

Certification *Profile*



Cheryl Elliott, CPP, PCI, joined the Emory University police department in Atlanta in 1988 as a police officer. After rising in the

ranks of management, she was assigned command responsibility during the 1996 Olympics. She has the rank of lieutenant. “The campus housed athletes from gymnastics and the media,” she recalls. The Olympic excitement included bomb threats, protection details, media arrests and patrol response. Today, Elliott is manager of the university’s crime prevention, risk analysis, and community relations unit.

Emory University is the largest private employer in Atlanta, Elliott points out, and it has a \$5.7 billion effect on the city’s economy. “It has the largest healthcare system in Georgia and holds the largest collection of ancient art in the southeast,” she explains.

“Emergency preparedness and response plans have to include communication with our neighbors, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Carter Center,” says Elliott, adding, “My job requires collaboration with the university and a faculty that includes novelist Salman Rushdie, former President Jimmy Carter, distinguished professor the 14th Dalai Lama, and former Nobel peace laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu.”

Elliott functions as the project manager for several of the not-so-traditional responsibilities of the crime prevention unit. “This four-person unit is encouraged to act as a resource to officers and the community,” she says. The unit is responsible for assessing increased controls for radioactive material and select agents; executive protection and personal safety; proactive programs and responses to domestic and workplace violence; threat assessment and response, victim services, intelligence gathering, crime analysis; special-event planning;

public relations; and traditional physical security: locks, alarms, and cameras.

The Emory Police Department’s biggest challenge, she says, is protecting more than 12,000 university students. “Many of these students may possess a diminished sense of vulnerability in their own risk assessment and lack of experience for complex judgmental choices,” Elliott says. “Many are developing and exploring socialization skills. Parents and other family members must be assured that their most precious and vulnerable asset, sons and daughters, are being left in as safe an environment as Emory Police can provide as they pursue their academic potential.”

On the recommendation of the ASIS Atlanta chapter, the ASIS Foundation awarded Elliott one of the annual Allan J. Cross, CPP, scholarships in 1999. “I continued independent studies and passed the CPP in 2000,” she recalls. “I obtained my PCI certification when I took the exam and review course in September 2003.”

The CPP and PCI certifications validate Elliott’s skill, experience, and expertise in assisting with consultation on projects involving residence halls, medical facilities, classrooms, personnel safety, and general security assessments, she says. “ASIS recertification says I engage in consistent professional training and I value the necessity of training and professional development for continuing success and relevancy in the field,” Elliott adds.

“The results for Emory include tactically sound police recommendations based on standards, competency, proficiency, and proven methods for effective security assets protection,” she says. “In short, ASIS provides the expertise standards I need to be an effective problem solver for the university.”

—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager