

# Certification *Profile*



**John Villines, CPP**, says the security field allowed him the opportunity to work full-time, yet flexible, hours while earning his bachelor's degree and attending law school at Georgia State University. "I started as a security patrol of-

ficer in 1973 at Phipps Plaza Mall, an upscale shopping center in Atlanta, and came up through the ranks, holding several positions, including security supervisor and director of security operations."

Concurrent with his employment with Phipps Plaza, Villines started his own security consulting business in 1979. He left Phipps Plaza in 1985 to accept a position as operations manager for two shopping centers, responsible for overseeing both security and facilities management. He left that job in 1987 to focus on growing his own business, expanding it into contract security services and private investigations.

Today, Villines has a master's degree in security management and serves as chief executive officer of John C. Villines LLC, overseeing a staff of seven. His company provides expert testimony; crime prevention analysis; risk, threat, and vulnerability assessments; and other specialized investigative and consulting services. His clients include government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels; Fortune 100 corporations; multinational companies; financial services institutions; educational facilities; and other businesses and individuals.

As a consulting and testifying expert on security issues, Villines says much of his time is spent reviewing data and conducting qualitative and quantitative analyses to determine whether a criminal act was foreseeable or preventable. He also cites the need to stay current with information

relevant to the security industry, "so a good part of each day is spent reviewing publications and other research material, including the ASIS International publications—both online and in my library."

Villines holds a public service position on the Georgia Board of Private Detective and Security Agencies, to which he was appointed by the state governor in 2003. "This six-person board oversees the security and investigative industries in Georgia, and I am one of two board members appointed from within the security industry," he explains. "Since January of 2010 I am again serving as chair of that board, an elected position which I also held from 2003 to 2007."

In addition, he is writing a book about shopping center security.

Villines earned his Certified Protection Professional® (CPP) designation in 2003. "I believed it was important that the person at the helm of regulating the industry in Georgia should demonstrate his competency in the field of security management, and the CPP designation is the most widely recognized and respected symbol of that competency," he says.

Having the CPP has also helped his company, Villines says. "The CPP designation is often listed as a criterion for submitting proposals. Having the designation opens doors."

When conducting security seminars for other professionals, Villines says it is a given that he will recommend ASIS certification to enhance one's professional career. "Similarly, when providing security staffing recommendations to a client, I consider the CPP designation a necessity for those filling top security management positions," he adds.

—*Profile by Vicki Moeser, ASIS public relations manager*