



Certification *Profile*

During his 29-year career as a U.S. Navy SEAL, **Thomas G. Moser, CPP, PSP**, trained for, planned, and participated in operations that infiltrated enemy defenses. He conducted clandestine tactical surveillance and bolstered antiterror-

ism awareness and security response at naval installations worldwide. Despite this world-class security experience, when Moser retired from active duty in 1997 and transitioned into the private sector, he felt at a disadvantage.

“Although I saw my SEAL experience as relevant, the private sector did not really appreciate or understand how it related to their security concerns,” says Moser. “I also was not that well versed in how the private sector defined and viewed security and protective measures.”

Moser—having already earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a master’s in business administration—began exploring professional certification through ASIS International, and in July 2003, he was one of the first individuals awarded the Physical Security Professional® (PSP) credential. He immediately began preparing for the Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) certification exam, and three months later, in October 2003, was awarded that designation, too.

“Preparing for ASIS certification provided me with security education and insight into the commercial sector that I was not exposed to during military service,” Moser states. “The information and lexicon I learned during certification

allowed me to better explain to the private sector that a terrorist threat can be viewed as a business peril and that protective measures are a means to prevent and reduce loss. Certification helped ‘civilianize’ my military vocabulary.”

Now a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Advisor (PSA) assigned to South Carolina, Moser works with in-state homeland security advisors to identify, catalog, and protect critical infrastructure. In this role, Moser is responsible for visiting facilities across South Carolina and meeting with a wide variety of managers and security officers—an initiative in which his certifications often prove beneficial.

“I’ve found that telling someone you are a DHS security specialist is not unlike telling someone you’re a Navy SEAL. Sooner or later, they’ll want to see some proof,” says Moser. “ASIS certification serves as my professional security credential and validates my presence on-site.”

Moser, who has been an ASIS member since 2003, estimates that only about 25 percent of the 75 current DHS PSAs hold ASIS certifications, but he says that the appeal of the credentials is growing as the PSA program itself expands.

“DHS encourages PSAs to become certified, and many of my colleagues are currently in process for certification,” he states. “The ASIS certifications provide an opportunity to stay current in security technology, trends, practices, and policies. There is no equal resource available to those of us in the security profession.”

—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager