



Certification *Profile*

Scott Hewitt, CPP, began his security career in the college bookstore at California State University in Los Angeles in the 1970s. “The bookstore hired students to work in plain clothes to catch people stealing textbooks and supplies,” he explains. “I liked that it was different every day.”

Today, Hewitt is the director of corporate security and emergency operations at Ferguson Enterprises Inc., a position he has held since 1998.

Ferguson is a subsidiary of United Kingdom-based Wolseley PLC, a leading distributor of plumbing supplies and pipes, valves, and fittings, as well as the second-largest distributor of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment in the United States.

Ferguson, a diverse wholesale distributor with operations spanning multiple business groups in North America, employs approximately 17,000 associates and maintains 1,350 business locations across the country.

Hewitt supervises a staff of three at his office in Pomona, California, and

two at corporate headquarters in Newport News, Virginia. “We oversee work done by numerous external consultants, investigators, and service providers,” he says. “I report to the general counsel, who heads the Ferguson/Wolseley North America Legal Department.”

His main duties include managing staff efforts to run preemployment background checks and drug tests on all candidates for employment, and working with a security manager on fraud, theft, and incident investigations. One of his top priorities is a security awareness program. “We also respond to workplace threat assessments, business interruptions, and needs for physical security measures,” Hewitt says. “Last, but not least, we use the We Tip anonymous crime reporting line as an integral part of our loss prevention strategy.”

With headquarters in Virginia and Hewitt based in California, long days are the norm. He’s up and logged on to “remote access” to the East Coast office at 5:30 a.m. to check on any urgent overnight developments. “The corporate offices close at 2:30 Pacific time, so we have time in the after-

noon to work on various projects and write reports,” he says.

An ASIS member for 25 years, Hewitt earned his CPP in 1985. He has been involved in chapter and regional leadership, the Professional Certification Board, and the Disaster Management Council. Currently, he serves as the chairman of the seminar host committee for the 55th Annual Seminar and Exhibits in Anaheim, California, to be held in September.

“In my experience, volunteering for ASIS always pays you back more than you give,” he says. “I have met so many colleagues and friends through volunteer opportunities over the years. The networking and continuing education afforded by ASIS membership cannot be equaled anywhere else.”

Hewitt considers fellow CPPs to be a network within a network. “When I need to consult about something, I always try to call a CPP first,” he says. “I have never been disappointed or not had a good response from another CPP. It’s much like, but better than, a fraternity.”

—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager