



Certification *Profile*

Dennis Shepp, CPP, PCI,

spent 25 years as a senior partner in a security management and investigation consulting firm

providing services for Canadian industry and government. Then, in 2004, Shepp “accepted the adventure,” of moving to the Middle East, he says.

Shepp spent two years with the College of Technology in Qatar as a member of the security faculty. There, he was an active member of the Doha ASIS Chapter. In the fall of 2008, he joined the security team at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as a special security services consultant.

Located on more than 36 million square meters on the Red Sea—approximately 80 kilometers north of Saudi Arabia’s second-largest city, Jeddah—KAUST opened in September as an international, graduate-level research university “dedicated to inspiring a new age of scientific achievement,” says Shepp.

“This is an exciting project, being part of the team building KAUST’s core campus. It’s a unique opportunity to help design a security organization and infrastructure from the ground up to provide the public safety and protection for students, faculty, staff, contractors, and their families, who will live, work, and learn on

our campus,” he states.

Shepp, who says he has been “a proud member of ASIS” since 1983, holds a master’s in business administration from Royal Roads University in Canada, as well as the CPP and PCI designations, which he earned in 1991 and 2001, respectively.

“ASIS has involved me in volunteer leadership and challenged me to push my limits on professional development,” he says. ASIS certifications “provide credibility and also demonstrate to others my capabilities as a professional. The CPP is the standard of security management achievement, so I need it to succeed in my field.”

In explaining how he obtained his PCI, Shepp says, “Several of my colleagues challenged me to help with designing a PCI Review for the college in Qatar, and as part of the process, we all agreed to take the exam after we delivered the first review.” He recalls, “We all passed and felt great about it.”

Shepp encourages his colleagues to pursue certifications as part of their career advancement. He is an enthusiastic supporter of security management as a career. “It is truly a small world and most of the people I have met over the 26 years in this business are life-long friends,” he says. “This is a fantastic field, and I have enjoyed the travel, cultures, and people from all over the world.”

—Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager