



Certification *Profile*

After spending nearly three decades practicing law enforcement in the government sector, some people might

expect **Richard E. Widup, Jr., CPP**, to know everything there is to know about security.

Not so, according to Widup, who says that despite his 27 years of experience in law enforcement, he did not know enough about the security industry to be as effective as he wanted to be. For this reason, he pursued his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential from ASIS International shortly after entering the private security industry in 2001.

“I knew this certification would provide me with the resources that I would need in the future,” says Widup, adding that the certification process itself provides security professionals with the means to accomplish most tasks. “I also viewed this certification as a significant ‘plus’ for future employment purposes. Make no mistake about it, the CPP designation means a lot on your résumé.”

Widup—who also holds a Master’s

Degree in Public Administration and a Certified Fraud Examiner credential issued by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners—received his CPP in 2003.

“One of the most interesting things that I found out as I went through the CPP process is that the certification will help you identify those subject-matter areas where you are not as well-versed,” says Widup. “When you attain this certification, you can be proud of the fact that you’ve worked very hard to become the professional you want to be.”

Widup began his career in the U.S. Army, and spent 20 years in the Military Police Corps before retiring from the service in 1994 and taking a position as a special agent with the FDA Office of Criminal Investigations. He served in this role for another seven years before transitioning into the private security sector, lured by what he says he saw as “an industry diverse in assignments, keen on innovation, demanding in results yet rich with rewards.”

He worked for four years as part of Pfizer’s Global Security team—including a stint as director for the Americas Region—before moving to

Purdue Pharma in 2005, where he now serves as the senior director for security operations.

In his present position, Widup is responsible for a wide array of security services, including developing and implementing policies on product integrity matters, initiating and resolving investigations, and conducting executive protection missions.

“My certification provided me with a knowledge base to approach almost any task with an appreciation for all aspects of working in this profession. Whether it is a better understanding of physical security principles, business ethics, or business management, the CPP has proven time and again to be invaluable in today’s ever-changing security environment,” he says. “Besides the obvious advantage that this certification helps me—which in turn helps my company—the certification also allows me the opportunity to share what I have learned with my peers, which fosters an exchange of ideas and leads to innovative approaches to resolve challenges that we face everyday.”

—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager