

# Certification *Profile*



**Steve McNally, CPP,** PSP, PCI, CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner—a designation earned from the Association of Certified Fraud Ex-

aminers), explains the rationale for the litany of initials after his name with two simple words: professional development.

“It’s my opinion that security professionals owe it to themselves, the industry, and the emerging profession of security management to improve and enhance their knowledge,” he says. “Not only will the security professional grow, and their employer and clients reap the benefits of their development, but the industry will become more respected as a professional one as well.”

McNally began his career in 1975 as an armament systems specialist in the U.S. Air Force, and has worked in a variety of law enforcement, corporate security, and consulting positions in the 31 years since—drawn always by his various positions’ call to serve and protect.

“Even in leaving law enforcement and starting as a security manager, I am able to serve and protect,” he states, though in this case, it is an organization’s people and assets, rather than the public, that he looks out for.

For the past seven years, McNally has served as director of public safety and security with the Williams Island Club and Property Owners’ Association in Aventura, Florida, where he oversees a staff of 110 officers, supervisors, and an assistant director to protect people and assets in a city-like environment. In this role, he is directly responsible for recruiting security staff, conducting investigations, overseeing training, preparing for and responding to emergencies or disasters, conducting employee counseling, and developing and enforcing security policies and procedures for all staff.

McNally—an ASIS member since 1986—believes his ASIS credentials benefit him in carrying out this multitude of tasks every day. “They add credibility to my

opinions by formally certifying my professional knowledge as an expert in the areas of security management, physical security, and investigations,” he says.

McNally earned his Certified Protection Professional (CPP) credential in 1991, seeking the designation as a means to achieve some professional credibility and peer recognition. Because he was already working full time and pursuing his master’s in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University in 2002 when ASIS introduced the Physical Security Professional (PSP) and Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) credentials, McNally said he was unable to find the time to pursue these specialized certifications at this time. He finally earned his PSP in April 2005 and his PCI eight months later.

In addition to furthering his own career through continuing education and training, McNally is committed to helping others do the same. He has designed and developed the undergraduate and graduate security management programs at Bellevue University, and he continues to teach in both programs as well as in other university security management programs.

“A security professional should make their professional education a continuous process,” states McNally. “Those who are dedicated to continuing their learning by staying abreast of new technologies and concepts will be rewarded by their current and future employers and clients.”

Specifically, McNally encourages all security professionals to look to organizations like ASIS to shape and further their career. “Without ASIS and its programs, particularly its certification programs, I would lack significant industry knowledge and recognition as a security professional. It is my belief that recipients of ASIS program- and certification-gained knowledge will be not one, but several steps ahead of those who opt not to make the investment in the expansion of their security knowledge.”—*Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager*