



ASIS INTERNATIONAL OCTOBER 2008 CERTIFICATION NEWSLETTER

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CPP 30 Years Ago ... Saluting the First Test Takers

Ever wondered what it would have been like to take the Certified Protection Professional (CPP) exam 30 years ago and if candidates back then had similar experiences as those currently preparing for the test? During the 2008 Annual Seminar in Atlanta, the certification staff was fortunate to briefly chat with William H. Nesbitt, CPP, who obtained his designation in 1978. Nesbitt helped to shed some light and his perspective on candidates' expectations about certification three decades ago.

Prior to 1978, a grandfather clause had enabled several hundred professionals, who had met stringent qualifications, to become certified. However, what makes Nesbitt unique is that he was not grandfathered into the program during its initial stage, but was in fact among one of the first CPPs to actually sit for and pass the exam in Los Angeles, CA – an accomplishment of which he is very proud.

Back then, CPP reference materials consisted of two volumes of the Protection of Assets (POA) Manual. Currently the POA Manual is a four-volume compilation of 3,534 pages of central security reference materials that is constantly updated and used in conjunction with five other reference materials.

In addition, a Job Analysis (Role Delineation Study) is conducted approximately every four to five years and is a vital process undertaken to ensure that the exam accurately reflects current job-related activities, competency, and professional standards. Nesbitt acknowledges the importance and impact of the analysis on the value of the designation and states that “the CPP certification program has grown and evolved with the passage of time. Attaining the CPP designation is still difficult, yet the integrity of the process has allowed the CPP designation to gain worldwide respect and validity.”

We all felt a sense of pride having been among the first to achieve certification through the exam process.

William H. Nesbitt, CPP

Today, those who obtain an ASIS certification have the advantage of knowing that the certification process is of world-class quality as the programs have received the highly coveted worldwide recognition offered by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and based on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The standard is formerly known as ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024. The CPP exam is also now administered in over 30 locations outside Canada and the United States and is accepted as the international standard of competency.

Demographic data collected from exam participants reveals that candidates attribute part of their success to the investment of time in exam preparation and use of some form of study group support. Nesbitt too explained that his situation was similar as “it was difficult to know how to best prepare for the exam.” He recalls attending an ASIS workshop, which in retrospect he found to be very helpful. He also felt that when he first took the test, it was hard and he was skeptical about his success. Thankfully he passed!

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Overall, Nesbitt states that his certification has provided him “with an objective criterion that can be used as a standard of excellence.” While speaking with him, you instantly realize that he is passionate about his profession and it is his driving force. When asked about comments for the future he explained that he would like to see some criteria developed for Lifetime CPP recipients that can be of benefit for those who decide not to retire.

The PCB thanks Nesbitt for contributing to this article and salutes him and the other 39 security professionals who were the first to become CPPs through examination. Nesbitt is the President of Security Management Services International, Inc. (SMSI Inc.) – a security and forensic consultancy business based in California. He is presently serving on the Healthcare Security Council and in the past has served on the Physical Security Council and the Crime Prevention & Loss Control Council (the latter two were known as Standing Committees at the time), each in excess of 10 years.

CPP Exam Then & Now ...		
	1978	2008
Test Locations	2	30+
No. of Exam Candidates	52	1200 *
No. of CPPs as of October 2008		5,948

*Projected Numbers

Survey for Upcoming Job Analysis

To ensure the certification examinations reflect current job-related activities, the Society is performing two job analyses this year for the CPP and PCI. A similar study for the PSP was undertaken in 2006 - 2007. The process involves using subject matter experts to assist our Professional Testing Service (PES) in developing a questionnaire about tasks and knowledge needed in practitioners' jobs.

The surveys were distributed to random samples of PCI and CPPs. The data collection on required tasks, knowledge and their importance will be used to update the PCI and CPP exams.

Important Recertification Information

Chapters have two options when reporting recertification credits:

Option 1 - Educational Attendance Form

An Educational Attendance form, provided by the Chapter to an attendee, can serve as proof of attendance or certification of completion. The attendee submits this information, along with their recertification form to the certification department.

Option 2 - Sign-in Sheet

A sign-in sheet can be prepared by the Chapter that lists attendees who attended their event. The Chapter submits the sign-in sheet to the certification department. Please note that this form is also translated into Spanish.

Educational Attendance Form and Sign-in Sheet are online at:

<http://www.asisonline.org/certification/chapteroptions.xml>

**Forms are for Chapter and
Program Sponsor Use Only!**

Certification Highlights

This section contains articles or interviews with ASIS volunteers.

Certification – Finding the Pathway to Support and Success...

For many pursuing an ASIS certification, one of the major challenges faced is preparing for the exam. Depending on the test candidate, there are various factors that can influence their exam process such as methods of study and commitment of time and resources. Another mutual concern expressed is the difficulty seeking out avenues of support or advice from others who have achieved a designation.

We recently spoke with Klas Nilsson, CPP, PSP, PCI, the certification liaison and exam contact for Sweden, who shared his goals and successes about first being a test candidate and then becoming a mentor and strong proponent for certification. Nilsson hopes that his shared insights can be beneficial for those that choose that advocate certification in their region.

[View pointers for Chapter Study Programs and other helpful tips on adjacent page.](#)

Nilsson explained that he had first heard of the CPP designation while attending a security management course in 2002. There were very few people in Sweden, at that time, who were CPPs or even knew of the certification. Nilsson also realized that there were limited options for guidance and support. He, therefore, took the mission upon himself to become certified, encourage others to follow in his footsteps and launch a certification review group in Sweden and surrounding areas.

On the Way to Success...

Nilsson admits that it was no walk in the park for him when he decided to start his certification process in 2003. He had to read technical terms and 6,050 pages of security reference materials in a foreign language (another hurdle for non-English speaking test candidates). Undergoing this challenging process was perhaps his inspiration for starting a CPP Study Group in 2004; he wanted to find a better way of learning and to pass this knowledge on. He was able to contact some ASIS members in Sweden and pull together 19 people to form a study group (roughly 8-9 individuals participated on a regular basis in the program). Then in September 2004, Nilsson sat for the international CPP exam and had great success; he found out seven weeks later that he was a CPP. His ambition did not stop there – he continued on to become the first triple certificant in Sweden achieving his designations in PSP in 2005 and PCI in 2006.

Another proud accomplishment is that the Swedish Chapter currently has 22 CPPs, 3 PSPs, and 2 PCIs (among these 2 hold 3 designations and 1 is a dual certificant). In addition, 50% of the Chapter's board officers hold one or more certification. Also impressive is that 9 out of 10 participants in the recent CPP Study Group have passed the CPP exam.

Nilsson is glad to have made many contacts and friends from his study groups. In fact, he states that one of them who also became a triple certificant in 2007, Per A. Lundkvist, CPP, PSP, PCI, has become his very good friend and they often compete with each other. Now they tease each other about having more letter combinations than can fit on their business cards.

Sharing the Success...

Known throughout his region as a strong proponent of certification, Nilsson has shared his review teaching methods with the neighboring countries of Finland and Denmark; these countries are now running study groups of their own. Test candidates from France and Bulgaria have even traveled to Sweden to take the exam. There is no slowing down for Nilsson – in October the new Swedish review program begins, in November he will be visiting Norway, and he is also invited to the new Estonian Chapter as a guest speaker. He jokingly states, "I'm currently writing my exam paper in Criminology. I wish I had more time. I have heard that there is only 24 hours a day, but if you skip lunch you'll get 25."

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Nilsson highlights some valuable pointers below for individuals and Chapters that wish to form successful support groups for individuals and Chapters:

Study Method

- Meet one afternoon (5-7 hours) every 3-4 weeks
- Concentrate on one topic at each meeting
- Conduct a simple test during the first meeting to estimate what areas each individual needs to focus on
- Create individual study plans and suggested reading
- Prepare self-studies from before each meeting
- Have in-depth lectures on each meeting, by both attendees and teacher
- Prepare a few questions to be answered on each topic to get feedback that the method is effective

Chapter Study Group

- Have lectures similar to Review Course - writing and explaining concepts on a white board combined with group discussions
- Provide individual assignments, compiling and summarizing different topics
- Grade individual written exams right away
- Encourage group discussions of some of the questions that most students found difficult
- Keep graded exams for analysis and compilation for an individual study plan and for future Study Group meetings

ASIS Chapter Activities

- Announce and recognize newly certified people at ASIS meetings
- Give new certificants an ASIS pin as a gift, at a small ceremony
- Add designations to name tags of certified members to give them recognize and at the same time provide encouragement to others
- Ensure that the CPP Study Group/ CPP exam is on the agenda for each board meeting
- Welcome and encourage neighbor chapters to your CPP Study Group and CPP exams
- Strive to find cost-effective methods to make it possible for ASIS members who are located around the country or in neighboring Chapters to join the CPP Study Group, online via Internet or comparable means.

The PCB thanks Nilsson for his continuous support of ASIS International certification programs and for contributions to this article. Nilsson became a member of ASIS in 2003 and is currently a Senior Security Advisor in Stockholm, Sweden.



“Different people have different professional security experience, attitude towards the preparation and time available for studies. Trying to find an appropriate level and method that matches the whole group is a continuous process.”

Klas Nilsson, CPP, PSP, PCI

Interested in Sharing your Ideas and News with Other ASIS Certificants?

We would love to hear from you! There is not better way to stay connected than by sharing your news and events with your colleagues. Details about your successful chapter program or events will reach the ASIS International certification community across the globe.

Articles selected must be relevant to the certification industry and be 100 words or less. Submit articles to abarton@asisonline.org and please remember to provide your contact information.

First Annual PCI Study Group in Canada

On October 7th, the ASIS International Toronto, Canada Chapter #193 announced the successful start of their first Annual PCI Study Group. This group is significant in that it is the first official PCI group run by a Canadian ASIS chapter. The group's opening night was attended by several ASIS International volunteers including Patrick Bishop, CPP, Professional Certification Board; Bill Bradshaw, CPP, Region L Vice President; and David Devine, CPP, Assistant Region L Vice President.

The PCI Study Group was organized by Jim Bradley, CPP, whose goal is to write the PCI exam at the end of the course along with the other attendees. Bradley is the Toronto Chapter's Education Committee Chairperson and works as the Investigations Manager for Profile Investigation, a full-service security and investigations company based in Toronto, Canada. The course will be run as a collaborative study where each attendee will be asked to research and present material to the group. Additionally, several guest speakers will be brought in to highlight key topics and add an experienced, professional perspective to the group. The group consists of 14 experienced investigators whose roles range from internal investigators for large corporations to private investigators for well-respected agencies. *Together, the group has almost 200 years of investigative experience!*



Thank You for a Great Seminar!



Visitors from across the globe met at the certification lounge to greet colleagues and exchange ideas. It was also the location for informal gatherings and an opportunity for certificants to speak with staff. The lounge provided an avenue to all who wanted to assist and share their knowledge on security related issues and trends. The PCB and certification staff are looking forward to seeing you all again in 2009.

Professional Certification Board

The Professional Certification Board is a group of fifteen certified professionals appointed by the President of ASIS to oversee and administer the certification programs.

Carla Naude, CPP, **President**
Darryl R. Branham, CPP, **Vice President**
Patrick C. Bishop, CPP
Edward P. De Lise, CPP
Christina M. S. Duffey, CPP
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Sheila D. Johnson, CPP, PSP
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