

Certification *Profile*



Times of crisis put any security practitioner's knowledge, skills, and experience to the test. For **Anthony N. Byers, CPP**, early professional training in emergency response and disaster recovery con-

firmed his calling to a career in security management. "I realized that I wanted to help ensure the safety of people through disasters and everyday life," says Byers, who began his career in 1988 as a security officer.

Today, Byers manages more than 125 personnel in his position as a branch manager for Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. His own experience as a security officer gives him firsthand insight into many of the challenges faced by the account managers, officers, and site supervisors he manages. "I empathize with the officers' challenges and needs," states Byers, "I appreciate having the opportunity to lead by example."

Declining budgets and workplace violence are among Byers' greatest challenges. He works closely with his customers to develop solutions to meet their security requirements in line with their fiscal limitations. The down economy, which has given way to increased layoffs, has created volatile work environments for some organizations. "I work with my customers to develop strategies for stress management."

Byers, who joined ASIS in 2003, credits the association's

training and certification with having advanced his career. "The value of training is immeasurable," states Byers. He believes the broad scope of ASIS resources and tools offer security practitioners the opportunity to increase awareness, build knowledge, and become a well-rounded professional. "The knowledge I have gained through ASIS guidance has distinguished me as a security professional with integrity."

In 2006, Byers earned his Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) designation. "I was inspired by seeing security leaders with ASIS board certification who had achieved stature within the industry," observed Byers. As with ASIS education, Byers believes board certification provides practitioners with hands-on knowledge of procedures and best practices that are recognized as the most advanced in the industry.

Now one of only five CPPs working for his company in their northern California region, Byers believes his certification makes him a better leader. His employer agrees and, in fact, promotes certification to their managers, supporting their exam preparation with work-study groups and online programs.

"You never know what each day will bring. I am enthusiastic about delivering service excellence and am confident knowing that ASIS training and certification has prepared me to meet any security challenge that I encounter."

Profile by Leigh A. McGuire, ASIS marketing manager