

Certification *Profile*



Charles Baxter, PSP, is the chair of the ASIS International North Texas Chapter, providing encouragement and support to more than 580 chapter members. “As new members join, I ensure that they are contacted, welcomed, and provided links

to the chapter Web site and the contact information for each member of the executive board and chapter committees,” he says.

Baxter came to his career in security management after 15 years as a police officer in Southern California. One night, he recalls, he was moonlighting—providing armed security at a U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster center after a large earthquake. “During a graveyard shift, I redesigned the center to improve flow and enhance security. I failed to seek permission in advance of this undertaking but was able to convince officials that my enhancement made more sense. Expecting to get fired, I was instead promoted into a supervisory role and sent off to make similar changes to 13 other locations. I was then supervising several hundred security officers and off-duty police officers and never looked back.”

Law enforcement was rewarding, Baxter says, but there were some frustrations working in what he describes as a reactive environment. “My career in security management has enabled me to be more proactive,” Baxter says.

In 1993, Baxter joined ASIS. “Chris Wright, CPP, was a great help and I am forever indebted to her for mentoring me during that time of transition,” he says. “What I learned about ASIS membership right away is that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it—whether

it is the outstanding training, the certification programs, or the opportunity to network with other professionals. I relish my ASIS affiliation.”

Baxter served in several leadership positions, becoming chair of the Orange County Chapter in 1997. “That was quite a year,” he recalls. “The ASIS president was James Van Houten, CPP, and he was a member of the Orange County Chapter. [The current] ASIS President-elect Raymond T. O’Hara, CPP, was serving as the president of the ASIS Professional Certification Board that year, and he was also a member of the Orange County Chapter.”

Baxter moved to Texas in 1998. During that time, he owned and managed rental properties, performed security consulting services, and served two terms as a municipal court judge. In 2004, he was hired by Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., headquartered in Dallas. He served as the director of safety and physical security until Xerox purchased ACS earlier this year.

Baxter earned his Physical Security Professional® (PSP) designation in 2006. “My manager at ACS had a number of certifications, including his CPP,” Baxter says. “Since my initial role at ACS revolved primarily around physical security, especially design, system, and personnel management, I decided to pursue the PSP.”

Baxter is a big believer in the value of certification. “My PSP designation is a clear indication of my knowledge in the area of physical security and my commitment to the profession. It is recognized by my contemporaries and respected by clients and auditors,” he states.

—*Profile by Vicki Moeser, former ASIS public relations manager*