Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is intended to provide an overview of Code Platoon's training program.

Code Platoon (codeplatoon.org), an award winning non-profit training academy for veterans, active duty service members, and military spouses, offers a 14 week, full-time training program that prepares our students to become professional software developers.

Our training program operates in compliance with the DoD eligibility criteria, provided in the DoD instruction. We are approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education Private Business Vocational Schools (https://www.ibhe.org/pbvsApprovedDir.aspx), by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, and by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do).

Our program is approved to accept the GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation benefits in Illinois. Our EIN/Federal Tax ID number is 47-2499578.

Our program consists of three cohorts per year, with each session running 14 weeks. We offer an in-person option, with classes held in Chicago, IL. Concurrently, we offer a live remote option for students located outside of Chicago. Students participating in the live remote option are required to participate in lectures and projects in real time and alongside our in-person classes. Remote students must have a reliable internet connection and a computer to successfully participate. Classes are conducted from 9am to 5:30pm, CST, Monday through Friday. Attendance in our program is mandatory, and we make our attendance records available to any stakeholders who are interested in the success of a particular student.

Tuition is $13,000. However, we are a mission-driven nonprofit and are committed to lowering the barriers of entry into a career in software development for military personnel. One of the ways we do this is through our generous scholarship program. Service members who are approved to participate in our live remote program through Skillbridge will receive a full tuition scholarship and will not be required to pay anything. Students who elect to attend our in-person program in Chicago are eligible to use their GI Bill and/or apply for up to $10,000 in scholarships. Our admissions team works closely with each student, ensuring they can focus on the rigors of our program and not the cost.

Our curriculum prepares our graduates to become professional web developers. A high level overview of our curriculum can be found here

(https://www.codeplatoon.org/the-program/course-curriculum/#top), and greater detail can be found here (https://www.codeplatoon.org/the-program/course-curriculum/#toggle-id-15). We are happy to share a link to our daily lesson plans upon request. Most sophisticated web applications can be thought of being composed of two parts: the front-end, and the back-end. The front-end of the stack revolves around what the end user sees, which is the web page. HTML, CSS, and Javascript are some of the important technologies which are used to build and manipulate web pages. We teach React.js, a very powerful Javascript library for working on the front-end. The back-end of the stack is where data gets stored, manipulated, and analyzed. Our tools-of-the-trade for backend development are Python or Ruby and SQL. Based on feedback from our extensive connections in the technology field, we know this carefully curated curriculum will allow graduates of Code Platoon to be prepared for a career in software development.

We also have an extensive career preparation component (https://www.codeplatoon.org/the-program/course-curriculum/#toggle-id-9) to our program. Our students are taught how to build an online presence and resume, in particular on LinkedIn and Github. They will go through several resume preparation workshops, often working closely with mentors currently working in the technology field. Throughout Code Platoon, our students have opportunities to prepare for finding their first job after graduation. We partner with local technology companies to host our students and provide real time feedback through mock behavioral, technical, and whiteboard interviews. The focus on these soft skills allows a Code Platoon graduate to stand out in any interview they have. Code Platoon alumni are prepared to work as junior software developers. Our outcomes are shown here (https://www.codeplatoon.org/code-platoon-graduate-outcomes-report-august-2018/). We are most proud to share that 6 months after graduation, over 70% of our alumni are employed in software development, with a median salary of $65,000.

Graduates from our program will receive a Code Platoon Certificate recognizing the completion of our program. Code Platoon is also a certified Amazon Web Services (AWS) training academy. Our instructors include AWS as part of our curriculum allowing our students to be prepared to pass the AWS Cloud Practitioner certification; testing for this certification is included in our curriculum. This certification is becoming increasingly important in software development and will increase the job prospects for our graduates.

In addition, Amanda Slosson (amanda.slosson@navy.mil), is the Regional Transition Assistance Program (TAP)/SkillBridge Coordinator, and is a Navy POC for command consultation.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions, or provide any further information.

Respectfully,

Rod Levy

Executive Director, Code Platoon