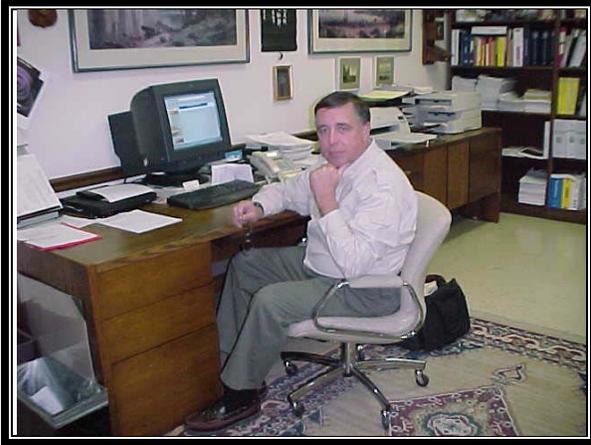


## **An Investigator**



Robert A. Siebel, CCO, CFE  
Investigator/Specialist Corporate Security/ WV  
Verizon Communications  
Poca, West Virginia

### **Explain your job in detail and what is expected of you.**

I am an investigator in charge of security for Verizon Communications in West Virginia. My job is to protect the assets of the company. I do all the internal investigations. I testify in court if required and I serve as the liaison for the State of West Virginia.

### **Exactly what do you investigate?**

I investigate crimes against the company that might be from within such as someone stealing or falsifying records. Crimes against the company from the outside might be the following: someone obtaining service in someone else's name or running up a \$10,000 bill; someone cutting down cable or sabotaging phone connections.

### **What would you look for in hiring someone in this field?**

Someone who isn't afraid of working long hours. I rarely work less than 50 to 55 hours a week. Also, somebody who has an inquisitive mind - knows what to ask and is resourceful. You don't always have every tool that you need. You have to come up with your own solutions and tools to do the job.

### **Would you recommend a 2 or 4 year degree for someone in their 40's or 50's?**

I think either degree has its use. Certainly, if you are just starting school in your 50's a 2 year degree might benefit you more than spending more time in school. I am a big proponent of education. I didn't get my degree until 10 years ago when I was almost 45 years old. I got a 4 year degree and it has helped me.

### **What are some of the drawbacks of your job?**

The long hours. When you do a private security job or a security job within a corporation, sometimes you are looked upon as the bad guy. It is not a job where you probably get as friendly

with your coworkers or other employees in the company as you might with your colleagues in the security and law enforcement field.

**How did you get into this field?**

Strictly by luck! Also, I was very persistent with my work responsibilities. Years ago I handled the collection of bad debt for the company. I wouldn't ease up on chasing somebody down if they had skipped off with a \$15,000 or \$20,000 bill. The manager of security liked that persistent character trait and offered me this job.

**What kind of schooling or training did you have?**

You have to attend our basic school. We each go to training and update two or three times a year.

**What kind of criminal justice experience and other requirements are necessary for this job?**

We have investigators that are ex-federal agents, ex-state police, and ex-city and local police. Most of our people have law enforcement experience or a degree in criminal justice. As far as the other requirements; you must have a good work history and no criminal record. You will have a pass the background investigation.

**What salary range would be expected for someone starting in this field?**

In this area the lowest salary starting out is about \$40,000 and \$70,000 is probably the highest you could earn but this range does differ from area to area.

**What special advice would you give someone entering this field?**

Just get as much experience as you can ahead of time. Experience and training are big things. We never stop our training.

*Interviewed by John Kiriluk for a College 101 assignment on 12/00.*