

The NICE framework has seven categories that group common roles within the cybersecurity workforce. After twenty-one years in the military, I have experience in four of the seven categories. Operate and maintain, oversee and govern, protect and defend as well as securely provision. My roles within each covered several specialty areas in each category. Initially as a systems administrator and technical support ranging from customer service to systems analysis within operate and maintain to the role a Senior Information Systems Security Manager (DoD, 2023), encompassing elements of oversee and govern, protect and defend and securely provision. With that in mind, there are only two areas I'm interested in continuing to refine or expand outside my wheelhouse. That's oversee and govern and investigate. My intention is to seek a CISO role within an organization. A secondary goal would be to acquire the certifications and tools necessary to work in pen testing and or digital forensics. However, at this point, I'm focusing on oversee and govern since it's something I have experience in and can readily step into a role without much adjustment. I can say with conviction that the category that least appeals to me is operate and maintain. I spent almost a decade working with military information systems, fixing issues brought on by poor system design and management issues and have no desire to bang my head against the problems that they cause. I have a lot of respect for those within that role, because I know just how difficult it can be without effective leadership managing executive expectations. Either due to a lack of understanding or outright misinformation directing policy.

References

Information Systems Security manager. DoD Cyber Exchange. (2023, February 22).
<https://public.cyber.mil/dcwf-work-role/information-systems-security-manager/>