



SECURITY OFFICER TRAINING CENTER

sotcnw.com • Spring Valley & San Diego, CA • (619) 303-3104

YOUR GO-TO GUIDE FOR GETTING STARTED IN THE SECURITY INDUSTRY

*A Complete Beginner's Roadmap to the Guard Card, Firearms Training,
CCW, and a Career That Grows With You*

*"You cannot automate courage. You cannot replace a trained human
who can think, adapt, and protect. Security is not just a career —
it is a calling, and it will be one of the most vital professions
of the 21st century."*

— Security Officer Training Center

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MEET YOUR INSTRUCTOR

About Michael Tew*Owner & Lead Instructor — Security Officer Training Center*

When you train with SOTC, you're not learning from someone who read a manual. You're learning from someone who has lived it.

Michael Tew is the founder, owner, and lead instructor of the Security Officer Training Center — one of San Diego's most respected security training facilities. His career spans more than two decades in law enforcement, private security, investigations, and professional instruction.

A Distinguished Law Enforcement Career

Michael served fifteen years as a Peace Officer with the Chula Vista Police Department. During his tenure he earned some of the department's most prestigious honors:

- **Outstanding Officer of the Year** — 1991
- **Life Saving Award** — 1996, for actions that directly preserved human life in the field
- **Auto Theft and Recovery Award** — 1997, for sustained excellence in solving complex auto theft crimes

These reflect the kind of officer Michael was: someone who performed at the highest level and earned the trust of his department, colleagues, and community.

Licensed Private Investigator

After his law enforcement career, Michael earned his California Private Investigator license. As owner and lead investigator of MT Security and Investigations, he has managed complex cases involving surveillance, corporate security, and executive protection throughout the San Diego region.

Certified Across Every Discipline

Michael holds BSIS instructor certifications in Guard Card, Baton, and Firearms, and American Heart Association certification in CPR, First Aid, and AED. He trained at the National Training Foundation, LLC under the late Ralph H. Scully.

BSIS Guard Card Instructor

BSIS Baton Instructor

BSIS Firearms Instructor

AHA CPR / First Aid / AED

Current Community Roles

- **Grossmont College** — Lead Instructor, Security Academy Program
- **San Diego ROP** — Career-focused security training for students entering the workforce

“I started SOTC because quality training changes lives. When you know what to do in a crisis, when you can protect yourself and those around you, that confidence carries into everything you do.”

— Michael Tew, Owner — Security Officer Training Center

Contact SOTC

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SECTION 1

Start With Why

Before we get into the how, let's talk about the why.

You might be between jobs. Maybe you want something that pays better than retail or customer service. Maybe you want a career with real room to grow. Or maybe you just want skills that make you a more confident, capable person. Whatever brought you here, the security industry has a lot more to offer than most people realize.

When you get your guard card, you don't just get a job. You get trained, certified, and prepared to handle real-world situations most people never learn to deal with. You develop the ability to de-escalate confrontations, respond in emergencies, protect others, and stay composed under pressure. Those skills don't stay at work when your shift ends — they come home with you.

And here's the bigger picture: AI and automation are replacing jobs that used to feel completely secure — data entry, accounting, logistics, even legal work. Experts estimate over **92 million jobs** could be displaced globally by 2030. But security is different. It's one of the few industries where a human presence is **legally required**. You cannot automate the judgment of a skilled officer responding to a live threat.

“Security is not a stopgap. It's a foundation — one that gives you skills, credentials, and a career path that compounds in value the more you invest in it.”

— Security Officer Training Center

SECTION 2

The Real Benefits of Working in Security

This is more than a job. Here is what you are actually signing up for.

2.1 A Career That Won't Disappear

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects approximately **162,300 security guard job openings every year**. California pays above the national average — around \$44,940 annually for unarmed officers, with armed and specialized roles going considerably higher. Unlike many industries facing automation, physical security is anchored in legal requirements that cannot be digitized away.

2.2 Flexibility That Fits Your Life

Day shifts, overnight shifts, weekends, weekdays — the options are broad. Many officers begin part-time while building certifications, then move into higher-paying full-time roles. Contract work offers variety; permanent placement offers stability. Both are widely available.

2.3 Life-Saving Skills You Keep Forever

- **CPR and First Aid (AHA-Certified)** — Skills that can save a life at work, at home, or anywhere
- **Emergency response** — How to stay calm, think clearly, and act decisively in a crisis
- **Conflict de-escalation** — The ability to defuse tense situations before they turn physical
- **Situational awareness** — A trained habit of noticing what others miss and anticipating problems
- **Firearms safety and proficiency** — One of the most valuable skill sets anyone can develop

2.4 A Launchpad Into Many Other Fields

Career Paths FROM Security	Skills That Transfer Everywhere
■ Law enforcement (police, sheriff, federal)	■ Crisis response and de-escalation
■ Border patrol, corrections, probation	■ Clear report writing and documentation
■ Private investigation & surveillance	■ Firearms proficiency and safety
■ Corporate security director / CSO	■ Emergency medical response (CPR/AED)
■ Emergency management coordinator	■ Observation and threat assessment
■ Executive protection / bodyguard	■ Physical conditioning and discipline
■ FBI, CIA, DHS, ICE	■ Communication and leadership
■ Security operations management	■ Legal knowledge and procedural compliance

SECTION 3

What's Going Away and What's Here to Stay

An honest look at the future of work — and why security comes out ahead.

The jobs most vulnerable to automation are repetitive, rule-based, and don't require physical presence or judgment in unpredictable environments. Security work is the opposite of that description.

Jobs Currently Being Displaced	Why Security Remains Essential
■ Data entry and document processing	■ Physical presence legally required on-site
■ Customer service / call centers	■ Live-threat judgment can't be automated
■ Routine accounting and bookkeeping	■ CA law mandates licensed guards in key facilities
■ Assembly line manufacturing	■ AI surveillance creates MORE demand for responders
■ Cashiers and retail clerks	■ Events and venues always need trained people
■ Truck driving and delivery routing	■ Armed security requires human professionals
■ Basic legal research	■ Community trust requires visible human presence
■ Medical transcription and coding	■ Liability frameworks require certified officers

“The security professionals who invest in training, build firearms proficiency, and earn multiple certifications are positioning themselves at the top of one of the most stable and growing fields in America.”

— Security Officer Training Center

The World Economic Forum projects that while AI will displace millions of jobs by 2030, it will also create approximately **170 million new positions** globally. For security professionals, this is an opportunity: as more critical infrastructure comes online, demand for trained officers to protect it grows alongside.

SECTION 4

Firearms Training — Why It's a Game Changer

Firearm proficiency is about becoming the most capable, most trusted version of yourself.

4.1 The Career Impact

Armed security professionals in California earn between **\$20 and \$35+ per hour** depending on the assignment and certification level. Over a year, that difference adds up to tens of thousands of dollars. Beyond pay, firearms certification unlocks assignments unavailable to unarmed officers: executive protection, financial institutions, pharmaceutical facilities, government buildings, and VIP details.

4.2 BSIS Requirements for an Armed Guard Permit

- Hold a valid, active California Guard Card
- Complete a BSIS-approved Initial Firearms Training Course
- Qualify on the range — demonstrating safe handling and marksmanship
- Pass a BSIS background review and submit the Firearms Permit application
- Renew your range qualification regularly to maintain the permit

Important: Armed Permit vs. CCW

A BSIS Firearms Permit authorizes you to carry while on duty. It does NOT authorize concealed carry off duty.

For off-duty concealed carry you need a separate CCW permit from your county sheriff.

SOTC provides training and preparation for both.

4.3 The CCW — Your Personal Protection Credential

A CCW permit is one of the most powerful personal safety credentials available to California civilians. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 *Bruen* decision, CCW permits are now far more accessible. Here is why CCW training is one of the best investments you can make:

- **Higher-paying roles** — Executive protection and private security roles prefer CCW holders
- **Off-duty confidence** — You are equipped to protect yourself and your family, wherever you are
- **Professional credibility** — A CCW signals you have been vetted and trusted by law enforcement
- **Career differentiation** — Fewer people have CCW permits, increasing your market value significantly

4.4 Responsible Firearm Ownership

Real proficiency is not about passing a test. It's about building muscle memory, situational judgment, and safe-handling habits that become second nature under stress. Michael Tew's background as a decorated police officer and BSIS-certified Firearms Instructor means every student qualifies to a professional standard.

“A firearm in the hands of a trained professional is one of the greatest tools for protection ever created. Our job is to make sure every student carries with skill, discipline, and the judgment that responsibility demands.”

— Michael Tew — BSIS Certified Firearms Instructor

SECTION 5

How to Get Your California Guard Card — Step by Step

The process is clear and achievable. Here is exactly what you need to do.

California's guard card is officially called a **Security Guard Registration**, issued by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). As of January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 652 introduced key updates. Here is the complete walkthrough:

STEP 1 Confirm Your Eligibility

Must be at least 18 years old.

Violent felony and violent misdemeanor convictions are disqualifying.

Non-violent convictions reviewed case by case — BSIS considers rehabilitation.

No citizenship requirement for unarmed security positions in California.

Unsure? Reach out to SOTC before investing — their team can assess your situation.

STEP 2 Complete Your 8-Hour Pre-Application Training

As of Jan 1, 2026 (SB 652): BOTH components must be completed with a SINGLE BSIS-approved provider.

Component 1: Powers to Arrest — classroom instruction, theory, and assessment.

Component 2: Appropriate Use of Force — hands-on, scenario-based physical training.

SOTC is fully SB 652-compliant and delivers both components in one structured course.

Your certificate is valid for 6 months. Apply before it expires.

STEP 3 Complete Your Live Scan Background Check

Live Scan sends fingerprints directly to the CA DOJ and FBI.

IMPORTANT: Complete your BSIS application FIRST, before your Live Scan appointment.

Use only the official BSIS Security Guard Live Scan form.

Fees: \$32 (DOJ) + \$17 (FBI) + operator fee (varies by location).

STEP 4 Submit Your Application Through BSIS BreZe

Apply online at breeze.ca.gov: 2–3 weeks vs. up to 2 months by mail.

Have your training certificate and Live Scan receipt ready before you begin.

SOTC handles BSIS submission paperwork for qualifying course registrations.

STEP 5 Start Working as Soon as BreZe Shows Active

You do NOT need to wait for your physical card to arrive.

Print your Active status page — it is your valid temporary permit.

Begin applying for security positions immediately.

STEP 6 Complete Your Remaining 32 Training Hours On the Job

California requires 40 total hours. You completed 8 before your card was issued.

First 16 hours: must be completed within 30 days of starting work.

Final 16 hours: must be completed within 6 months of starting work.

SOTC offers all continuing education courses.

Quick Reference: Your 40-Hour Training Breakdown

8 hours — Pre-application (Power to Arrest + Use of Force) — Before you apply

16 hours — First continuing education block — Within 30 days of starting work

16 hours — Second continuing education block — Within 6 months of starting work

Total: 40 hours — All available through SOTC

SECTION 6

The SOTC Course Lineup

Everything you need, under one roof, from instructors who have done the work.

One of the biggest advantages of SOTC is that you never have to piece together certifications from different schools. Your guard card, firearms permit, CCW preparation, first aid certification, and every specialty endorsement are all available from the same team.

Course / Certification	What You Learn	Why It Matters
Guard Card (Power to Arrest + AUF)	Legal authority, use of force law, emergency procedures, report writing	Required to work as a CA security guard. SB 652 compliant.
Initial Firearms Training	Safe handling, marksmanship, CA firearms law, range qualification	Required for BSIS Armed Permit. Opens higher-paying assignments.
Firearms Renewal / Proficiency	Range re-qualification, updated legal knowledge, stress accuracy	Keeps your armed permit current and your skills sharp.
CCW Training	Concealed carry law, situational awareness, drawing from concealment	Prepares you for your county CCW permit application.
Baton Certification	Legal baton techniques, BSIS requirements, defensive applications	Required for officers carrying a baton on duty.
OC Pepper Spray	Proper deployment, legal limits, decontamination procedures	Required for officers carrying OC spray.
Taser Certification	Safe deployment, legal use, target zones, medical considerations	Expands your non-lethal toolkit and on-duty versatility.
Handcuffing Techniques	Safe and legal restraint, positioning, liability awareness	Essential for officers in detentive security roles.
CPR / First Aid / AED (AHA)	Chest compressions, rescue breathing, choking, AED operation	Life-saving skills. American Heart Association certified.
Continuing Education (AB 2880)	Updated CA law, ethics, emergency response, post-incident protocol	Fulfills your required 16-hour on-the-job training blocks.

Registration & Pricing

Course pricing starts at \$85 for individual certifications.

SOTC offers promotional packages including complimentary BSIS paperwork filing.

Visit sotcnnow.com, call (619) 303-3104, or email info@sotcnnow.com for current pricing.

SECTION 7**Why Choose SOTC?**

There are other training options out there. Here is what sets SOTC apart.

7.1 Instructors Who Have Actually Done the Work

SOTC is led by Michael Tew — a 15-year Chula Vista PD veteran, multiple-award recipient, licensed PI, and one of San Diego's most credentialed security training instructors. He trained under the late Ralph H. Scully at the National Training Foundation — one of the most respected lineages in California security education. When you learn de-escalation from Michael, you're learning from someone who de-escalated real situations on the street.

7.2 One Source for All Certifications

From your guard card through firearms, CCW, baton, OC spray, Taser, CPR, and every continuing education block — SOTC covers the full spectrum. Less logistics for you, and a training team that knows your background as you advance.

7.3 Fully BSIS-Approved and SB 652 Compliant

SOTC is a fully licensed BSIS-approved facility. As of January 1, 2026, SB 652 requires both components of the 8-hour training be completed with a single provider. SOTC meets this requirement completely. Your certificate will be accepted by BSIS without question.

7.4 Administrative Support Included

SOTC handles BSIS submission paperwork as part of qualifying training packages — saving you time, reducing errors, and getting your application processed correctly the first time.

7.5 Convenient San Diego Location

123 Worthington Street #201, Spring Valley, CA 91977 — centrally accessible for students across San Diego County and greater Southern California, with a consistent monthly training calendar.

BSIS-Approved Facility**SB 652 Compliant (2026)****AHA-Certified CPR/AED****15+ Years Experience****Get Started With SOTC Today**

Phone: (619) 303-3104

Email: info@sotcnnow.comWeb: sotcnnow.com

Addr: 123 Worthington St. #201, Spring Valley, CA 91977

SECTION 8**Your Personal Action Plan***Four clear phases from zero to fully certified.***Phase 1 — Get Your Guard Card**

- Visit sotcnw.com and review the course calendar
- Register for the 8-Hour Guard Card Course (Power to Arrest + Appropriate Use of Force)
- Complete the course and receive your BSIS-certified training certificate
- Apply through BSIS BreEZe (bsis.ca.gov) BEFORE your Live Scan
- Schedule and complete your Live Scan fingerprinting
- Print your Active status from BreEZe and start applying for positions immediately

Phase 2 — Complete Your 40-Hour Requirement

- Within 30 days of starting work: complete your first 16-hour continuing education block at SOTC
- Within 6 months: complete your second 16-hour continuing education block at SOTC
- Earn your CPR / First Aid / AED certification through SOTC (AHA-certified)

Phase 3 — Go Armed and Expand Your Skill Set

- Enroll in SOTC's Initial Firearms Training course
- Complete range qualification and submit your BSIS Armed Guard Permit application
- Earn Baton, OC Spray, and Taser certifications through SOTC
- Enroll in SOTC's CCW Training to prepare your concealed carry permit application

Phase 4 — Grow Your Career

- Apply for armed assignments — higher pay, more prestigious clients
- Submit your CCW application to your local sheriff's department
- Pursue Certified Protection Professional (CPP) or Physical Security Professional (PSP)
- Explore supervisory, management, or specialty roles (executive protection, corporate security)
- Consider criminal justice coursework if moving toward law enforcement

SECTION 9

Helpful Information & Quick Reference*Fees, key contacts, and answers to common questions.***9.1 Approximate Fees at a Glance**

Item	Approximate Cost
Guard Card Training — 8-Hour Course (SOTC)	\$85 – \$150
Continuing Education per 16-hr block (SOTC)	\$85 – \$150
BSIS Guard Card Application Fee	See bsis.ca.gov
Live Scan — DOJ Fee	\$32
Live Scan — FBI Fee	\$17
Live Scan — Operator Fee	Varies by location
Initial Firearms Training + Range (SOTC)	Contact SOTC
Baton Certification (SOTC)	\$175
CPR / First Aid / AED — AHA Certified (SOTC)	Contact SOTC
CCW Training (SOTC)	Contact SOTC

9.2 Key Contacts and Resources

- **SOTC Website:** sotcnw.com — course calendar, registration, current schedule
- **SOTC Phone:** (619) 303-3104
- **SOTC Email:** info@sotcnw.com
- **SOTC Address:** 123 Worthington St. #201, Spring Valley, CA 91977
- **BSIS Official Website:** bsis.ca.gov — applications, forms, regulations
- **BSIS BreEZe Portal:** breeze.ca.gov — online Guard Card application (fastest)
- **San Diego CCW Info:** sdsheriff.gov — San Diego County Sheriff CCW licensing

9.3 Frequently Asked Questions**How long does it take to get my guard card?**

Online applications through BreEZe take 2–3 weeks. Paper applications take up to 2 months. Once BreEZe shows Active, print that page — it is your valid temporary permit and you can start working immediately.

Can I work while my application is processing?

No. You must wait until your BreEZe status shows Active. Once it does, you do not need the physical card to start.

Do I need a firearm to get my guard card?

No. The guard card is an unarmed certification. The BSIS Firearms Permit is a separate, optional certification for those who want to carry on duty.

Can I get a CCW in California?

Yes. Since the Supreme Court's 2022 *Bruen* decision, California counties including San Diego have significantly expanded CCW issuance. SOTC's CCW training prepares you for the complete application and qualification process.

What if I have a prior conviction?

Violent felonies and violent misdemeanors are disqualifying. Non-violent convictions are reviewed case by case, with BSIS considering rehabilitation. Contact SOTC to assess your situation honestly before enrolling.

How do I know SOTC is the right choice?

SOTC is led by a 15-year law enforcement veteran, fully BSIS-approved, SB 652 compliant, and offers every certification you need in one place. The hundreds of officers trained by Michael Tew who are working in the field today speak for themselves.

This Is Your Moment

Your career in security starts with one step.

Getting your guard card in California is not complicated. It is a clear, achievable process with defined steps — and every step is one that SOTC can walk you through, teach you, and certify you for.

But here is the bigger takeaway: this is not just about getting a job. It is about stepping into a career that teaches you something real. You will learn to protect people. You will learn to stay calm in a crisis. You will learn to handle a firearm responsibly. You will develop the situational awareness, communication skills, and leadership instincts that serve you in every area of your life.

And you will be part of an industry that is not going anywhere — one that is adapting to a changing world and offering real, lasting opportunity to professionals who invest in themselves.

“The world needs people with skills, integrity, and the courage to show up and do the job. That is what security is about.”

— Security Officer Training Center

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Register for your first course at sotcnnow.com

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