



Certification *Profile*

Paul A. Fann, CPP, PSP, PCI, can quickly sum up his motivation for pursuing the Certified Protection Professional (CPP), Physical Security Professional (PSP) and Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) credentials administered by ASIS International.

"I chose to complete the three certifications to test my overall knowledge within our profession," says Fann, an ASIS member since 1994. "The CPP is an indicator of the overall security knowledge and the professional standing of the individual. The PSP and PCI are indicators of a specific technical knowledge within the security profession."

With graduate degrees in security and industrial safety management, seven years of law enforcement experience with the Independence, Missouri, Police Department, and another 20 years in security, safety and risk management positions with organizations ranging from casinos to the Federal Reserve Bank, MCI/WorldCom, and United Airlines, Fann has amassed a wealth of both knowledge and professional standing. In his present position as a protection services consultant in the corporate security department of Xcel Energy, he is using these resources, as well as the CPP he earned in July 1999, the PSP he earned in June 2004, and the PCI he earned in April 2006, on a daily basis.

"My current position is a montage of all

facets of the security profession," says Fann. "I am responsible for conducting vulnerability and risk assessment for generation facilities, [which] requires me to have a high level of knowledge of potential threats and the means to mitigate the threats via physical security systems and corporate policies and procedures. I am also involved in investigating criminal activity against Xcel Energy, including threats against employees and theft of corporate assets."

In addition to bettering his job performance, Fann says his certifications aided his hiring. "I had my CPP and PSP prior to being employed by Xcel Energy. When I was hired in September 2004, a requirement for employment was either to be certified as a CPP or PSP, or to obtain [one of the] certifications within a year of employment," he says. The company paid for all costs associated with his obtaining the PCI.

Xcel Energy's strong support of the security certifications and other forms of professional development is an asset, says Fann. He notes that 20 of his department's 22 members hold the CPP, PSP, or both credentials.

"I would like to challenge all employers to encourage their security team members to pursue certification and education within the security profession," Fann states. "I believe that certification as a CPP... helps establish you as a security professional." ■
—*Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*