You can get more information about CAAs by going online to www.caa.milspouse.org or by contacting your Family Support Center or the Voluntary Education Center at your military installation.
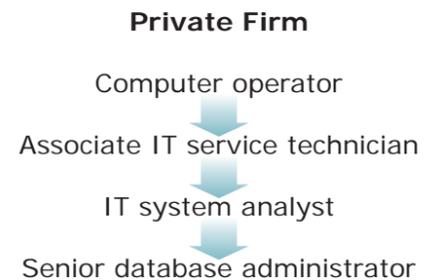
Prospects for Advancement

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, IT-related jobs are expected to be among the fastest and largest growing jobs in the economy. Many employers provide special training programs in the workplace to help employees train and upgrade their IT skills and certifications. The IT field is heavily dependent on continuous skill development because of the rapid development of new products and services. Workers who learn new computer applications readily can advance to increasingly more difficult IT technical levels or become supervisors of others. An example of a career path that starts with an entry-level job in a private firm and advances to a high level of IT skill includes:

Private Firm

Computer operator

Associate IT service technician

IT system analyst

Senior database administrator

More Information

For more information about careers in IT:

◆ Check online at www.careervoyages.gov or www.caa.milspouse.org;

◆ Contact the Voluntary Education Center or Family Support Center at your military installation;

◆ Contact the Military OneSource Spouse Education and Career Counseling Support Center at www.militaryonesource.com or call 1–800–342–9647; or

◆ Contact your local U.S. Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center at 1–877–US2–JOBS or www.service locator.org.

Information Technology Careers for Military Spouses

Career Advancement Accounts

Launching Careers That Go Where You Go

CAA.MILSpouse.org

Information Technology in the Workplace

Information technology (IT) is simply the use of computers to do work that was once done by people or by people using other kinds of equipment. The most common application of IT is the personal computer, which has now replaced the typewriter as a means of producing printed documents and sending correspondence (e-mail). Just as computers are now a normal part of everyday life, they are also a normal part of all industries, businesses, and Government agencies; therefore, credentials in the IT field give military spouses the most choice in workplace settings and locations.

Computer proficiency has become an essential skill for workers in all fields, but advanced skill levels are essential to develop, administer, and integrate computer technology to support business and industry functions. IT jobs typically require 2-year or 4-year degrees and are in high

demand. Jobs requiring less education (in the form of certificates) are also plentiful, particularly among small businesses. Ninety-two percent of all IT workers are in non-IT companies, predominantly small businesses.

If you enjoy working on a computer and have good problem-solving skills, you may be well suited for a career in IT. In addition, having good writing skills and the ability to work well with others can help you in an IT job. With many options for continually upgrading your IT skills, you could qualify for an entry-level job with minimal training and have opportunities to upgrade your IT skills no

matter where you are located. IT courses are offered at every community college.

Examples of Careers in the Information Technology Industry

There are many jobs in the IT field that require fewer than 4 years of college. The table at right provides examples of high-growth IT occupations that do not require a 4-year degree, but do require a credential.

Choosing the right career is a balance of interest, training investment, and earnings. For more information on IT occupations, go online to www.careervoyages.gov and click on "Information Technology" in the menu along the left side.

Training Funds Through Career Advancement Accounts (CAAs)

A CAA for as much as $3,000 a year for 2 years will pay expenses related to training that earns a degree or credential in an IT occupation. Completion of formal

Careers in Information Technology	
Careers	**Average Hourly Rate**
Computer support specialists	$12–$32
Industrial engineering technicians	$15–$38
Computer specialists	$17–$50
Database administrators	$18–$50
Network and data communications analysts	$18–$49

training is the best way to get started and to add credentials that keep you current with changes in the IT field.

Training institutions also will assist students with obtaining certificates, credentials, or licenses. These certificates and licenses are usually recognized from one State to another. Training is available through:

◆ Private training institutions;

◆ Community colleges; and

◆ Vocational-technical schools.