Certification *Profile*

Jagrant Singh Pandher has the distinction of being the second person in India to earn a CPP.

Pandher joined the Indian Army's Parachute Regiment in 1985, on completion of training at the National Defense and Indian Military Academies. Twenty years later, as he contemplated retirement from the army, he decided to pursue a second career as a security professional.

"I started looking for what would allow me to understand the requirements of the profession and also to present myself as a better candidate when seeking a job in the private sector," he explains. "During the course of my research, I learned about ASIS International and the CPP, PSP, and PCI certifications. I studied about the programs and realized that CPP was the most comprehensive and, hence, went for that one."

After ordering the CPP study materials, Pandher learned about Soundar Murali, who was working with WIPRO Technologies in Bangalore. Murali was the first and only person in India to hold a CPP certification. "I met him in 2003 with a request to know more about the CPP, and he helped me prepare for the examination," Pandher says. "I am very grateful for his gracious assistance."

With support from his family, Jagrant paid all costs associated with earning the certification. He says he "studied religiously for eight months, four hours a day," and traveled to Singapore in November 2004 to take the exam. A month later, he was pleased to learn he had passed.

Pandher's attitude and behavior impressed his future employer. "I am surrounded by highly motivated security professionals who sometimes take for granted the infrastructure afforded them in corporate security to seek and obtain a CPP," says Robert Molina, Pandher's supervisor and Verizon's International security director in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. "Most companies pay for everything, including books, travel, lodging and time off for studying. Jag attained the CPP on his own, at his own expense, and with only the hope of being a better candidate for employment after he left the Indian Army. His dedication and self-motivation to achieve the CPP told me a lot about his work ethic and character. He has exceeded my expectations."

Pandher joined Verizon, India, in October 2005. "My defense background and qualifications, along with the CPP and other study programs, allowed me to clearly understand the requirements that corporate security strives to achieve," he says.

As security manager for Verizon in India, he is responsible for all physical security operations, including guard-force management, electronic security, and safety systems. In addition, he has responsibility for planning security controls for new facilities and the department's annual budget as well as for investigations, crisis management planning, and the local executive protection program. Also within his purview are emergency response procedures, security awareness programs, and training of local Verizon security professionals.

"The CPP and other professional programs have helped me to aptly apply the knowledge acquired to meet the organizational security requirements," he says.
—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager.