

Cyber Branching FAQ

1. Question: How do I get an understanding of what the Cyber Branch entails? Are there materials I can read to prepare for the interview and a career in the branch?

Answer: Branch Orientations are an excellent way to learn about the Cyber Branch. Recordings of our Virtual Branch Orientations for 2020 have been (or soon will be) linked to our site, along with our briefing slides, videos from the Chief of Cyber and select Cyber Officers, and other relevant information. To learn about Cyber, goto the U.S. Army Branching site: https://oema.army.mil/branching_public/index.htm; select "CY" for Cyber; review the information there; and then select "CLICK TO MEET THE BRANCH" to find the essential information mentioned above.

2. Question: Did I receive an email from the Cyber Corps because I meet the criteria for being branched Cyber?

Answer: Numerous emails are/were sent out to Cadets to provide awareness of opportunities for branching Cyber. Some emails target all Cadets, while others are focused on those Cadets who have a higher preference for Cyber, or who demonstrate potential for the branch. If you are interested in joining the Cyber Branch, we strongly encourage you to complete the Cyber Branch Assessment and Selection Process, including interviewing with the Cyber Branch team.

3. Question: How do I apply to become a Cyber Officer? And is a Computer Science Degree (or similar) required?

Answer: In order to have an opportunity to be branched Cyber, you must complete in the Cyber Assessment and Selection Process. Starting on/about 20 July 2020, you'll have an opportunity to interview for the Cyber Branch, and you must complete the interview process to be eligible to branch Cyber. You have (or soon will) receive an email inviting you to participate in our interview process via HireVue - an online interview application. Completing the HireVue on-demand interview for Cyber is your next step for an opportunity to branch Cyber. As for education, we prefer degrees that have prepared you for the Cyber Branch, such as those listed on our talent priorities storyboard; however, we're open to Cadets with any type of degree who have a passion for Cyber and some demonstrated technical aptitude for successfully performing in the field.

4. Question: How does the branching process for Cyber differ for Army Reserve and Army National Guard?

Answer: The Cyber Branch Assessment and Selection Process is the same for all Components of the Army; however, final branch determinations vary by Component. For the Active Component, Cadets final branching determinations will be made by a board, taking into consideration Cadets' branch preferences and the ratings from each of the branches. For the Reserve Components, Cadets will need to work with either the Army Reserve or their State (for the National Guard) to get assigned into valid positions (as available). For additional information, an Army Reserve or Army National Guard representative is available within the Office of the Chief of Cyber.

5. Question: If I already interviewed (e.g., last Summer or this Spring), do I need to interview for the Cyber Branch again?

Answer: There are nuanced answers to this question based on each Cadet's specific situation. In general, the answer is maybe, but probably not; however, please email us at the following

Cyber Branching FAQ

mailbox to get a direct answer to your specific situation: usarmy.gordon.cyber-coe.mbx.occ-officers@mail.mil.

6. Question: How many authorizations will you have for new Cyber Officers in 2021?

Answer: While the final number of authorizations varies year-to-year and is still pending final approval for the upcoming year, we expect to receive between 100 and 150 total second lieutenant accessions authorizations for Fiscal Year 2021.

7. Question: How long is the Additional Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) for the Cyber Branch?

Answer: Branching Cyber adds one additional year ADSO, on top of your already required, contracted commitment from your program or school. For instance, if your ROTC program contract requires four years on active duty, you will add one more year to your ADSO if branched Cyber; or with your USMA degree, you are required to complete five years on active duty, branching Cyber will increase your ADSO to six years.

8. Question: I understand that Cyber BOLC is one of the longer initial military training courses. How long is it and where can I find the course map?

Answer: On the Cyber Branch site (noted in the answer for the first question), you can find branch orientation videos, along with the briefing slides for the Cyber Branch. In both, we discuss Cyber Officer training requirements, including course length and content. For 17As, BOLC is approximately nine months long. For 17Bs, the BOLC is the same as for 17As, but an additional three months is added onto your training schedule. For 17Ds (pending final approval), BOLC is nearly 11 months. These courses are some of the most challenging, and therefore, some of the most rewarding courses in the Army.

During the virtual branching orientation we will cover the various opportunities available to serve as a Cyber Officer and cover the individual training courses associated with each career option.

9. Question: As a Cyber Officer, where are the most likely places that you could be stationed and what does this look like if you have a family?

Answer: There are many places to be stationed as a Cyber Officer (17A or 17B), in both Army and Joint assignments, as well as, CONUS and OCONUS locations. You can see these locations for all Components of the Army on the maps provided in the Cyber Branch brief (see the answer to the first question for instructions to find our website). For 17Ds, locations will initially be limited to the Ft. Meade, Maryland, and Ft. Gordon, Georgia areas. If you have a family, the Army provides numerous resources. We recommend you begin exploring options for Army Families on <https://www.goarmy.com/parents/army-families.html>.

10. Question: What does a typical day in the life of a Cyber lieutenant look like, and in what jobs or positions do they serve?

Answer: Jobs that Cyber lieutenants serve in vary by assignment and unit; however, Cyber lieutenants can expect to serve in one or more of the following positions: Cyber Defense Manager (17A); Cyber Operator or Analyst (17A); Cyber Section Leader (17A); Cyber/CEMA Planner (17A/B); EW Platoon Leader (17B); Unit Cyber-EW Officer (17B); Basic Developer (17D). Additionally, a Cyber lieutenant's typical day consists of: training and planning for cyberspace or EW operations; supervising training or missions; performing or supervising

Cyber Branching FAQ

technical analysis and interactive operations; leader and staff duties; equipment maintenance; physical fitness and Army training; deployments and TDY missions; etc.

11. Question: What do deployments as a Cyber Officer look like, in particular, what are possible deployment locations and associated hazards?

Answer: As with any other branches in the Army, you may be called upon to deploy anywhere in the world, for both short-term temporary duty assignments as a member of a team and long-term deployments with your assigned unit. There is no way to predict the specific hazards you may face during a deployment, but you and your unit will be well trained and prepared for them through pre-commissioning training, initial military training, pre-deployment training, etc.

12. Question: When will Area of Concentration 17D become available, and will it be available in the Army Reserve or Army National Guard?

Answer: We are projecting final approval and activation of AOC 17D in early Fiscal Year 2021. At that time, it will only be available in the Active Component of the Army.