



Certification *Profile*

Not everything that happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Last September, U.S. Army Col.

Keith Blowe, CPP, at-

tended the ASIS 53rd Annual International Annual Seminar and Exhibits in Las Vegas. There, he says, he was “absolutely amazed at the high quality of the lectures, workshops, and professionals I met.” It was in Las Vegas that Blowe decided to become an ASIS member and pursue his CPP certification. Since then, he has been enthusiastic about spreading the word to other military security professionals.

Blowe is based at the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Headquarters Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) in Fort Monroe, Virginia. As the chief law enforcement and force protection manager/advisor to the commanding general of an Army command, which consists of 16 affiliated military installations across the United States, Blowe has direct oversight of the mission assurance/force protection program elements, including antiterrorism (AT), AT/criminal intelligence, physical security, law enforcement, some parts of the chemical surety program, and the military working dog program.

Blowe says that he has more than 27 years of active duty law enforcement and security experience “with lots of training, but no certification that indicates a professional understanding of industry standards.” After learning about the certification program at the Seminar and Exhibits, “The importance of obtaining certification became very clear,” he notes.

Blowe passed the CPP exam in February

2008. “The experience showed me that my staff also needed to move to the next level of proficiency,” he says. Although current procedures do not allow for the Army to pay for membership and certification fees in private organizations such as ASIS, Blowe explains that he is authorized to pay for civilian training related to his staff’s specific fields of expertise.

To maximize these limited training dollars, Blowe set up what the military refers to as a mobile training team (MTT). “We contracted with Darryl Beard, CPP, to come to our location and conduct a week-end CPP exam preparation session,” Blowe explains. “The MTT provided my organization with a significant cost savings, and I was able to train 13 individuals.” Five of the 13 have since been certified as CPPs, and four more are scheduled to take the test shortly. Blowe’s goal is to sponsor at least two people a year from TRADOC to obtain CPP or PSP certification.

Blowe will remain on active duty until the end of the year. Until then, he will continue to provide other military personnel interested in the ASIS certification process with firsthand knowledge of the process. For example, at an annual force protection workshop for all subordinate commands in March, Blowe spoke to a select group of workshop attendees about certification’s benefits. “I had one message,” he says. “I told them how important it was for our organization and its security professionals to move to the next level of professionalism by actively seeking security certification in accordance with industry standards.”

—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager