

Cyber Veterans Alliance (CVA)

Overview

Cyber Veterans Alliance (CVA) is a veteran-led cyber security community designed to retain, develop, and connect cyber expertise from across the UK armed forces.

It fills a critical gap between transition programmes and long-term professional community: providing a space where veterans and serving personnel can continue to share real-world knowledge, support each other, and remain operationally relevant in cyber security.

CVA is not a training provider. It is a **practitioner network** built around lived experience, peer exchange, and defence-informed expertise.

Contents

Table of Contents

Overview	1
Contents	1
The Gap	2
What CVA Does.....	2
1. Knowledge & Practice Network.....	2
2. Community & Continuity	2
3. Defence-Informed Insight (Longer-term)	2
How It Operates	3
Structure.....	3
Core Activities	3
Regular Events.....	3
Online Community	3
Content & Knowledge Sharing	3
Growth Model	3
Phase 1 (0–3 months)	3
Phase 2 (3–6 months)	3
Phase 3 (6–12 months).....	3
Success Indicators.....	4
Long-Term Vision.....	4
Appendix A – Initial Notes	4

The Gap

Existing initiatives (e.g. TechVets) focus on:

- training
- certifications
- employment pathways

There is currently **no structured, veteran-led network** that:

- sustains cyber capability *after* transition
- enables ongoing knowledge exchange grounded in defence experience
- connects veterans into a trusted professional community

As a result:

- expertise becomes fragmented post-service
- informal networks remain siloed
- industry and government lack a clear route to access veteran cyber insight

What CVA Does

1. Knowledge & Practice Network

- Peer-led sharing of real-world cyber experience
- Talks, discussions, and practitioner-led sessions
- Informal and formal knowledge exchange

2. Community & Continuity

- Ongoing connection beyond military service
- Support through transition into civilian cyber roles
- A trusted environment built on shared background and standards

3. Defence-Informed Insight (Longer-term)

- Aggregation of veteran cyber experience
- Ability to contribute to best practice discussions
- Potential advisory and consultation capability as credibility develops

How It Operates

Structure

- Veteran-led and independently governed
- Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee
- Veteran-majority leadership with clear conflict-of-interest governance

Core Activities

Regular Events

- Small, high-quality sessions (10–20 attendees initially)
- Practitioner talks, roundtables, and discussions
- Focus on relevance over scale

Online Community

- LinkedIn group for visibility and outreach
- Discord for day-to-day interaction and knowledge exchange

Content & Knowledge Sharing

- Member-led blog / knowledge platform
- Short-form insights, lessons learned, and practical experience
- Builds a body of defence-informed cyber knowledge

Growth Model

Phase 1 (0–3 months)

- Launch online community (LinkedIn + Discord)
- Seed initial membership via existing networks
- Deliver first events

Phase 2 (3–6 months)

- Establish regular event cadence
- Grow to 50+ active members
- Begin structured knowledge sharing (talks, blog)

Phase 3 (6–12 months)

- Expand partnerships (industry, government, community)
- Develop reputation as a trusted practitioner network

- Explore early advisory / collaboration opportunities

Success Indicators

- 50+ active veteran members within 6 months
- Consistent event attendance (10–20+ participants)
- Regular member-led contributions (talks, blogs, discussions)
- High engagement (active participation, not passive membership)
- Early recognition from industry and public sector partners

Long-Term Vision

CVA becomes the **go-to network for veteran cyber practitioners** in the UK.

Over time, it may evolve into:

- a recognised source of defence-informed cyber insight
- a bridge between veterans, industry, and government
- a platform enabling collaboration, talent visibility, and knowledge exchange

If demand supports it, this could expand into a dedicated digital platform tailored to defence and veteran cyber professionals.

Appendix A – Initial Notes

This is Cyber Veterans Alliance (CVA)

Non-profit community for veterans & serving armed forces in cyber.

(Fills the gap – TechVets does training-to-jobs, but no ongoing network for knowledge-sharing + defence expertise.)

What

- Network organically, share real-world technical knowledge, insights & opportunities
- Support each other through military-to-civilian transition
- Become the hub of defence expertise: MOD, NCSC, government & industry come to us for best-practice advice, consultations & veteran talent

Where

- Main base: West Midlands Cyber Hub (Millennium Point) – seamless with your backing
- Online: LinkedIn group + Discord for daily chats
- Bigger events: Eagle Labs possible, but careful with Hub 8 (keep clear of heavy WMCH influence so it stays our independent veteran-led space)

Who

You, me & Andrew leading it

Henry Annafi (Veteran.UK networks) + Ben Gallagher (UKSF Signals / Invictus athlete) for early momentum & outreach

Legal

Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee

(Quick & cheap to set up, everything locked for community benefit, flexible for events/sponsorships/consultancy – lighter than full charity but still credible for MOD/NCSC work)

How

- Use our networks (Henry + Ben) to build fast
- Launch/fundraising event tied to Bosnia or Bust Veterans Honour Rally 2026 (keep our share <50% to follow their rules)
- Start small: free/low-cost regular events at the Hub, online group live straight away

Success

- 50+ active veteran members in first 6 months
- Regular events at Hub with 10–20+ turnout
- Simple member blog platform (app/site) live for sharing knowledge
- Becomes the go-to hub that MOD/NCSC & defence primes actually consult for best practice

Long-term vision

Build a dedicated app – essentially a LinkedIn purely for cyber security in MOD/defence.

Recruitment opportunities, talent matching, and a secure hub where defence organisations, MOD, CISOs and cyber professionals meet and collaborate.

(Rather important right now given recent events – this could be a game-changer for veteran talent pipelines.)