



Certification *Profile*

Bob Adkisson, CPP, PCI, PSP remembers the moment he decided to specialize in healthcare security. As an investigator at a hospital in Boston,

he became invested in a case involving the theft of a little girl's toy. "She was facing some difficult family medical circumstances," Adkisson says, "and the thought of someone stealing from her really affected me."

Though the item was relatively inexpensive, Adkisson goes on to note, "it was clear that she didn't want a replacement; she wanted her own property back."

Fortunately, they were able to find the thieves, get the toy back, and "place her property back into her hands. The look on her face was, frankly, the greatest reward I'd experienced in all my years of employment," Adkisson says. "I knew that I wanted to work in organizations with that level of commitment to the people it served."

Today, Adkisson is the director of safety and security at Milton Hospital in Milton, Massachusetts, a position he's held since early 2008. "My job is to improve patient care by helping the hospital staff meet an evolving range of safety and security expectations through advice, assistance, and diplomacy, while taking definitive ownership for the outcome of the entire process," he says.

"It is an extremely fluid environment. Fortunately, there are many excellent role models in the New England area's hospital industry to emulate. There is a very strong hospital presence in ASIS, and solutions to problems are rarely further away than a membership directory," he adds.

Adkisson first got involved in security in 1983, when he was assigned as a student

to the Army Counterintelligence Special Agent course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. "I concentrated on physical security, auditing, and investigations," he recalls. "I've been doing it ever since."

He says he's been fortunate to have a career with an incredible array of interesting opportunities. "I've managed everything from undercover operatives to formal security programs to large and small guard accounts to consulting services," he says. "I've worked in all corners of the industry, including nuclear programs, government, heavy manufacturing, production, distribution, armed couriers, precious metals, transportation, entertainment, investigations, and others. It's been an incredible journey so far, and I can't wait to see what happens next."

An ASIS International member since 1987, Adkisson is one of about 30 people who have all three ASIS certifications. He earned the Certified Protection Professional® designation in 1989. He earned the Professional Certified Investigator® and the Physical Security Professional® designations in the last decade.

"What motivated me to obtain the certifications was the realization that personally committing to knowing, understanding, and applying a basic body of knowledge universal to a practice group was an important key to professionalism," says Adkisson.

The certifications have definitely benefited his workplace, he concludes: "They help to serve as 'proof of competency' to other members of the staff and to regulating bodies and help buttress security, equipment, or investigative recommendations I may make."

—By Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager