

# CPP Profile

Randall Aragon, CPP

**R**andall Aragon, CPP, is the first active-duty police chief in the United States to have earned the Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designation.

Aragon was born in the tough “Hell’s Kitchen” section of New York City and raised in Brooklyn. He became a U.S. Army paratrooper at age 17, eventually going to Officer Candidate School and graduating at age 21 as a second lieutenant. At age 23, he served as a company commander in combat in Vietnam, with 326 soldiers under his command. “My military days are what started my interest in the field of security,” he recalls. His unit’s work dealt with IT and physical security, and Aragon developed special knowledge of intrusion detection systems.

After his discharge as a captain from the Army, Aragon moved to South Carolina where he worked for a sheriff’s department, later moving on to chief of police positions, concentrating on the protection of assets and physical security. In 2001, after relocating to Arkansas, he be-

came Conway’s chief of police and an adjunct professor, teaching management at the University of Central Arkansas.

“At a previous college I was teaching about private security and really getting interested in it,” he says. “So in early 2000 I decided to get my CPP. After the trauma of 9-11,” he says, he “realized that the CPP was exactly what I needed to see around corners, so I really hit the books.”

Aragon is quick to point out the exam’s thoroughness. “I put many hours a week into studying. I bought the online course and listened and viewed the CD about three times.” And, he adds, “I studied the *Protection of Assets* manual religiously.”

Today, Aragon promotes the CPP designation to law enforcement and security professionals. “The CPP is one of the most challenging programs I have undertaken,” he says. “I’m really proud of having earned it. ■

—Profile by Vicki Contavespi, former public relations manager



Aragon