



# Certification *Profile*

**Werner Cooreman, CPP, PSP**, spent 20 years as a Belgian military officer, including a two-year assignment in the Balkans,

where he was responsible for the physical protection of the United Nations headquarters in Slavonia. After leaving the military, he transitioned into private security work. "What I like most in security is the continuous change a security professional has to deal with," he says. "Security managers themselves are frequently agents of change, as they bring the risks to which their company is exposed to the attention of executive management."

For the past year, Cooreman has been the director of security for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa for Ingram Micro, in Brussels, which describes itself on its Web site as the world's largest technology distributor and a leading technology sales, marketing, and logistics company.

Prior to working at Ingram Micro, Cooreman worked as CSO for Electrabel, a utility company that is a part of the French energy giant Suez-Gas de France. Before that, he spent three years with Belgian wholesale retailer Makro Cash & Carry, as security and loss prevention manager.

"At Ingram Micro, my team's scope of work is the physical protection of our offices and distribution centers, the protection of the supply chain, business continuity, and fraud investigations," Cooreman says. "To achieve results, we partner with all Ingram Micro business units within the EMEA region."

Cooreman adds that security enjoys high visibility in his company, and is a priority early in management's decision processes. "I constantly look for opportu-

nities to improve security effectiveness and efficiency, and to increase the value we add to our company," he says.

Most of the security challenges his team faces are in the interaction with customers and vendors. "The transportation of our products by carrier companies is one example of a domain where we put a lot of effort in," Cooreman points out, "but also our e-commerce procedures are a constant area of attention."

Cooreman became an ASIS member seven years ago. Since then, he has earned his Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) and Physical Security Professional® (PSP) designations. "Being a member of ASIS has offered access to an important network of security professionals and to professional education and certification," he says. "This has helped me speed up my integration in the private sector and has provided me with most of the competencies required to get where I am now."

Being certified, Cooreman says, has allowed him to demonstrate his engagement in continuous improvement. "Preparing for certification has allowed me to reduce the blind spots I had in certain security domains," he says. "It provided me with a knowledge foundation on which I could fall back and, in that way, allowed me to take full leadership in my security role."

Having a certified security professional on staff provides benefits to a company. "Most executives just want security to be dealt with in the most efficient and effective way so they can focus on core business," Cooreman says. "A certified security professional can bring this peace of mind to them."

—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager