

25 Reasons why Military Veterans are Ready-Made for Cybersecurity Careers

LESTER CHNG

PART 1
10 OUT OF 25



01/25

Trust

Trust is the bedrock of the military

Trust in your fellow soldier to do their job

- Life and Limb depends on it

Trust in leadership to make the right decision

Trust in your equipment to work when needed

Trust in cybersecurity is pivotal

- information sharing across closed groups
- accuracy of reporting
- completion and quality of tasks
- readiness of personnel and systems

Trust



02/25

Ethics

Military vets are taught ethics early in their career and reinforced throughout

- critical to decision making
- not that veterans are more ethical, they are more exposed to the concept of ethics

Ethics in cybersecurity

- to report or not to report... we have all seen legal action over cover-ups
- making the right decisions to report, escalate, prioritize

Ethics



03/25

Integrity

Having integrity includes

- being honest, upright
- giving and gaining respect
- having pride in work

Integrity in cybersecurity

- similar to above
- akin to professionalism

Integrity



04/25

Precision

Military precision equates to life and death

- bombing coordinates
- time on target
- amount of fuel left

Military veterans deliver with precision

Precision in cybersecurity

- how often did you have to fine-tune requirements
- configuration, script changes

Do it once. Do it right.

Precision



05/25

Discipline

The military is synonymous with discipline

- achieving mission success
- continuous improvement [self and team]
- operational excellence mindset

Discipline in cybersecurity

- implement and enforcing standards
- following up and closing open tasks
- a gap in information flow or tasks may lead to expansion of threat surface
- discipline in keeping up to date with threats, technology, and knowledge

Discipline



06/25

Teamwork

Military veterans put team before self

- compensate for weaknesses
- leverage on strengths

Teamwork in cybersecurity

- crucial for successful programs
- incident response and crisis management
- cybersecurity needs collaboration with IT, business, legal, and other support teams

Stop working in isolation

Teamwork



07/25

Leadership

Military veterans are taught leadership from day 1

- leading by example
- servant leadership models
- inspiring and building teams

Leadership in cybersecurity

- most leaders in corporate organizations do not get as much dedicated leadership trng
- drives and inspires teams to go beyond their mandate to deliver results

There will be tough days in cyber, we need strong leaders

Leadership



08/25

Communication

Military communications span a wide range

- clarity and brevity are emphasized
- inspiration communications are normal
- orders and advice are clear as day

Communication in cybersecurity

- learning to communicate to non-technical teams are important
- clear communication will also provide direction, reduce unnecessary work, and prevent confusion

Communication



09/25

Habit of Learning

Military veterans are constantly learning

- new equipment, new tactics, new plans
- refresh leadership values, mission objective
- failure to learn results in disciplinary action

Learning in cybersecurity

- technology is constantly changing
- threat actors are evolving
- having a strong habit and aptitude for learning is essential in cybersecurity

Habit of Learning



10/25

Understanding Self

Military veterans have clear understanding of self.

- It allows them to perform under stress
- It re-iterates their purpose and drives action

Understanding self in cybersecurity

- The threat landscape and challenges are constantly involving
- Strong understanding of your values, priorities, and capabilities will allow you to navigate the challenges of a cyber career

Understanding Self



STAY TUNED FOR PART 2

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