

Certification *Profile*



Klas Nilsson, CPP, PSP, PCI, can't resist a challenge. And so, in 2002, after completing a security manager diploma course in Sweden and

discovering he had exhausted the country's higher educational offerings in the security field, the security consultant decided to accept an instructor's challenge to pursue the Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) credential offered by ASIS International.

"There were no study groups in Sweden, and I had no idea what to expect from the CPP exam," says Nilsson, who would eventually start his own study group with a few colleagues. "So I purchased the reference literature and started reading."

He successfully earned his CPP designation in 2004, but continued his studies to earn his Physical Security Professional® (PSP) credential in 2005 and his Professional Certified Investigator® (PCI) credential in 2006.

Beyond the satisfaction of passing the tests and holding his profession's top marks of achievement, Nilsson says that all of his certifications have a practical purpose. "I'm working as a security consultant, serving 12- to 14-month assignments as the chief security officer for different companies in different branches. I need to have skills in many fields," he says.

Nilsson—an ASIS member since 2003—entered the private security profession in 1993, after serving in the military. In 1995, he started his own security firm and has had assignments putting him in the banking, finance, hotel, gaming, retail, and software industries.

"My professional designations help me qualify for new assignments," says Nilsson. "Customers who are aware of the ASIS certifications know that I have a certain level of competence. This means that I can concentrate more on working and less on marketing."

In his present assignment as CSO for a gaming company with operations in multiple locations in Finland, Sweden, and Estonia, Nilsson demonstrates the broad range of his security skills and knowledge, with responsibilities in risk management, investigations, information security, physical security, emergency management, security training, and personnel supervision.

"There are not enough certified people in Scandinavia yet," says Nilsson, adding that he has held seminars on the importance of professional certification for the Finnish and Danish chapters of ASIS. "Finnish and Danish members are now preparing to take the CPP exam, and I'm right there helping them." ■

Profile by Chris Flynn, ASIS public relations manager