



Certification *Profile*

Derk J. Boss, CPP, is not your average security professional. As director of surveillance at Casino Aztar in Evansville, Indiana, Boss possesses a high degree of expertise in card counting and sly techniques

employed by what the casino world terms “advantage players.” Since 1980 when he accepted an entry-level position at a casino in Lake Tahoe, his keen powers of observation and analysis have put him on track for success in the demanding world of gaming industry security.

A typical day for Boss entails reviewing logs and reports, coordinating with senior executives and regulators on issues and problems, and planning and preparing staff operations. Boss counts his acceptance of a Team of the Year Award among his most memorable moments on the job. It was unusual for security to get this award “[o]ut of all of the departments on the property, and as one that is normally feared and looked at as ‘Big Brother,’” noted Boss. “This award was a testimony to our positive approach to security and a reflection of the support our team provided and the spirit of cooperation we’d instilled across the organization,” he adds.

Boss credits his ASIS membership with providing him with the required tools of the security trade. “Once I understood [that] the role of surveillance in a casino is a security function, I was able to readily apply at work what I had

learned from reading *Security Management* and attending chapter presentations,” observes Boss.

The networking aspects of ASIS membership have also been of great value to Boss since he joined ASIS in 1993. “I would say, without reservation, that my ASIS membership has helped me achieve senior leadership positions in security management.”

In 1998, Boss earned his Certified Protection Professional® (CPP). Boss recalls knowing only two certified practitioners in the gaming industry who held ASIS board certification at the time. He was inspired by these peers, as both were highly respected. The result of passing the examination was just what he hoped. “Certification gave me instant respect,” states Boss.

The benefits of ASIS board certification reach far beyond the individual certificant, Boss explains. Once he learned the appropriate protocols and techniques, he was in a position to protect his property more effectively, which led to a significant reduction in loss. “As I was promoted to higher positions and given more responsibilities, I was able to impact the company on a broader scale, and changed our security operations for the better,” he states.

Boss, who thrives on the challenges he faces each day, says that he highly recommends security management as a career choice.

By Leigh A. McGuire, ASIS public relations manager