

Certification *Profile*



Donald R. Green, CPP, had always focused on a career in law enforcement,

but gravitated toward security. “As I grew in my career, I realized that security was the direction in which I wanted to go. I like the opportunities for growth in the industry and the huge variety of specialties in which one can devote their efforts,” Green states.

Green held a variety of jobs in Virginia before becoming the supervisor for security for Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) nearly three years ago. At 18, he worked for Pinkerton as a site supervisor for a Section-8 housing development in Richmond. He was a seasonal security officer at Kings Dominion theme park in Doswell while in college, then rose to become the security operations manager. He later became an auxiliary law enforcement officer for 11 years in the Bowling Green Police Department, and spent four years in the New Kent Sheriff’s Office. He also worked in hospital security and as a private investigator.

Green describes NNPS as a large, urban school division serving 32,000

students and 5,000 employees in about 55 schools and work sites. “I work closely with the principals and their security officers to develop best practices and the most effective and efficient use of the officers’ talents and skills,” he explains. “I’m also responsible for ensuring that each school and the division have effective crisis management plans and the training to ensure student and staff safety during events ranging from severe weather, illness, and transportation accidents to mass violence and terrorism.”

Green also has responsibilities in the city Emergency Operations Center, as school buses and buildings may be used during emergencies. Fifty-seven school security officers, 11 lead school security officers, and one security specialist report to Green. Green reports to the assistant superintendent for human resources and staff support.

During a typical day, Green visits several schools to talk with the security officers and administrators. “The budget process is always a high priority,” he adds. “We’re trying to be conscientious stewards of the taxpayers’ money, while maintaining an

appropriate security profile. It can be a challenge.”

There have been incidents of gang-related activity in the Hampton Roads area, where Newport News is located. “Our biggest challenge is in keeping those issues outside of the school doors and working with the police department and community organizations to reduce the violence in the neighborhoods,” he says.

Green also interacts with students. “I recently spoke to a high school criminal justice class about opportunities in the security management field, and paths that they could take to achieve them,” he says. “I used actual job postings from the ASIS Career Center to show the wide variety of careers that are available.”

Green earned his Certified Protection professional® (CPP) certification in March 2008. “In the educational field, I work with people who have advanced degrees and must have state certification as instructional leaders,” he says. “Having the CPP after my name shows the nonsecurity professionals I work with that my industry has comparable standards to theirs.”
—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager