

Veterans target of career fair

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'We are providing the military veterans with the tools required for a career in IT'



22 Wing/CFB North Bay jpg, NB

Military veterans potentially seeking a second career are being targeted by the Coding For Veterans (CFV) Career Caravan.

The aim is to bring troops from “deployment to employment,” harnessing the skills and experiences of veterans and training them for careers as software and cybersecurity 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, Coding For Veterans CEO.

It’s estimated 182,000 skilled software and cybersecurity positions will go unfilled in the next few years.

Coding For Veterans is an intensive eight-month course offered in partnership with the University of Ottawa, which provides graduating military veterans with job-ready training and certification.

“We are providing the military veterans with the tools required for a career in IT” says CFV executive director Pat Shaw.

“We have tech companies, defence contractors and government agencies interested in filling their talent requirements 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.”

About 7,000 men and women leave the Canadian military every year. They are often perceived as only having the training for security work or policing.

But Coding For Veterans believes military personnel are especially suited to software and cybersecurity work.

While COVID-19 restrictions have all but halted the usual job fairs people leaving the military depend on for their transition into civilian life, the career caravan aims to fill the gap.

The caravan is COVID-19 compliant, which means veterans will be able to get career advice in person, socially distanced, while following public health safety protocols.

The caravan will make a stop at Branch 599 of the Royal Canadian Legion in North Bay Oct. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with additional stops at other military facilities across the province beginning Oct. 21 and running to Remembrance Day.