NICCS VETERANS CHAMPION COMMUNICATIONS MANUAL

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About this Manual

To help your Veteran members build a career path in cybersecurity, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers a variety of no-cost resources including on-demand training courses, college and scholarship opportunities, and career pathway tools. These resources are included in this easy-to-use manual to assist organizations like yours to help Veterans join the cybersecurity workforce.

The demand for cybersecurity professionals is growing. The current cybersecurity workforce shortage is estimated to be about 4.8 million cybersecurity workers worldwide, making cybersecurity one of the most highly sought-after careers as our nation faces a rising number of cyberspace-based attacks and threats. From 2019 to 2023, the United States encountered more than 3.79 million complaints of cyber-incident, resulting in over $37.4 billion in victim losses. The impact of cyber incidents is not limited to victimized companies; individuals, employees, and customers can experience distressing aftermaths such as identity theft and personal data loss.

Cybersecurity professionals are necessary 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 can understand the crucial need 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.

Please join us in this effort to help your Veteran stakeholders learn more about exciting, emerging, and growing career opportunities in cybersecurity!

✉ NICCS@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

🌐 niccs.cisa.gov

in Linkedin.com/company/cisagov

✖ @CISAgov | @CISAcyber

⊙ @CISAgov

f Facebook.com/CISA

Education and Training Resources

CISA offers tools and resources to help Veterans explore a cybersecurity career at their own pace. Veterans can forge a path tailored to meet their specific professional goals based on their individual interests and skillsets. Please share the following information, tools, and resources with your Veteran audiences to help them advance their career in cybersecurity.

Understanding Cybersecurity Work Roles

The NICE Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework)

The NICE Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity (NICE Framework) provides a blueprint to categorize, organize, and describe cybersecurity work into Work Role Categories, Work Roles, Tasks, Knowledge, and Skill (TKS) statements, and Competency Areas. The NICE Framework provides a common language to speak about cybersecurity roles and jobs. Within the NICE Framework, there are several categories, each comprising of various Work Roles. Each Work Role includes the TKSs required to perform the role. Veterans can explore the NICE Framework to learn more about TKSs needed to succeed in cybersecurity Work Roles.

Finding Training Opportunities

National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (NICCS) Education & Training Catalog

The NICCS Education & Training Catalog is an interactive tool to help current and prospective cybersecurity professionals locate in-person and virtual cybersecurity-related courses. All courses in the Catalog are mapped to the NICE Framework so users can easily filter by Work Role Categories, Competency Areas, and Work Roles to find modules that are appropriate to their interest and level of professional development. Veterans can visit the Course Catalog to quickly and easily find their next cybersecurity-related training course.

If your organization has cybersecurity-related training courses that you are interested in adding to the NICCS Education & Training Catalog, please submit a request through the Add your Courses to NICCS page and email us at NICCS@mail.cisa.dhs.gov for more information.

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CISA Learning – Includes Courses from the Federal Virtual Training Environment (FedVTE)

Veterans can also gain access to CISA Learning, a free, online cybersecurity training platform that provides 24/7 on-demand access to a plethora of courses for federal government employees, contractors, Veterans, and the general public. Tailored to varying proficiency levels from beginner and intermediate to advanced, Veterans can explore and take courses at their own pace that aligns to their skill level.

Please note, CISA Learning recently replaced several Learning Management System platforms including FedVTE. CISA Learning will continue to offer FedVTE courses on topics such as cloud security, ethical hacking and surveillance, risk management, malware analysis, and more. Be sure to continue to check back to the CISA Learning platform often as courses are continuously being added and updated.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Remind Veterans in your network that they may use their post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to pursue a cybersecurity degree. CISA offers academic resources that make the continuing education process easier and more efficient.

Cyber Degree Programs

The National Centers of Academic Excellence (NCAE-C) program, jointly supported by CISA and the National Security Agency (NSA), recognizes institutions and their outstanding cybersecurity-related degree programs with NCAE-C designations. NCAE-C schools are recognized for their close alignment to knowledge units mapped to cybersecurity skills vital to securing our nation's information systems. By attending an NCAE-C institution, students have the opportunity to learn through hands-on activities and contribute to the protection of our nation.

Veterans can refer to the User Guide on the Veterans page on NICCS to learn more about 400+ colleges and universities with NCAE-C designations.

Cybersecurity Scholarships

The CyberCorps®: Scholarship for Service (SFS) program, co-sponsored by CISA and the National Science Foundation (NSF), offers cybersecurity scholarships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. Currently, students can receive $27,000 to $37,000 to cover the typical costs to attend a participating institution.

The SFS program gives students exclusive access to hiring fairs for internships and apprenticeships as well as permanent hire opportunities. CISA co-sponsors an annual virtual SFS Job Fair (early winter) and an in-person SFS Job Fair in the Washington, D.C. area (January). Scholarship recipients must serve in the government in a cybersecurity-related position for a period equivalent to the length of the scholarship.

Navigating a Career Path in Cybersecurity

Launching a new cybersecurity career is exciting, but the prospect can be overwhelming at times. CISA has developed resources and tools to help Veterans navigate their journey into the profession with ease. Share these with your audience!

Veterans User Guide

The Cybersecurity for Veterans page on NICCS introduces Veterans to cybersecurity training and education resources that help build the skills necessary to transition into a cybersecurity career. It also includes a downloadable Veterans User Guide, which allows Veterans to:

- ✓ Better understand the cybersecurity field

- ✓ Explore available cybersecurity training and education opportunities

- ✓ Plan their transition into the cybersecurity workforce

The Cyber Career Pathways Tool

The NICCS website hosts a variety of interactive cybersecurity career and workforce development tools to help professionals start or advance their career in cyber.

The Cyber Career Pathways Tool helps users identify, build, and navigate a potential cyber career pathway by increasing your understanding of the tasks, knowledge, and skills needed to begin, transition, or advance their cyber career. Plan out potential career paths and gain a better understanding of the TKSs needed to be successful in the cybersecurity workforce. Get started and explore the Cyber Career Pathways Tool now!

Interactive Cybersecurity Career Map

With hundreds of thousands of open cybersecurity positions across the U.S. alone, now is the time to get started and apply to be part of the cybersecurity workforce. The Interactive Cybersecurity Career Map on NICCS displays thousands of open federal cybersecurity positions across the country and around the world. Filter by location, salary range, job title, and in-person/telework options to find a cybersecurity career that fits your criteria.

Get The Word Out

Share Your Feedback!

We want you to hear from you! Please email us at NICCS@mail.cisa.dhs.gov to share:

- What parts of this manual and the Veterans User Guide are helpful
- Any additional information that you would like for us to include
- Efforts on how you are helping Veterans explore opportunities to join the cybersecurity workforce
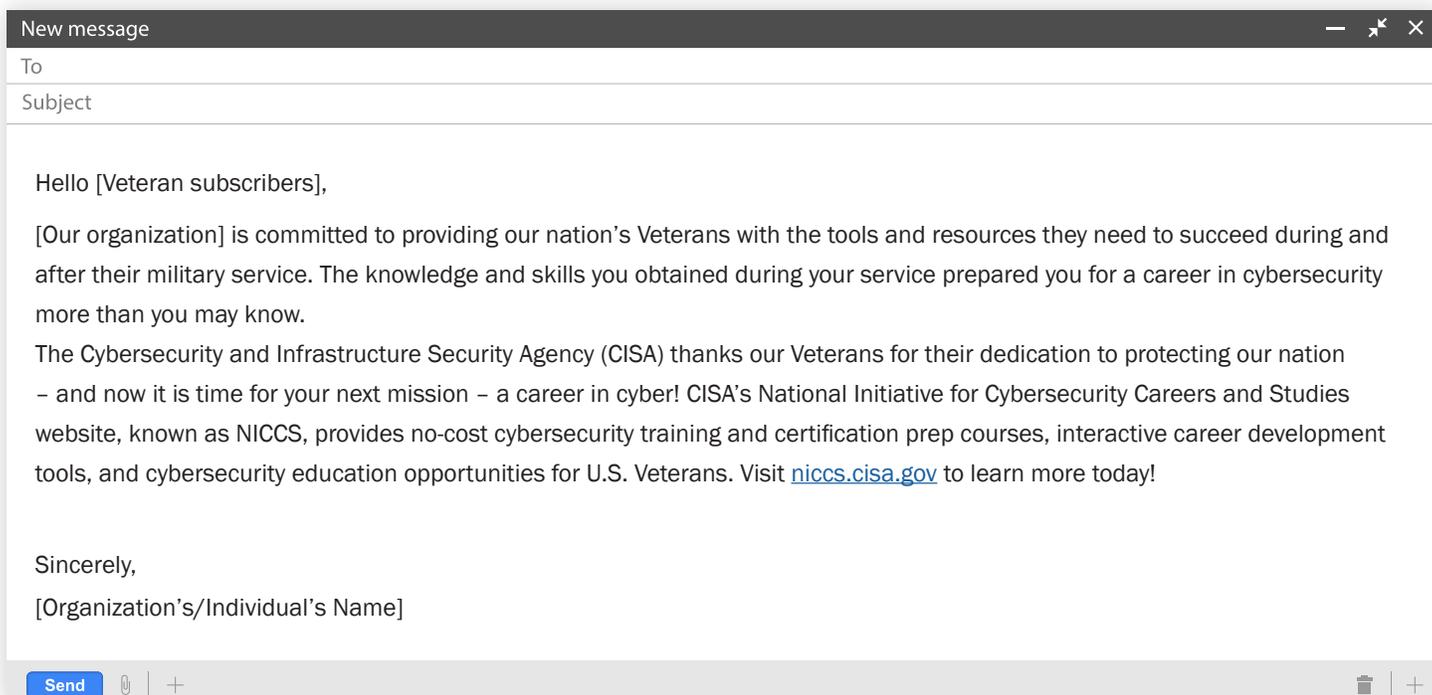
Partner With Us

- Email us at NICCS@mail.cisa.dhs.gov to find out about other opportunities
- Share upcoming speaking opportunities at your events
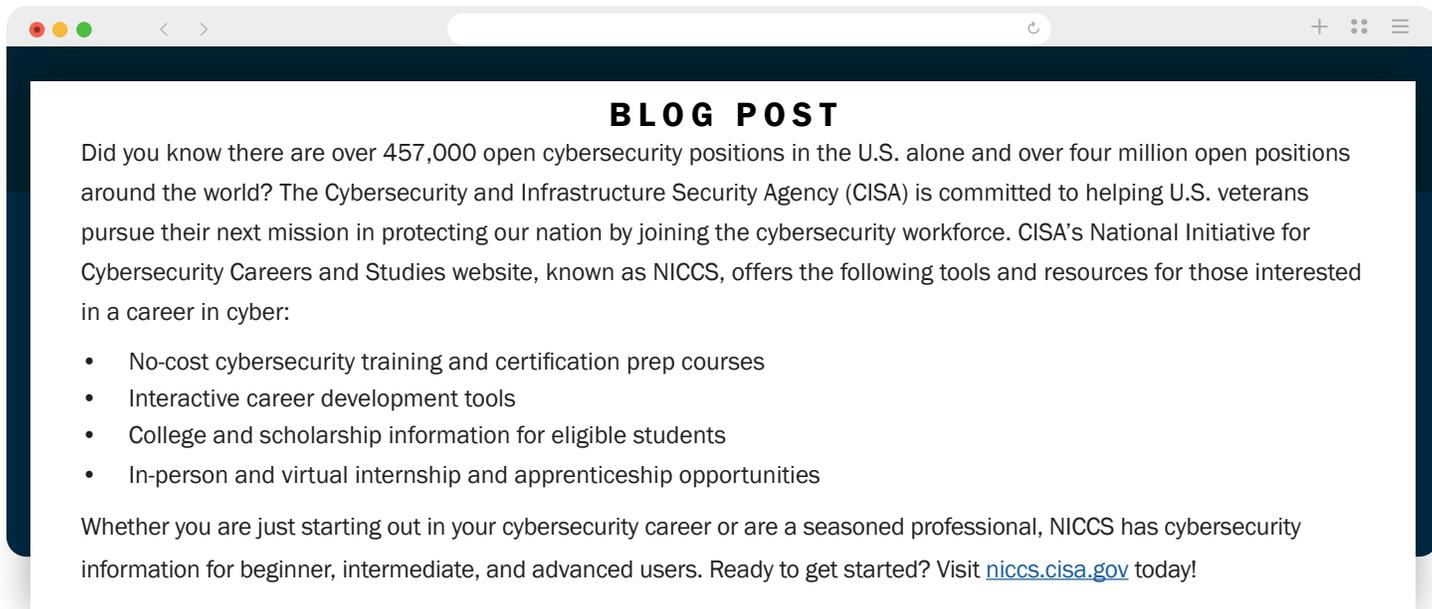- Regularly communicate with us on how to spread the word

Communicate With Your Stakeholders

Use the following sample language for your organization's email subscribers, company blog posts, and social media posts to spread the word about the tools and information on the NICCS website for Veterans interested in cybersecurity as a career.

Sample Email

New message	— ⤢ ✕
To	
Subject	

Hello [Veteran subscribers],

[Our organization] is committed to providing our nation's Veterans with the tools and resources they need to succeed during and after their military service. The knowledge and skills you obtained during your service prepared you for a career in cybersecurity more than you may know.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) thanks our Veterans for their dedication to protecting our nation – and now it is time for your next mission – a career in cyber! CISA's National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies website, known as NICCS, provides no-cost cybersecurity training and certification prep courses, interactive career development tools, and cybersecurity education opportunities for U.S. Veterans. Visit niccs.cisa.gov to learn more today!

Sincerely,

[Organization's/Individual's Name]

Send

NICCS@mail.cisa.dhs.gov

niccs.cisa.gov

Linkedin.com/company/cisagov

@CISAgov | @CISAcyber

@CISAgov

Facebook.com/CISA

Sample Blog

BLOG POST

Did you know there are over 457,000 open cybersecurity positions in the U.S. alone and over four million open positions around the world? The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is committed to helping U.S. veterans pursue their next mission in protecting our nation by joining the cybersecurity workforce. CISA's National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies website, known as NICCS, offers the following tools and resources for those interested in a career in cyber:

- No-cost cybersecurity training and certification prep courses
- Interactive career development tools
- College and scholarship information for eligible students
- In-person and virtual internship and apprenticeship opportunities

Whether you are just starting out in your cybersecurity career or are a seasoned professional, NICCS has cybersecurity information for beginner, intermediate, and advanced users. Ready to get started? Visit niccs.cisa.gov today!

Sample Social Media Posts

Attention Veterans! Are you looking to enter the cybersecurity workforce? Check out niccs.cisa.gov for all your cybersecurity education, training, and career development needs!

Are you a Veteran transitioning out of your military service and interested in continuing to protect our nation? A career in cybersecurity could be a great fit for you! The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies website, commonly referred to as NICCS, has no-cost cybersecurity training courses, cyber degree and scholarship information, and interactive career development tools to help you determine your next mission. Visit niccs.cisa.gov for more details and get started today!

Ready to launch your career in cybersecurity but don't know where to start? The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (NICCS) website has the information you need to begin your journey in cyber. NICCS offers:
- No-cost cybersecurity training and certification prep courses to gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in cyber
- Interactive career development tools to help plan out your potential career path options
- Education and scholarship opportunities for eligible students up to $37,000
- And much more!

Visit niccs.cisa.gov to get started on pursuing your career in cybersecurity today!

Thank You

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