THE FACTS: CYBER OFFICER CAREERS

The Cyber career path offers Soldiers with the right stuff the opportunity to join the Army's newest branch and help to defend America in cyberspace.

What is a Cyber officer?

Cyber officers – officially known as Cyber Warfare Officers (17A) -- direct teams of professionals and technicians that defend Army cyberspace and take actions against adversaries to ensure commanders' freedom of maneuver in the cyber domain.

What do Cyber officers do?

As leaders of Cyber Mission Force teams, Cyber officers are on today’s electronic front lines, planning and executing defensive operations to protect Army networks and systems from attacks in cyberspace and offensive operations to disrupt and degrade our adversaries’ abilities to use the cyber domain to their advantage. During a career Cyber officers typically serve in positions such as Cyber Protection Team Cyber Operations Officer, Cyber Mission Force Support Team Leader, Cyber Operations Planner, and Operations and Integration Center division chief, as well as in progressive command and career developmental positions.

What are the typical prerequisites for applying to become a Cyber officer?

Army competitive category officers in the ranks of first lieutenant (promotable) through colonel can apply to become Cyber officers during periodic Voluntary Incentive Program application windows. Typical prerequisites include acquiring and maintaining a Top Secret - Sensitive Compartmented Information security
clearance; passing a polygraph test; and completing a minimum bachelor of science degree in a related engineering, computer science, information technology or math field with at least six hours in structured programming, or passing a cyber aptitude test. Regular Army officers controlled by the Judge Advocate General's Corps, Chaplain Corps, Army Medical Department or Medical Service Corps are not eligible for VTIP, but can contact their Army Human Resources Command assignment officers for information on the branch transfer process.

How can you get more information on becoming a Cyber officer?

Full details on the VTIP program and other opportunities for Army members who want to join the Cyber Branch can go to the Army Human Resources Command website at https://www.hrc.army.mil and visit the Cyber Branch Assignment Management page (Common Access Card or Army Knowledge Online credentials required for login).

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