

# Certification *Profile*



**Scott T. Mayo, CPP, PCI**, was introduced to the security industry as a teenager, and he has been steadfastly committed to the industry ever since.

“My oldest brother was a criminal justice major when I was in high school. I found one of his textbooks and was fascinated by some of what I read. I decided at that point that I wanted to be an investigator because I thought I would enjoy the challenge of solving difficult cases,” says Mayo. “After 12 years of conducting investigations, I know this was my true calling.”

Mayo began his career as a seasonal park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before moving on to positions as an officer with the West Virginia State Police and a special agent with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. Since 2005, he has been employed as security specialist with Verizon in Charleston, West Virginia.

Throughout his career, Mayo has always recognized the value of education and training in reaching his goals. He holds both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Criminal Justice from Marshall University, and in the span of four months earned ASIS’s Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) and Certified Protection Professional (CPP) designations.

“My position at Verizon as a Security Specialist primarily consists of conducting internal investigations designed to protect Verizon employees and property,” says Mayo. “This made the PCI credential attractive to both me and my employer.”

Mayo says that Verizon paid the full cost

of the study materials and the PCI testing fee, and that after passing the PCI exam in October, his supervisor—who holds the CPP credential himself—challenged him to study for the CPP exam. Again, Mayo said, the company supplied the study materials, and after just a few months of home study, paid for him to attend a CPP review course just prior to his taking the exam.

Taking the review course just prior to the exam gave Mayo the boost of confidence he needed, he says, adding that he thinks CPP candidates should use the course to cap their studies, rather than as a starting point. More importantly, though, Mayo encourages all of his industry colleagues to investigate and pursue the appropriate ASIS credentials for their respective careers.

“Security practitioners possessing professional certifications impart instant credibility and a high level of professionalism not only upon themselves, but upon their employers as well,” he states. “ASIS professional certifications are the benchmark by which other credentials are judged.”

As for his own career, Mayo says that the credentials he has earned will help take him to the next level in the profession he chose so long ago.

“The Verizon Security Department encourages its investigators to obtain professional certifications and rewards employees who are successful in this endeavor,” explains Mayo. “I hope to advance in my department in the future, and having both the PCI and CPP certifications should increase my opportunities for professional advancement.”

—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager