



# NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE PRIVATE DETECTIVE UNIT ARMED SECURITY OFFICER



The Armed Security Officer's change to the Security Officers Registration Act (SORA) also known as the Detective Melvin Santiago's Law was signed into legislation by Governor Chris Christie on January 19, 2016.

The law mandated that a security officer that is properly licensed to carry a firearm in the State of New Jersey and works as a security guard either with a private security firm or as an in-house security officer must be licensed through SORA. This law shall take effect on July 1, 2016 and all officers must be in compliance by August 31, 2017. With this new law all of the prior exemptions currently in SORA are still in effect. A copy of the amendments to the SORA act can be found at [http://www.njsp.org/private-detective/pdf/sora/20160427\\_chapter295.pdf](http://www.njsp.org/private-detective/pdf/sora/20160427_chapter295.pdf).

**The armed security officer certification does NOT authorize the applicant or card holder to carry a firearm.** The certification only permits the applicant or cardholder to legally work for a security company as an armed guard, after they have first obtained approval for the State of New Jersey Permit to Carry a Handgun. To obtain a carry permit you must first make a separate application for a State of New Jersey Permit to Carry a Handgun through the municipal police department where you reside as per N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4. Any further questions or to obtain this application form visit the NJ State Police web page ([www.njsp.org](http://www.njsp.org)) and navigate to the Firearms Investigation Unit.

With the new law, armed security officers will need to get fingerprinted again initially, renew annually and attend an 8 hour block of instruction by a licensed SORA instructor each year.

## **Frequently asked questions regarding Armed Security Officers:**

1. Q: If I am already a licensed security officer/owner/bounty hunter or private detective do I need to get fingerprinted again?

A: Yes, the armed security officer is a new application and you will need to be fingerprinted again.



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2. Q: Do I need to be keep both security officer and armed officer SORA certifications current?  
A: No, the armed security officer certification will supersede the regular security officer certification.
3. Q: If I have a Retired Police Officer (RPO) permit to carry a firearm and work as an armed security guard do I need to be licensed under SORA?  
A: Yes, unless you work for a State, County, Local Government, Commission, School Board, etc. All exemptions in SORA still apply. See SORA Act 45:19A-2b(3).
4. Q: Do I need to renew each year with the armed security officer license?  
A: Yes, the armed security officer certification is an annual renewal and must attend an 8 hour block of instruction by a licensed SORA instructor each year.
5. Q: Is there any increase in the fees for armed security officer?  
A: No, the fees have not changed.
6. Q: What if I am an armed security officer and work in plain clothes?  
A: You must have with you a badge indicating SORA Level 2 Armed Security Officer, armed security officer license and a valid firearms carry permit.
7. Q: What type of holster must I wear while working as an armed security officer?  
A: You must secure your weapon in a Level 3 or higher holster.
8. Q: Do I need to wear a specific uniform?  
A: Yes, if you wear a company uniform you need to wear a badge indicating a SORA Level 2 armed security officer and the words "SECURITY" printed on the reverse side of the shirt.
9. Q: Do off duty, retired or active law enforcement working as an armed security guard need to obtain the Armed SORA certification?  
A: Yes.
10. Is there a separate SORA instruction for armed certification?  
A: No, the SORA curriculum remains the same.



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