Certification *Profile*

Frank M. Carpency, CPP, PSP, is a registered professional engineer with degrees in electrical and electronics technology and electrical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and LaSalle University. He has more than 30 years experience in the security industry, having begun in the profession in 1975 designing security systems for nuclear power plants in 1975.

"My security background is technical rather than management or law enforcement oriented," says Carpency, adding that the mechanical aspects of his job inspired him to build his credibility in the industry. "I was a registered professional engineer providing security consulting, design, and engineering but felt I needed a certification recognized and respected by security professionals."

Carpency—an ASIS member for more than 26 years—obtained his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential in 1988. In 2005, Carpency earned the Physical Security Professional (PSP) designation from ASIS.

"Although I obtained a CPP to indicate that I was a knowledgeable security professional, I really needed a security certification that was more complementary to my technical background," says Carpency. "I was very excited when the PSP program was established, which provided a security certification for technical individuals in the design and engineering arena that concentrated on physical security applications rather than security management."

In his role as principal and chief engineer for Carpency and Associates, LLC, Carpency conducts physical security studies and audits and vulnerability assessments, provides recommendations for risk mitigation, designs systems, performs design reviews, lends technical support during security system installation, and generally considers himself an extension to his clients' security and engineering departments.

He also routinely sees the value of his certifications in performing these tasks. "Many requests for proposal have requirements that the key individuals hold a security certification such as a CPP or PSP. Also, many of my clients or potential clients hold a CPP or PSP, which gives me instant recognition, credibility, and a common ground when dealing with them."

Carpency is a member of the ASIS International Security Architectural and Engineering Council, has been a speaker at nearly a dozen ASIS Annual Seminar and Exhibits, and served on the original committee that developed the PSP certification. He continues to serve as an instructor for the PSP review course and encourages others to pursue their own certifications.

"Certification has become the norm rather than the exception," he says. "I would strongly recommend that qualified individuals obtain the appropriate certification related to their job description." *—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*