

VETERANS CYBERSECURITY TRAINING AND EDUCATION TOOLKIT

A resource for veterans organizations



Cybersecurity Opportunities for Veterans

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

Our nation is under attack. Cyber attacks cost the average US company more than \$15.4 million per year—and the damage affects more than just the company attacked¹. The recent Office of Management Personnel (OPM) data breach cost the government more than \$133 Million just to protect employees from identity theft, not including the hundreds of millions of dollars lost to fixing the breach and putting more security measures in place. Our nation needs more cybersecurity professionals to protect networks in both government and industry. Veterans bring a unique understanding of defense tactics and exposure to team environments that make them high potential recruits into cybersecurity. This is why we are offering your veteran members a variety of resources including FREE training, scholarships, and a path to a new rewarding career.

Here is where you come in. We need help spreading the word about these resources and this growing career option. We created this easy-to-use toolkit to arm you with resources for sharing information to your members.

Your efforts to promote these opportunities to your members are essential in helping them get information about an exciting emerging and growing career opportunity.

Inside, you will find:

- ✓ A simple [overview](#) to help you understand everything DHS has to offer to veterans transitioning into the cybersecurity workforce
- ✓ The [Veterans Cybersecurity Education and Training Guide \(The Guide\)](#) that contains everything your members need to know about our resources
- ✓ [Sample emails and easy instructions](#) on how you can distribute resources to your members
- ✓ [Sample blog posts and social media messaging](#) to help you spread the word
- ✓ [Informational poster](#) about free training to display in your workspace

¹ <http://money.cnn.com/2015/10/08/technology/cybercrime-cost-business/>

Overview of DHS Resources

DHS offers training and education opportunities for veterans looking to explore a career in cybersecurity. These elements are also included in **The Guide** that you will be sending your members.

Free Cybersecurity Training

DHS and Hire our Heroes have teamed up to offer veterans free, on-demand cybersecurity training through access to the **Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE)**. FedVTE is an online, on-demand training center featuring a wide range of introductory through advanced cybersecurity courses that veterans can take to help them advance into the cybersecurity workforce. Veterans can find more information about FedVTE in **The Guide**, including a list of available courses. To learn more about FedVTE visit: <https://niccs.us-cert.gov/training/fedvte>

Cyber-related Degree Programs and Scholarships

Top schools

Do you know of a veteran still deciding how to use his or her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit? Are the veterans you serve finding it difficult to locate support in navigating the continuing education process? Veterans can easily find local cyber-related degree programs through the **National Centers of Academic Excellence (CAE)**. DHS and National Security Agency (NSA) partner to designate colleges and universities across the country as CAEs in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense. Students can feel confident in the education they receive, and employers recognize that CAE graduates are ready to make immediate contributions in the cybersecurity field.

Veterans can find more information about the CAE program in **The Guide**, including a list of participating institutions. To learn more about the CAE program, visit: <https://niccs.us-cert.gov/education/national-centers-academic-excellence-cae>.

Scholarships and a path to employment

We also recognize that some veterans may be interested in additional financial assistance for degree programs. Some of the CAE programs mentioned above also offer offers scholarships through the **CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service (SFS)** program. The SFS program is a publicly funded scholarship co-sponsored by DHS and the National Science Foundation (NSF) offering cybersecurity scholarships to outstanding undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in exchange for government service to a federal, state, local, or tribal government organization. The SFS program provides scholarships that cover the typical costs to attend a participating institution, including tuition, education, and related fees. In exchange, students agree to

serve in a cybersecurity role in the federal and state and local government for a period equal to the length of their scholarship (e.g., two academic years equal two calendar years). Veterans can find more information about the SFS program in **The Guide**, including a list of participating institutions. To learn more about the SFS program, visit: www.sfs.opm.gov.

Let's Get Started

We would like you to share these resources with as many veterans as possible. Here is how you can get started! This toolkit provides copy-and-paste language you can use in a variety of ways to educate your veteran members about a potential career in cybersecurity.

Action 1: Distribute The Guide

- Email **The Guide** to your veteran members
 - Use the [sample email](#) provided (which includes a link to [The Guide](#)) to distribute information about our resources to your members
- Post **The Guide** to your organization's website

Action 2: Post information

Below are links to sample messaging and a printable poster you can use to **spread the word** about exciting cybersecurity career opportunities:

- [Website language](#)
- [Blog post/Newsletter article](#)
- [Facebook posts](#)
- [Twitter posts](#)
- [Informational poster about free training opportunities](#)

Also, consider sharing information through: Internal communications, online forums, events, etc.

Action 1: Distribute the Guide

The Guide is a single resource designed for the individual member of your organization. It walks the reader through:

- understanding the cybersecurity field;
- why cybersecurity is a good career option;
- why cybersecurity is a good fit for veterans, and;
- steps to help launch a cybersecurity career.

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOUR VETERANS!

1. Copy the sample **email** below (which includes a link to **The Guide**) and send it to all your veteran members, employees, and stakeholders.
2. In addition, consider posting [The Guide](#) on your website.

Sample Email

To: [Veteran Member listserv]

Subject: Your next mission: A cybersecurity career

Continue protecting your 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.**

As a veteran with experience in serving and protecting our nation, you may be well-positioned to transition into much needed cybersecurity jobs. Opportunities are now available to help you enter this rewarding career field.

Our nation needs more cybersecurity workers to protect networks in both government and industry. That's why the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is offering you a variety of resources including **FREE training** information on **scholarships**, and **a path into this high-demand career field.**

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

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.

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

Sincerely,
[Your Organization's name]

Action 2: Post Information

Copy and paste the sample language below to your organization's website and social media pages:

Website language

[Name of your organization] is excited to offer our veteran members valuable opportunities and resources from The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that can 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, which provides access to free training, information on scholarships, and other resources to help you launch a new career in protecting our nation's information systems.

Sample blog post/newsletter article:

FREE Cybersecurity Training for Veterans

Veterans are well-positioned to transition into much needed CYBERSECURITY JOBS and there is free training available just for you!

Did you know that cybersecurity professionals report an average salary of \$116,000—that's nearly three times the national income average. 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. Veterans interested in getting into the cybersecurity field can take introductory cybersecurity courses, while elite cybersecurity professionals can take their skills to the next level with advanced courses. FedVTE also offers prep courses for some of the most popular certifications in the industry. These courses will build your skills and knowledge and 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



Facebook:

Sample:

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:

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

Sample:

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



Twitter:

Sample:

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

Sample:

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

Sample:

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

Sample:

[#Veterans](#): Continue serving your country in a new way in a [#cyber](#) 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—encouraging your members to sign up for a free FedVTE cybersecurity training account.

The poster features a blue background with a white line graph that starts low on the left, dips slightly, and then rises sharply to the right, ending in an arrowhead. The main text is in large, bold, white font. The descriptive text and list are in a smaller white font. The logo and URL are at the bottom.

**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 TRAINING PROGRAM
To sign up for an account, VISIT: hireourheroes.org/veterans-training.

Contact us

On behalf of DHS, thank you for helping us reach our nation's veterans across the country. We are excited to offer these resources to those who have served and are interested in launching their cybersecurity career.

1. We want you to hear from you! What are you currently doing to help veterans explore and join the cybersecurity workforce?
2. Did you find this toolkit useful? Did your veteran members find **The Guide** useful?
3. What additional resources would benefit your members' efforts in transitioning into the cybersecurity workforce?
4. Would you like us to come speak at your event or conference?

Email us at NCTEP@hq.dhs.gov and let us know!