

William P. Barber, PCI, and William J. Valentine, PCI, are among noted company. The two corporate security investigators for Sunoco Oil are among the inaugural group of Professional Certified Investigators (PCIs) certified by ASIS International. And both have high praise for the PCI as an indicator of professionalism. "It makes you stand out from your peers," says Valentine. "And it shows that at Sunoco, we're a group of pros."

Barber. Barber is based in Syracuse, New York, but works a territory that ranges "from Buffalo to Boston and Rhode Island to Augusta, Maine," he states.

The career course that took Barber to Sunoco began with 21 years of service with the East Syracuse Police Department, where he retired as supervisory investigator. His entrée into private security was as a loss prevention senior officer with JC Penney.

Barber was hired by Sunoco two years ago and says he was almost immediately drawn into ASIS. "I joined ASIS in Philadelphia in 2002," Barber explains. That was at the urging of his supervisor at Sunoco, Security Manager Robert Moraca, CPP. The ASIS 48th Annual Seminar and Exhibits then made him both enthusiastic and inspired about the Society. "It all fit like a glove, and I'm glad it did," he states.



Barber learned about the PCI designation from ASIS literature. He reviewed the certification's reading list with the eye of an investigator. "I've been doing this all my life, since I was 21 years old," he explains. Barber says he found the texts to be a sound representation of the field's body of knowledge and decided to sign up for the first PCI exam that would be given in July 2003 in Washington, D.C.

Barber studied all the recommended texts during the three-month runup to the exam. In doing so, he says he "picked up on new concepts and also refreshed a lot of knowledge that had become stale since retirement." By July, he felt armed and ready to become a PCI.

Valentine. Based in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, region, Valentine joined Sunoco in June 2000. Previously, he was a probation/parole officer for the State of Florida, Department of Corrections, and a USF police officer. After leaving public law enforcement, Valentine worked for Mellon Financial Service's corporate crimes investigations group before coming to Sunoco.

Like Barber, Valentine was encouraged to join the Society by Moraca. "He's been extremely influential [with Sunoco security employees] regarding it," he states. For Valentine, networking with other ASIS members is invaluable. "If I need help, all I have to do is

go to the directory and there are members all over the country and the world who can help." He also praises the Society's educational programming, including the Protection of Assets (APC) I and II courses, which he has completed.



To prepare for the PCI exam, Valentine studied the ten reference books for "two or three hours a night for a couple weeks," he says. Despite his preparation, he wasn't

sure he'd passed. However, both Valentine and Barber did pass; they received word of their success in October.

"I thought the exam was excellent and covered the reference material well," says Barber. "Especially cybercrime—I was impressed with the way it was prominent in the reading list and in the test" as befits an increasingly important investigative area.

Valentine says that his success has spurred him to begin study for the Certified Protection Professional examination, which he hopes to take in 2005.

Both men agree that earning the PCI has given their careers at Sunoco a bounce. "When I went to the APC I course, lots of people were asking about it. It lends you distinction," Valentine says. "I would recommend it to everyone who is in this field." ■

—By Ann Longmore-Etheridge, associate editor of Security Management