Closing the Gap:
DoD Conference on Re-Entry for Women Veterans into Cybersecurity Careers

May 25, 2021

Agenda

Please note: This conference will be recorded.
(You have the option to rename or anonymize your profile and name.)

This is an interactive, working conference designed to hear from many perspectives, as well as engage the entire audience through Breakout Session discussions, which will be facilitated by Breakout Leaders. The conference will be held via Zoom and will use easy-to-use software to capture audience comments and ideas.

We recognize that a full Zoom day is difficult, so multiple breaks and a Lunch surprise are planned.

8:00 am – 8:45 am – Log in.
  • Video Compilation of Women Vets in Cybersecurity speaking on “What I wish I had known starting out in this field”.

8:45 am – 9:00 am – Opening remarks, welcome by SEAS DEAN, CSPRI and WiE Directors
  • Why this project? Why now? Why GW? Who is involved? Where are we going? What is your role?

PART 1: CHALLENGES FROM A WOMAN’S PERSPECTIVE

9:00 am – 9:45 am – Fireside Chat + Q&A: Interview with a woman veteran in cybersecurity
  • Intended to help the audience understand the issues; frame the task ahead of us for the multiple stakeholders.
  • Stereotyping persists, yet women in the military have advantages to be explored, identified and highlighted.

9:45 am – 9:55 am – Agenda Walkthrough
  • Instructions for breakouts; How to fully participate and have your ideas heard; expectations for the day.

9:55 am – 10:05 am – Break

10:05 am – 10:55 am – Breakouts (8-12 each): Review/discuss challenges to be addressed
  • Veterans’ perspective (various demographic views)
  • Industry cybersecurity hiring perspective; cybersecurity talent needs; changing the hiring process
  • Government cybersecurity hiring perspective
  • Military, VA, related organizations’ perspective
10:55 am – 11:30 am – Return to Main Session, Breakout Leader readouts, full group discussion
11:30 am – 12:15 pm – Lunch break

PART 2: TRANSITION FROM MILITARY TO NON-MILITARY

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm – Fireside Chat + Q&A: Discussion with two-three experts
• The transition may be challenging:
  o No more stripes; people do not “obey”
  o Loss of the nurturing environment and sense of being taken care of
• What is currently working to help women transition?
• What needs improvement?

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm – Breakouts (8-12 each): Moving from military to non-military workforce
• What is needed to collectively address the gaps? Focus on women.

1:50 pm – 2:05 pm – Return to Main Session, Breakout Leader readouts, full group discussion

2:05 pm – 2:15 pm – Break

PART 3: CYBERSECURITY PATHWAYS

2:15 pm – 3:00 pm – Fireside Chat + Q&A: Discussion with a military cyber skills expert, a cybersecurity recruiter and academic admissions office representative
• Cybersecurity topics and technologies are always changing; learning paths are diverse; recruiters must adapt
• Discuss skills needed for industry or academic journey, options for entry-level, how to transition from military skills to civilian, challenges involved
• Explore academic vs. certificate paths to cybersecurity careers

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm – Breakouts: Cybersecurity pathways
• What is needed to address the issues?

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm - Return to Main Session, Breakout Leader readouts, full group discussion

3:45 pm – 3:55 pm – Break

PART 4: ORGANIZING FOR THE FUTURE

3:55 pm – 4:15 pm - Summarizing what we’ve heard (Dr. Shelly Heller)
• Main themes from stickies
• Invite discussion and last thoughts; what are realistic suggestions?
• Going forward – who wants to continue to work with us on the project?

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm – Main Session Discussion and Suggestions
• Stay connected sheet in chat

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm – Wrap-up and Adjourn