

# CPP Profile



When **Baye Dia, CPP**, immigrated to the United States from Senegal, West Africa, in 1993, he spoke Wolof (the national language of Senegal), French, and only a bit of English.

Despite the language barrier, it took Dia only a week to find an entry-level position in security as a loss prevention agent in a retail clothing store.

“I’m pretty sure I was recruited to work security at first because of my size,” says Dia, who is 6’5” and 225 pounds. “Like many people, though, at first I thought security was just a uniformed guy patrolling the halls or watching a CCTV monitor.”

Today, Dia is a Certified Protection Professional (CPP) working as a security operations supervisor for Mulligan Security at Ernst & Young, LLP, in New York City. His responsibilities include controlling access to the building in Times Square, assigning proper internal access authorization, responding to all emergencies on-site, and overseeing first-line supervisors.

Dia joined ASIS in June 2004, and only nine months later earned his CPP designation. He was the first of Mulligan’s 800 employees to be certified.

“I spent at least 600 hours studying for the CPP exam, but since my English still isn’t as good as I want it to be, I found the test to be very, very hard,” Dia says, adding that he read every book ASIS suggested, and took a review course as well.

“To a West African, bringing honor to your family is the best thing you could ever do,” explains Dia. “And I made that sacrifice so I would be able to prove I met the measurement for professionalism, knowledge, and ethics in the security field by becoming a CPP.”

Mulligan paid all fees associated with the CPP, including books. “Just as important to me...was the moral support everyone at Mulligan Security gave me,” says Dia.

“English is my third language, and I was not sure I could pass a test as rigorous as the CPP, but Kevin Mulligan [president of Mulligan Security] and his people showed nothing but faith in me and wouldn’t let me even entertain the notion that I might fail the test.”

Having passed, Dia is already reaping the benefits.

“Just the knowledge I gained while studying for the test was extremely helpful and has led me to adjust my method of supervision,” he states, adding that his certification also reflects well on his employer. The CPP “helps show clients how deeply Mulligan Security is committed to the highest level of professionalism.”

—By *Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*