in Cybersecurity; and
- **Launch** your new career.

Sincerely,
[Your Organization's name]



SAMPLE WEBSITE MESSAGING

[Name of your organization] is excited to offer our veteran members valuable opportunities and resources from The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), to help them transition into their next mission: a rewarding career in cybersecurity. Click [here](#) to download a DHS Cybersecurity Training and Education Guide for Veterans to learn more about **FREE** training, scholarship opportunities, and other resources to help veterans launch a new career in protecting our nation's information systems.

SAMPLE MESSAGING FOR BLOGS AND NEWSLETTERS

FREE Cybersecurity Training for Veterans

Veterans are well positioned to transition into the critical growing field of CYBERSECURITY. There is **FREE** training available for veterans like yourself!

Did you know that cybersecurity professionals report an average salary of \$116,000—that's nearly three times the national income average! Check out the [Framework](#) to learn more about the [involved tasks](#), and needed [knowledge and skills](#) (KSAs) to perform the work. Hire our Heroes and the Department of Homeland Security have teamed up to bring you **FREE** cybersecurity training and certification prep courses, through The Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE).

FedVTE is an online, on-demand training center with courses ranging from introductory to advanced levels. There are also preparatory courses available for some of the most popular certifications in the industry such as Security+ and CISSP. Taking these courses will help prepare you to compete for the top cybersecurity jobs across the country.

To learn more or sign up, please visit: <https://hireourheroes.org/veterans-training/>.

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS AND TWEETS



Sample A:

Veterans: Access FREE cybersecurity training through DHS and Hire our Heroes. Prepare for popular certifications, or take general training to open the door to a new exciting career: <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>

Sample B:

Veterans: Transition into a well-paid cybersecurity job and continue serving your country in a new way. DHS offers FREE training to get you to get you started <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>



Sample C:

For any veteran interested in exploring a career in cybersecurity, DHS is now offering free training, including certification prep courses: <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>



Sample A:

FREE [#cybersecurity](#) training for [#vets](#) from [@DHSgov](#). Prepare for your next exciting career here: <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>

Sample B:

Are you a [#veteran](#) looking for your next mission? Explore [#cybersecurity](#) jobs. Get FREE training today through [@DHSgov](#) <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>

Sample C:

FREE [#cybersecurity](#) training for [#veterans](#) through [@dhs.gov](#) including coveted certification prep courses – check it out <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>

Sample D:

[#Veterans](#): Continue serving your country in a new way in a [#cybersecurity](#) job. [@DHSgov](#) offers FREE training to get started <http://1.usa.gov/1NwlbOj>



INFORMATIONAL POSTER

Click on the flyer below to download and print copies of the FedVTE Training poster. Encourage your members to sign up for a **FREE** FedVTE cybersecurity training account!

**Free
cybersecurity
training for
government
personnel.**

FedVTE provides governmentwide, online, and on-demand access to cybersecurity training to help the workforce maintain expertise and foster operational readiness. With courses ranging from beginner to advanced levels, the system is available at no cost to users and accessible from any Internet-enabled computer.

Popular courses include certification preparation for the following exams:

- Network+
- Security+
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Certified Ethical Hacker

FedVTE FEDERAL VETERANS TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

To sign up for an account, visit: hireourheroes.org/veterans-training.

The poster features a blue background with a white and orange graphic element resembling a rising line graph. The text is in white and orange. The FedVTE logo is in the bottom left, and the sign-up information is in the bottom right.