

# Certification *Profile*



**Owen Monaghan, CPP**, began his career with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) more than 27 years ago

as a rookie patrol officer walking a beat in Queens. Today, he is a deputy chief and is the executive officer of the NYPD's Transit Bureau. The Transit Bureau is responsible for the city's 468 subway stations and 28 train lines; it provides security for more than 5 million riders each day.

"The 2,600 men and women of the Transit Bureau are responsible for keeping felony crime down to fewer than six crimes per day on the entire subway system. That number was 47 crimes per day back in 1990," Monaghan explains.

"The efforts made at fighting crime are done simultaneously while protecting the system from terrorism. In my current position, I coordinate and oversee a multitude of counterterrorism measures and security deployments in the NYC subway."

The NYPD has been successful in lowering crime and securing the subway because of the hard work of the police officers and supervisors on the trains and platforms, Monaghan points out. "They need to be supported by today's emerging technology. Access control, CCTV, intrusion detection, biometrics, lighting, canines and explosive detection, all can be utilized by transit systems to enhance security."

The day in 1987 that Monaghan was promoted to sergeant marks his entry into security management, he states. "It is certainly a satisfying challenge to lead people to accomplish the security goals set by my agency," he says.

Monaghan joined ASIS in 2004 after reading a colleague's copy of *Security Management*.

"I was struck by similarities between the private security sector and public law enforcement and the wealth of information provided by ASIS," he says.

Monaghan earned his Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) designation in 2005. The CPP has been a tremendous asset, he adds, well worth the long hours spent preparing for the exam.

"The CPP and ASIS educational programs have enabled me to know very well the security products and physical security countermeasures utilized by the industry," he states.

It's one thing to claim knowledge, he says, but "it's another to have a certifying board known throughout the industry say that you [have knowledge]. The CPP credential immediately establishes a high level of expertise in the field of security management. Those who are certified are in a position to make intelligent decisions regarding procurement and usage," Monaghan adds.

"The knowledge and credibility of the CPP credential gave me the ability to be an active participant in security discussions and decisions," he says, noting that he would "wholeheartedly" recommend a career in law enforcement or security management to others.

"I could have retired seven years ago, but I still love what I do," he states. "Protecting our citizens and critical infrastructure is much more than a job; it's a calling."  
—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager