

Program offers second career for veterans

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[Coding for Veterans hopes to recruit K-W military vets for tech sector jobs |](#)

Veterans transitioning from deployment to employment will have the opportunity next week to visit the Coding for Veterans (C4V) Career Caravan at CFB North Bay.

The goal of the caravan, midway through its cross-Canada recruitment tour, is to harness the skills and experiences of veterans, their spouses and Afghan interpreters, and train them for well-paying civilian careers as software and cyber-security professionals.

"They served us all with dedication and sacrifice during their military career and now we are providing them an opportunity to help fill the urgent skills shortage in the IT sector, which is causing a critical drag on the Canadian economy," says Jeff Musson, executive director of Coding For Veterans.

"Veterans feel they can still serve our country, but their duty has now moved from the battlefield to cyberspace."

The program, formerly available only for veterans, is expanding this year to include military spouses and family members.

C4V also has opened the program to allow Afghan interpreters, who can safely immigrate to Canada, to enrol and retrain for tech sector jobs alongside the CAF members they once served with.

Almost 150,000 software and cyber-security positions in Canada could go unfilled in the next few years.

The Coding for Veterans Career Caravan is COVID-19 compliant, so veterans will be able to safely receive career advice in person.

Coding for Veterans is an intensive eight-month, online program offered in partnership with the University of Ottawa, which provides graduating military veterans with job-ready training and certification in the areas of software development and cyber security.



Re-training Canada's veterans for second career in IT

For those veterans who qualify, the tuition for the program is fully paid for by Veterans Affairs Canada.

"We are providing the military veterans with the tools required for a career in IT," says C4V academic director Pat Shaw.

"We have tech companies and government agencies interested in filling their tech talent pipeline with graduates from our program, while at the same time, our program provides military veterans with a solid career in which to gain stable, long-term employment."

Every year, approximately 7,000 men and women leave the Canadian Forces. They're often perceived as only having the skill set for security work or policing.

C4V has done extensive research to determine that military personnel are especially suited for software and cyber security work.

COVID-19 restrictions have all but halted the usual in-person job fairs people leaving the military depend upon to help them transition into civilian life and find good-paying jobs.



"The pandemic has led to a doubling of enrolment as the demand for IT jobs continues to grow due to the pandemic," Musson says.

"COVID-19 has pulled the workforce years into the future. Companies are opening jobs to veterans and ready to hire no matter where they live."

The program is delivered online and participants can continue to work remotely.

The Coding for Veterans Career Caravan tour will stop in most major military installations and training centres in Canada ahead of Remembrance Day, where it will make its final stop in Ottawa Nov. 11.

The caravan will be at CFB North Bay Monday and Tuesday before making stops at CFB Petawawa, Toronto (formerly CFB Downsview), Meaford, Kitchener, London, Hamilton, Niagara Region, Peterborough, CFB Trenton, CFB Kingston and Ottawa.

The information booth will be set up outside at the Canex-SuperMart at 22 Wing and will open at 9 a.m.

