

# Certification *Profile*



**Douglas Kohlsdorf, CPP**, has more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement and security management. He has expertise in investigations, executive protection, and information protection. Today, he is the general manager of Brice

Detention and Services of Ankeny, Iowa, a private detention management company that owns and operates detention facilities. He is responsible for operations and business administration.

Kohlsdorf is also the owner of Tri Tower Group. “As a consultant, I work with a variety of clients, helping them determine their security needs and how they can most cost effectively mitigate the risks,” he says.

At Brice Detention and Services, Kohlsdorf spends much of his time overseeing management team development, security best practices development, and strategic business planning and administration. He manages a staff that includes the senior detention administrator, the support services manager, and the audits and investigations manager. Kohlsdorf reports to the board of directors.

“Probably one of the most unusual tasks I’ve had is working with lobbyists and elected officials on state legislation regarding privatization of detention facilities,” he says. “I’ve also had the opportunity to work with other professionals, such as architects and planners, in implementing CPTED techniques in and around our facilities.”

Kohlsdorf acknowledges the special challenges in securing a detention facility. “There is the security that is related to the inmate population and the special techniques

and efforts that have to be in place to manage their safety,” he says. “At the same time, there is the risk from outside directed at the facility or the inmates. This type of risk can include everything from smuggling of contraband to an overt attack on the facility.”

“Emergency management and planning also brings its own challenges,” Kohlsdorf adds. “As you can imagine, an emergency event such as a fire or severe weather creates a whole new dynamic. We not only have to be concerned about the life safety during the event, but also the security of large numbers of inmates. Inmate transportation is another area of security that requires extensive operational planning and establishment of procedures.”

Kohlsdorf has been an ASIS member since 1992. In 1995, he joined a chapter study group for the Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) examination. “Along with the encouragement of the other chapter members and those who had attained the CPP, I finally got serious about it, and in 1998, I took the test and was certified,” he says. “The bank I worked for encouraged this certification over other security certifications.”

From a practical standpoint, Kohlsdorf says, the information that goes with the certification has helped him establish benchmarks and standards for security projects and programs that he has worked on. “It is clear that within the security profession, having this certification provides real credibility,” he says. “For those who are not in security, this certification accomplishes much the same thing and establishes equality among other professional disciplines.”

—By Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager