[Moderator]
Instructions will be provided at the end of the session on how to obtain your certificate. Let's get started.

[Eddy]
Hi, everybody. Welcome to the third seminar in Your Career Options Track. My name is Eddy Mentzer and I lead the DOD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program, the host for this week’s symposium. We've got two sessions left. It has been an amazing week, continue to see the positive comments from all of our participants, and really excited about this next session. Our next presenter is Julie Wheeler. She is a career coach with the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program, one of our amazing career coaches. Julie's going to discuss how you can get started in the IT field. So with that, I will let Julie take it away.

[Julie]
Thank you for that. Hello and welcome to Understanding the IT Factor in information technology. My name is Julie Wheeler, as mentioned, and I am a Career Coach with the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program and will be presenting today's webinar. First of all, happy military spouse appreciation month. We honor you for your duty, service, and the many sacrifices that you’ve made in support of this great nation. So thank you. I would also like to thank you for joining us today. There are a lot of different career options available and with so many to choose from, we constantly ask ourselves, how do I know I’m making the right choice, especially considering the military lifestyle? Today, we're going to discuss some tools and resources, so you can explore the IT field and make your career decisions with confidence. So let’s go ahead and get started with understanding of the IT Factor in Information Technology. To give you an idea of what to expect during today’s webinar, let’s take a moment to look at some of the topics we will be discussing. First, we will take a look at decoding information technology. This includes reviewing possible career options and looking at the overall health of the career field. With data management, we're going to explore tools to help you research the IT field, and then we will browse the how-to guide to explore the steps necessary to move forward in choosing your career field. I will also discuss how to press the help button and gain access to career coaches to help mentor you through this process and, of course, lastly, we will have a question and answer session. So let's take a moment for a quick activity here. When you think about the IT field, think about all the different careers that come to mind. So if you could please take a moment to type in your number one answer in the poll at the top of the page here. There’s no pressure for this activity. If someone else has typed in your first thought, no worries. Please type yours again. Excellent. I see some great ones coming in here. Programmers, technicians, analyst, desk text and desk help. Excellent. I'm even going to add one here. This is the one that always come to mind for me. Computer programmer. Great. SQL, CTO. We're seeing some of those letters that
we’re gonna talk about, all the different alphabet soup Great, great. Well, some of these we’re really familiar with. Some are a little bit different. Maybe we haven’t seen all of these. So thank you so much for taking time in entering these in. As you can see, there were mainstream ones, a few that were less common. So let’s keep this activity in mind as we move forward today because my goal for today is to get you all thinking about the different careers within the IT field, and believe me, there are many. This is just a great example right here of what we have going on. So let’s take a moment to decode information technology. Information technology is the development, maintenance, and use of computer systems, software, and networks for the processing and distribution of data. If we explore this definition, it is very broad and it leaves the career field wide open with many different applications. If you really explore the definition, pretty much any career field can be impacted by the IT factor and, excuse me, and information technology. So let's break it down a little bit more. We have keywords like development, maintenance, data processing, use of computer systems. These types of activities are involved in a great deal of careers. As we begin to explore the IT field, some of the common titles that we hear so often only begin to scratch the surface of the many different options that are truly available. So here’s a quick list of several of the more common IT careers that we so frequently see and several of these career titles probably look familiar from our activity. They include titles such as tech support, programmer, developer, business analyst, information security analyst and web administrator. The actual list of possible careers in IT is much longer and expands well beyond the most common careers listed here. In fact, we had a great participation earlier and we saw a lot of those listed. We’re actually going to look at some of these careers a little bit more specifically here in just a few moments. But before we do that, let’s look at the overall IT career field and where that is headed. So before you decide to enter into a career field, it’s important to know the career field is successful. The more successful the career field, the greater the options and opportunities for you. Let’s face it, as a military spouse, we’re looking for careers that are flexible and provide opportunities no matter where the next duty station may be. So I have a quick question for you. How many of you have ever heard of the Bureau of Labor Statistics? If you’ve heard of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, please use the status pod at the top left of your page to raise your hand. Excellent. I’m seeing lots of hands come up. This is good. I love it when so many are familiar with resources. Perfect. Okay. So many of you have heard of this. That’s great. Now we’re going to reset that status pod and let’s take it one step further. I have another question for you. How many of you have ever used, keyword is used, the Bureau of Labor Statistics? If you can use that status pod one more time for me, so I can see some of those hands. I know you all can’t see what others are putting up, but I am seeing some hands come up. So this is good. Okay, perfect. This is actually the response I expected. This time around, for those of you that have used it, the number of hands appear to be a little bit fewer. I’ll be honest with you, for a long time when I thought of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, I thought of number and more numbers and I kind of avoided it. However, the website has come a long ways. It's easy to use, read and understand. So before you jump into a career field, research is what's going to happen. That's really gonna take you to that next level. So using the Bureau of Labor Statistics to decode information technology, you will find the IT field is growing very well. Currently, it's experiencing an overall growth rate of 13%. This is faster than average. By the way, some specific careers in the field are growing much faster than this. Also, due to a large number of careers in the field, the growth rate potentially equates to just over 587,000 new jobs and that's been added by the year 2026. So that's a lot of new jobs, and that's good for you if you're going into this career field the next statistic is equally as impressive. In comparison to all other careers combined, the IT field has a much higher median annual wage, which demonstrates that this career field provides an excellent return on your investment, being time and money. So for example, the median annual wage for computer and information technology occupations is about $84,580 a year in comparison to all other career fields combined, coming in at around $37,690 a year. That's a big difference. So it's great to see that there are excellent returns on a career in the IT field. So here are some different careers within the field of information technology. Notice how they go far beyond some of the common titles that we initially reviewed and some of these look familiar from our exercise that we did at the very beginning.

These careers range from needing a high school diploma to a graduate degree. The neat thing about the IT factor is that it is so broad. You can get into the career field at a number of different levels with the
opportunity to move up. So for your convenience, each of these sample titles have been linked to ONETOnline, which is hosted by the Department of Labor, and this is another resource for researching career fields. So I'm going to pause for just a moment for another polling question to help me determine where you're at in this process. So this question asks, where are you out when it comes to a possible IT career? Please select one of the following: I'm researching to see if information technology is the right industry for me, I am interested in information technology, but I don't wanna go to school for a long time, I'm interested, but my career requires a degree and I'm not sure if the military lifestyle will keep me in one place long enough to finish school, or, the last one, sign me up. I'm ready to start a career in information technology. Okay, great. I can see some responses coming in right now. It's a little bit across the board. So these are great responses. It looks like a lot of us are still in the researching phase. Okay. Some of us are ready to jump right in, others not sure about all that schooling that might be involved, and some are interested, but that military lifestyle Okay. Well, these are great responses here. Thank you so much for that. We're going to leave this poll up here for a few so we can reference this as we discuss a few of these. So thank you for your participation with that. There are a lot of different options when it comes to moving forward in the IT field. For those of you that are researching the IT field, being here today is step one in the right direction. Finding out as much information and accessing tools to research your career field is really vital to making the right decision. Maybe you're not interested in a long-term education commitment as much as you are getting right to work. There's quite a few of you in that category as well. So this is quite normal and there are several careers that can be attained without extensive training. These might include computer support specialist with a post-secondary class might be okay, certificate, or even associate degrees can help you find employment in the career field. There are web developers. Education for this career can range from a high school diploma to a bachelor's degree. However, we find that an associate's degree is generally the most common for this requirement or for this career field. How about network and computer support administrators? Typically, these positions require a bachelor's degree. However, some employers may only require a post-secondary certificate or an associate's degree. What I wanna stress here that's unique about the IT field is that although some employers may be fairly rigid with their education requirements, others may allow you to substitute knowledge, skills, certifications and experience in lieu of degree. So this is something to really take into consideration when you're thinking about a career in this field. If you're ready to start your education, but maybe you're worried about completing the training and education before your next move, don't worry. There are training programs that are available completely online. You can begin your education without worrying about the need to transfer to another school and our SECO career coaches can help you find accredited programs that offer this online training. So please feel free to reach out if you need assistance with that. For those of you that are ready to sign up for an IT career, that is excellent. However, I'd still strongly encourage you to reach out to our SECO career coaches. We can help with some of those decisions you'll be making. We can share tools for selecting schools that's a good fit and we can also discuss resources for finding help to cover tuition costs associated with your training and education. If you're interested in a career in information technology, don't hold back. Remember, you have lots of options to establish a career path and meet your long-term career goals. So take some time to check out this list and see if there are potential careers here for you. So we closed that polling question and we're ready to move on to the next slide here. Because the IT field is so prevalent in our daily lives, careers in information technology are growing rapidly. In fact, you might call this a surge. Employment statistics show that this career field is nowhere close to slowing down. In fact, you might call this a surge. Employment statistics show that this career field is nowhere close to slowing down. In fact, if you think back over the years, you can see that technology continues to evolve and it's become integrated into our daily lives. Who knew you could incorporate a computer into your refrigerator? It's been done. How about maybe Wi-Fi in your car? Wouldn't that be nice? Well, we have that too, and maybe some of you already have that. So if you think about it, careers in IT, they tend to evolve, whereas other careers may become obsolete. The IT field tends to change with the times, keeping it very much in demand. Hence, this can be a great career field if you're a military spouse looking for employment every few years and also looking to promote and maybe move forward within your career field. So information technology does offer a lot of flexibility. I just saw a note. Maybe not Wi-Fi, but Bluetooth I understand, Katie So, let's go ahead and move right here. So you might be wondering where I'm getting all this data to make careers in information technology look so good. I promise, it's not made up. We're going to take a
few moments to do some data management, so you can verify this information on your own. It’s important to have your go-to tools available when it comes to researching career fields. If you were in one of my earlier sessions this week, you might recognize this tool, but I’m using it again because it really is such an amazing tool that can’t be overlooked. It’s important to take time to monitor the growth of a career field before you jump right in. When you take time to do your research, you begin to feel more confident with your career decision. Also, knowing what’s going on in your career field has its advantages. If you understand some of the current trends in your field, you will be able to speak intelligently with potential employers, colleagues, and possibly networking contacts. So the more you know about your growing career field and what it has to offer, the better suited you are to take control of your professional future.

So here’s that tool I was talking about. When it comes to data management for your careers, the Occupational Outlook Handbook through the Bureau of Labor Statistics is amazing. I know you may have seen this previous this week in some of our other sessions, but it really is an outstanding resource tool. At a glance, you can gather a great deal of information about your chosen career by just looking at the summary page alone. As an example, this screenshot discusses career information for web developers. It provides information that includes everyone’s favorite, and that would be the wage information. It also discusses the entry-level education, so you can see if you’re already qualified for this career or maybe willing to get more education and training. There is work experience, which is typically reported by employers. So if there’s a standard amount of experience required to work in the field, it would be indicated here. Some jobs and some careers require on-the-job training. Also, it’s important to know how many jobs are currently reported for the career field. Larger numbers generally indicate greater opportunities, whereas smaller numbers may mean more challenges when it comes to finding those limited positions, especially if your next duty station ends up being in a rural location. So that’s a statistic that you’ll wanna be aware of. The job outlook forecasts the growth or the decline of a career field and the employment change is the numerical equivalent of the job outlook. This shows the increase or decrease of the jobs in the career field, and growth is good. We always wanna see that going up and not down. Remember, this is just a summary of the career field. If you look above the summary box there, you will see the related tabs, and this is where you will get even more detailed information. So if you were exploring a web developer, you’d really wanna use each of those tabs for additional information. For example, if you were to click on the job outlook tab, this discusses the reasons for growth projections for web developers. This includes growth being impacted by expansions in e-commerce and the increased use of mobile devices that now access the web. They have placed a new demand on web developers. Not only are they creating websites designed for desktop computers, but now this also includes mobile devices and the many different screen sizes and variations. With those changes, that generates more work. So this is an example of using labor statistics to determine what your career may look like in the future. So let’s talk a little bit about information overload. Have you ever started looking into the IT field and been overwhelmed with the alphabet soup of certifications needed for the field? Don’t forget, the plus and the plus plus that follows the certification. This can be discouraging, and I completely get it. As a career coach, this has been somewhat of a maze for me too. So what does this all mean? Different positions within the career field of information technology will need different certifications and knowledge to perform the regular duties and responsibilities. So, I’m seeing the comments here. Yes, yes. You familiar with this Remember, information technology is broad and can overlap with other industries that may have their own set of requirements and certifications. This is why, when you look at this page, it can be a little bit much, but let me stress this, you will only need to pursue the credentials needed for your position or your career, not the entire industry. So let’s look at some tools to help you to find these certifications. So research your career goals and begin establishing a career path. If you have an idea of what your long-term career goal might be, you can begin to work backwards. If you know what certifications are required for a long-term career goal, this can give you an idea of what certifications you will need to begin taking to advance to that level. Often you can start with the fundamentals when it comes to certifications, and then continue to build on those certifications to help achieve that long-term goal. You can even look into programs that have package deals. Sometimes a single training program can result with knowledge and skills to test for multiple certifications. Often these training programs are at the foundation level. So when it sounds like a career is a long ways off with the need for multiple certifications, it actually might be closer than you think and one
training program could have you within reach of your desired career. So it really is important to take time to research before you rule out some of those options. Now let’s not forget another amazing resource called CareerOneStop. This program is supported by the Department of Labor and has some great career field information as well. It also has a section dedicated to finding certifications. So if you look at this screenshot and the certifications for information technology, you will see that the search found 1,913 certifications from 387 organizations. Going back to that alphabet soup That’s a whole lot of certifications, but remember, you don’t have to get all of them, just the ones that count for your career field. The nice thing about this resource is the fact that you can look at the different certifications, you can click on the certification name, and then learn more about them. The link on the bottom of this page will take you right to CareerOneStop and it will help you find the certification finder. It’s really quick and easy to use. So use this tool to gather as much information as possible, and don’t forget it. It can be a great resource to reference down the road as you’re advancing towards your long-term career goals. So now let’s look at the tools to help you find your ergonomic fit, in other words, a career that is perfect for you and captures your skills. Often, we start out by asking some of the basics, but remember, some of the basics are not always easy to answer. So what inspires you? What are some of the things that motivate you and make you happy? If you can find things that inspire you in a career field that is so broad, you might just find your career path. What are your transferable skills? The skills you already have can minimize learning curves, but can also help you determine areas that you’re really good at and that an employer may appreciate. So for example, are you a good communicator and enjoy working with people? Maybe you would be a good tech support specialist. Using skills you already have and applying them to IT can be very helpful. What you like to do for fun or how can you make your work fun? Let’s face it, our careers consume a great deal of our time. If you can find a career that incorporates what you like to do for fun, all of a sudden, work may become fun and the perfect career may begin to emerge. Well, remember how I mentioned fun? Yup, we’re still exploring that. That’s hugely important. So this is called the overlap, looking for the career field that has the elements of fun and that also utilizes your skills for work is very important. Many times, some people think of careers in IT, we almost have stereotypical views of what a person in those positions might look or act like. So maybe this paints a familiar picture: someone sitting at a desk all day, maybe someone sitting in a cubicle, maybe zoned in to a computer screen and lacking some social skills, and maybe someone not connected with trending topics in society. While these are all stereotypical characteristics that have been associated with the IT field, but this is changing really fast. Now the field of information technology seems to be rebranding. It’s coming across as exciting and creative. So let’s take a moment to look at an example of overlap. Let’s blend the free spirit of an artist with technology. An artist has an eye for creativity and an artist may even have formal training as a graphic designer or enjoys creating, using imagery and symbolism to relay a message. So when you take someone with these types of skills and training, you might have the perfect frontend web developer that uses his or her creative and artistic talents to develop an unforgettable website. Taking time for self-exploration and looking for overlap opportunities is key to your success. The overlap of fun, skills, and interest is really what makes a good and a perfect ergonomic fit. So we’ve taken time to explore the information technology industry from the outside looking in, and it looks pretty good, and it’s a growing career field with lots of job opportunities, and it tends to pay higher than most industries. We’ve also explored resources for researching different careers in IT, and even looking for the overlap to combine fun in your work. Now we’re going to get down to business and browse the how-to guide. So once you have resources for researching careers, training and certification, how do you know the specifics of what an employer will be expecting for your desired career? The resources we reviewed are amazing, but there are additional ways to begin exploring employer expectations for your career field. One of the simplest ways to determine the experience and credentials needed for a career field includes looking for job announcements right now. Job announcements typically list the minimum or required qualifications, along with the preferred qualifications. These also include credentials, and this can help you navigate the maze of certification needed for your career field. After looking at current job listings, you will have a better understanding of the specific education requirements. There may be a need for a degree. However, the job announcement will give you a good feel for that. It may just be certification that the employer’s expecting, or maybe even experience. Seeing the certifications over and over in job announcements is very beneficial, and also researching them will help
you become more familiar with what they entail and what skills they're looking for. You may also see that employers have a certain expectation of experience for the career field you're interested in, and this is vital. I cannot stress enough how important it is to find this information out before you start your education and training. I've worked with individuals more than once that went through an entire training program, including degrees, and discovered they needed experience to work in their desired career field. If they had only volunteered or found related work to build their experience while they were going through their training, they could've eliminated a lot of employment challenges. So it's really important to look ahead and just being here today is the first step towards creating a career path to help you achieve your goals. What skills, education, and certifications do you already have? What are the things that you still need? Once you have the answers to these questions, you will be ready to take the next step, either applying for positions within your career field or seeking out training and education programs. So if working in the IT industry requires that you improve your memory bank with training and education, there are resources to help you out. After your research, you will have a pretty good idea of the needed certifications and or degrees. Now you can start looking for training providers. While you do your research, look for programs that give you the opportunity to learn hands-on. Internships and externships can be priceless, and experience is like gold when it comes to building your professional portfolio. Also, look for training programs that incorporate the cost of certification exams into the tuition. If you're pursuing a degree program, make sure the degree will provide you the training needed to test for the various certification exams for your field. There are a lot of steps you can take to ensure that once your training is complete, you have the best advantage to find employment and begin working in your desired career. Most importantly, if you have questions, ask. As career coaches, we are here to help you out with this. You don't have to navigate this road alone and you can even connect with mentors in the career field. The Military Spouse eMentor program is another great way to talk with a military spouse that is already in the field and has made this journey ahead of you. The link on the bottom of this slide will take you right to the MySECO Portal and the many tools available to help you with college explorations. So there's lots of resources. While you're exploring your education, take your time. When you find potential schools that you reach out to, obtain that training outline and compare it to other schools. Look to see what they're teaching. Does one program have more of the curriculum you were hoping for than another? Think like an employer in your career field. If you had to hire yourself to complete a job, will your training program prepare you adequately? Find out what the school's accreditation is. Just because the school says they're accredited doesn't always mean that it's the right accreditation for you. So if you have no clue how to research accreditation, please reach out to the SECO team so we can help with this. The last thing you want to do is to complete a training program that limits your future and your opportunities in the future. So again, accreditation is huge, and yes, school is expensive, but you might wanna think of it as an investment to achieve your goals. Remember, your repayment plan, excuse me, your repayment plan can include your new income and it might not look as scary at the end of your training as it does at the beginning. There are a lot of funding sources that you can explore as well, one being the My Career Advancement Account, and this is through the SECO program. It is a $4,000 scholarship awarded to eligible military spouses. There are other scholarships, grants, and loans that are available and can be explored to reduce your out-of-pocket expense. Again, think big to achieve big. Also, if you have a lot going on and spending time on campus isn't going to happen, or maybe you have a PCS move coming up, consider programs that have online options. Believe me, I am now a retired military spouse, but in the day, I attended five different schools before I had my bachelor's degree. Now that was a long time ago and online education has become readily available since then. So you have some amazing options. Take advantage of them. If you do have to transfer, make sure that your school's program is one that's easily transferable to other schools. So check this out ahead of time. As a military spouse, you may have many different resources. We're just mentioning a few today and some of these include funding sources to support your dreams. The IT field is pretty amazing. If you are interested, take time to research and explore all of your options and become part of an industry that's growing and offers a higher median pay than most. It's really amazing. So I have one last question for all of you. We've covered a great deal of information today and I'm trusting that this is giving you resources to begin moving forward in your career field. So how many of you feel more confident now than at the beginning of this session when it comes to
researching a potential career in information technology? If you can give me some hands, I'd love to see
that. You can use that status pod. Yay. I know you can't necessarily see what some of the others attending
are saying, but I'm seeing some hands come up. So this is really good. I love to see that. Thank you for that.
If you still have questions, remember, our SECO team can provide answers. So with that being said, several
times throughout today's presentation, I've invited you to work with a career coach such as myself and I
can't stress enough how much the SECO program and our career coaches can help. Please don't hesitate to
press the help button by contacting our SECO team. We have an entire coaching package dedicated to
information technology and we can help with career exploration, finding training and degree programs,
and even finding employment. So this includes working together and developing that professional
portfolio, amongst many other services that we can provide. So please give us a call to connect with a
career coach. We are here to assist. Well it has been my pleasure sharing this information with you today. I
trust that you now have some resources and foundation knowledge to help with finding the next up into a
career in information technology. At this time, I'm gonna go ahead and take any questions you might have.
Please feel free to use the chat pod to start tossing questions my way.

[Eddy]
Thanks so much, Julie. We've got a couple questions there. I'm gonna throw one to you and then I'll
answer one. The first one is from Annette and she asked this a couple times. How can we connect with
career mentors from our desired fields? Can a career coach help us with that?

[Julie]
Absolutely, we can certainly help you with that. There's a lot of things that as career coaches, tools that we
like to use. For one, I mentioned the Military Spouse eMentor program. This is a great way to connect with
spouses and the neat thing is they are military spouses. So they've lived your lifestyle. They understand
some of the challenges that are unique to it. So they can tell you some of the benefits of being in the IT
field, and maybe even some of the challenges, but that helps you prepare in advance. Some of the other
tools that we like to work with you on includes things like LinkedIn. There's different groups that you can
gain access to and you can reach out for mentorship there. So those are just a couple examples as career
coaches. Based off your specific needs, we can help kind of guide you and point you in the right direction,
but there's lots of tools for that in establishing mentorship.

[Eddy]
That's right. So, again, it's one of those examples of you really don't know what a career coach can provide
for you until you engage with one of them. I had a couple related questions from Isabel and Michelle
regarding, if you're not eligible for My Career Advancement Account, MyCAA, what are the resources are
out there to help with funding your education? On the MySECO website, we have a scholarship finder. So
you can go and you can explore scholarships that are designated specifically for military family members. A
lot of different opportunities there. I also point out one of our great military spouse employment
partnership partners, which is the National Military Family Association. They have an amazing scholarship
program within the NMFA the spouses can apply for and also keeping your eyes out for different
opportunities. I put the link into the Institute for Veteran and Military Families at Syracuse University. They
have a program called Onward To Opportunity, which provides no-cost or extremely low-cost training for
military spouses, as well as transitioning service members, and they offer those in different locations
around the US at installations. So it's kinda keeping your ear to the ground, seeing what's out there. There
is a very popular program that has been offered to serve transition and service members and veterans by
Microsoft. It is an IT certification. I know, just talking with the folks at Microsoft, that they are going to be
piloting a similar program. It's called the MSSA. They're gonna be piloting that at Joint Base Lewis-
McChord. So if we happen to have any spouses here that are interested in IT and are at the Joint Base
Lewis-McChord or PCS into Joint Base Lewis-McChord this summer, there's another opportunity there.
We're pretty excited about that. The neat part about both the Onward To Opportunity and the Microsoft MSSA program is that they connect participants directly to employers looking for those certifications. There a lot of apprenticeship programs out there hiring our heroes with the US Chamber of Commerce, has a great apprenticeship program as well. Now the challenge with those is that they are not located everywhere. They're not national, but there's more and more emphasis being placed on these types of opportunities. So when you connect with one of our career coaches, they're gonna be able to point you in opportunities that I don't even know anything about. So, let's see. Julie, Catherine asked, is there a resource for internships or entry-level positions to help get experience?

[Julie]
There are. Sometimes you'll see when you're doing job search that different positions are offered specifically for internships and a great example of this, which happens to be really good for the IT field as well, with USAJOBS. This is federal employment and a lot of times they work with individuals coming brand-new into the career field and they will offer internship opportunities there. So usajobs.gov, that is for federal employment. They offer internship. With any training programs that you might be interested in, definitely check with them as well. It's really great to have a school kind of in your back pocket when you're looking for an internship and your school can a lot of times help facilitate getting that set up and they can kind of put a plan in place with a potential organization that you might be interested in for internship. I know that we have some information on our SECO Portal itself. When you visit the SECO Portal, in the top right-hand corner, there is a search feature. If you put in the keyword internship, it's going to give you some resources there that pull up. So please feel free to check that out. Kind of piggybacking off of what Eddy just mentioned to us all, if you use CareerOneStop and you have an idea of exactly what career field you're interested in, you can type that in as a career to explore and it will also show state-sponsored apprenticeship programs. So if you're having difficulty finding internships, apprenticeships might be a great way to go as well, and that can really help validate your experience, your education and put those skills forefront when you're looking for a full-time permanent employment.

[Eddy]
That's great, Julie. Thanks so much. What an excellent session. Lots of information to digest there, but again pointing to resources and opportunities. Speaking to resources and opportunities, through the SECO program, we've talked time and time again about the MySECO web platform and all the resources that we provide there, and we are working right now on a usability assessment where we need military spouses such as yourselves to explore the website and provide us feedback so that we can enhance and make that website and web platform much more useful to you. So I just put in the chat pod a link. It's http://apps.militaryonesource.mil/AMS. It gives you the instructions on how to assist us with that. If you've got a couple hours and you would like to provide us information on the website, we would love to have our participants from the VMSS give us some input. We are going to wrap this up, but as always, in the upper left corner, you can download the handouts or you can provide us with a, and Justin, yes, you do create a ticket. You can provide us with your email and we will get that to them. It looks like we're having a couple little technical things on error messages, but if you put your email into the chat pod or up in the trouble with downloads, we'll make sure you get all of your downloads there. Jessica, Justin will take a look at that issue with the link and see if we can get that fixed for you, but more to come on that. So that is gonna wrap up this session. We will enter the last session of the Virtual Military Spouse Symposium for 2018 in about 15 minutes. That session's gonna focus in on all the fun times you can have with a federal application. As a federal employee for the last 27 years, I have had my share of federal applications, but again, we've got our amazing career coaches to walk us through the process and give us some tips on making that federal application work for us and easing the stress in doing so. So I hope to see everybody here in an hour or, I'm sorry, in 15 minutes at the top of the hour. Julie, once again, thanks for all of that information.
[Julie]
Thank you, and all of you, good luck as you research your careers in IT.