

Consider a rewarding Career in cybersecurity field

Special to the Thunderbolt

Cybersecurity professionals are in high demand across military, other governmental agencies and throughout the private sector. This shortage of cybersecurity professionals to safeguard our ever-expanding cyber ecosystem places our nation at risk.

As cyber attacks have emerged as a leading threat to our national security, our nation needs skilled cybersecurity professionals to defend our country from cyber criminals who threaten our security, economic stability, and our way of life.

Raising the next generation of interested and capable cybersecurity professionals is the first step to building stronger defenses. There are limitless opportunities to educate students of all ages – from high school and beyond – about the cybersecurity field. In addition, veterans and individuals who are looking for a new career or re-entering the workforce, should explore highly competitive salaries, terrific job opportunities and a rewarding role in protecting our national security. This article addresses avenues to learn more about the field and how to best inspire students and others to seek highly fulfilling cybersecurity careers.

There are many tools available to begin your search to transition into the cyber workforce:

- Department of Homeland Security's National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies: A one-stop shop for cybersecurity careers and studies, which includes a training catalog of cybersecurity courses and

cyber education promotions—<https://niccs.us-cert.gov>

- The Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE): Provides free, on-demand access to cybersecurity training for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government employees and veterans—<https://niccs.us-cert.gov/training/federal-virtual-training-environment-fedvte>

- The National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center: Provides free cybersecurity curricula and workshops for middle- and high-school teachers across the country, encouraging greater interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields at all ages—<https://nicerc.org>

Military members are well positioned to transition into these crucial roles. Through their military service, they already possess many of the skills necessary to succeed at cybersecurity. Cybersecurity professionals don't necessarily require in-depth computer technical skills, as it is more focused on program management and quality assurance skills. Think "detect and report" versus "detect and correct."

While solid financial compensation and job security from a career in cybersecurity are great benefits, there really is a very fulfilling intrinsic reward obtained through making the world a safer place. The cyber professional's day-to-day work could prevent a malicious hack and potentially extensive identity theft, or maybe ward off a cyber attack that could compromise national security. These intangible benefits are what separate the cyber security field from so many other computer and web-related positions.