



CPP Profile

Kevin Peterson, CPP, attributes his introduction to the security industry to an assignment he was given in

the military more than 25 years ago.

"I was a brand new second lieutenant in the Air Force, and was tasked to develop an Operations Security (OPSEC) program for the Electronics Systems Division," says Peterson.

Despite "falling in" to the security business all those years ago, Peterson really likes what he does. "I enjoy working in an industry that is not stagnant and always offers new challenges and potential solutions," he explains.

Peterson is currently principal consultant for Innovative Protection Solutions, LLC—a consulting firm he started in 1995 as a part-time venture and established as a full-time practice in 2000. He conducts security risk assessments focusing primarily on information protection and security management. In addition, he performs security market research and supports clients' security education and training initiatives.

Having earned his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential in May 1995, Peterson stresses the importance of such certification in his own business and others.

"The CPP serves as a great marketing tool and adds credibility to my professional background, but one of the biggest advantages [of the certification] is the network of ASIS certified colleagues around the world that I can call on when I need advice, guidance, or assistance," says Peterson. "I believe that any consultant—in any field—should have a reputable professional certification. It helps distinguish

people and organizations that value professional development and commitment."

Peterson says his CPP certification also helped him acquire a post 10 years ago as an adjunct faculty member in Webster University's Business and Organizational Security Management graduate program, where he continues to teach today.

"One of the most rewarding things to me is to have former students tell me how they've applied what they learned in the Webster program to real-world situations. It's also great to see them getting involved in ASIS," said Peterson. "One of my former students—an active duty military member—in very short order completed his master's degree, attained his CPP, was elected chairman of the largest ASIS chapter, and was selected for promotion to chief master sergeant."

Peterson himself is a past chapter chairman, currently serves as an ASIS regional vice president (RVP), and is active on two ASIS councils: the Information Asset Protection Council and the Council on Academic Programs in Colleges and Universities. In addition, Peterson coordinates the CPP Review Course for the National Capital Chapter and recommends certification for his security industry colleagues.

"Certification shows businesses, government agencies, and communities that the security field is a profession, thereby enhancing the image of both individuals and service providers," Peterson states. "As an RVP, it is refreshing to see many chapters, even small to medium-sized ones, strongly supporting ASIS certification programs." ■

—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager