

CPP Profile



As senior partner for Practical Protection Associates, Inc.—a security management consulting firm in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada—**Howard Moster, CPP, PSP**, routinely provides clients with risk assessments, plans for security system design and project management. These tasks are well-matched to the Certified Protection Professional (CPP) and Physical Security Professional (PSP) credentials he has attained from ASIS International.

Moster has worked in the security industry for nearly 28 years, beginning his career in the University Police Department while attending the University of Cincinnati, then working in community policing and crime prevention before transitioning to private security and joining ASIS in 1984. He attained his CPP in 1993, and in September of 2005, earned his PSP.

“Physical protection systems is my major area of interest, so I was delighted when there became a physical security-specific designation to aspire to,” says Moster of the 2003 creation of the PSP. “The learning materials selected for this particular designation are outstanding, and are something that every physical security practitioner must be familiar with in order to be credible at what they do,” he says, adding, “So, why not make it official and take the exam?”

Moster says that setting aside the time to study for the PSP exam was the hardest task. He strongly encourages candidates preparing for any of the certification exams to take advantage of the study groups that can be organized through local ASIS chapters.

In addition to the competitive edge he believes his PSP gives him over other practitioners in the field who don't yet have the designation, Moster says the benefits of his new credential have been both personal and professional.

“It is quite rewarding to accomplish the task, and the learning process builds your confidence and assists you with your everyday tasks as a consultant or practitioner. It also forces you to research and learn what other professionals are doing and how they are doing it,” he states.

Moster has served in various capacities in his local ASIS chapter and has chaired the ASIS Physical Security Council. He is also a charter member of the council vice presidents. He is a strong proponent of many of ASIS's professional resources—and of the professional certification program in particular—as a means of improving the quality of practitioners and the security industry as a whole.

“Our industry still has a lot of shortfalls as far as people installing, selling, and designing physical protection systems without adequate knowledge and experience,” Moster says. “I look forward to the day when certifications will be required by law to practice in this field, and consistency and adequacy will be a given.”

—Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager