

PSP Profile

David K. Bell, PSP

David K. Bell, PSP, is the assistant director for security and division chief for the Anti-Terrorism Division of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). A native of Tennessee, he has been active in the field of physical security for more than 24 years.

As impressive as his career are his certification goals. Bell obtained the Physical Security Professional (PSP) from ASIS in 2004, and he is currently working on obtaining his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designation.

Bell received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee, and his master's degree in social science, with a concentration in public administration, from Pacific Lutheran University. He got his start in law enforcement when he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps in 1980.

His military career spanned more than 21 years and included numerous assignments in the United States and overseas, including Somalia and South Korea. He has traveled to WMD stockpile locations and nuclear reactor sites to inspect security forces and procedures. Bell also served as the first director of public safety at an Army installation, where the police and fire departments along with the safety office were under his daily supervision.

Upon retirement as a lieutenant colonel in July 2001, Bell went to

work for the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for United States Attorneys as the physical security branch chief. Bell joined the DOC in 2003.

At the DOC, Bell was encouraged to pursue certification. After taking the initiative to research this avenue, he decided to go for it.

"Certification is often talked about among security managers at the DOC," he says. One of his mentors, Rich Yamamoto, CPP, CFE, who is the director, Office of Security at the DOC, challenged him to meet the certification standard.

By accepting and meeting this challenge, Bell says that he gained a sense of accomplishment, as well as recognition and respect from his colleagues.

As the assistant director for security and division chief at the DOC, Bell intends to be a progressive force by encouraging colleagues to pursue certification. "It's a plus and well worth it, especially for growth in unfamiliar security domains," he explains.

"One of the greatest benefits for me was exposure to some different intrusion detection system (IDS) sensors I had not worked with before." He admits, "I was surprised how much I benefited from ASIS certification even though I already have a lot of experience." ■

—Profile by Allison Barton-Kramer, ASIS certification manager



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