



TheKeepYour  
Community  
SafeInitiative

# A GUIDE TO GUARDS

## Dear Schools, Shuls, Camps, and Jewish Organizations,

Recently, throughout the world, we have seen a marked rise in antisemitism and terror. This upswing is a wake-up call for all Jewish communities everywhere to increase security. The following is a brief outline to help ensure that your institution selects the most appropriate security personnel.

### 1. SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)

**ADVANTAGES:** These elite police officers are highly respected in their field and have spent their careers preparing for hostile situations in a civilian setting. They have specialized training in multiple areas and excel in high-stress situations. They specialize and instruct other officers in active shooter scenarios. They are conditioned to make critical decisions calmly in any situation. Their superior training and experience make them the optimum choice. Additionally, former or retired SWAT members are likely available to work set hours without scheduling conflicts.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Cost varies throughout the country.

### 2. Off-Duty Police Officers

**ADVANTAGES:** Officers are drilled in a wide variety of skills, including firearms, basic first aid, criminal law, ethics, etc. Typically officers have training for active shooter situations. They can reach on-duty officers for immediate assistance.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Off-duty police may be called back to duty for serious emergencies.

### 3. Retired Police Officers

**ADVANTAGES:** Like off-duty policemen, they are trained in a wide variety of skills. They have many years of experience and may be automatically licensed to carry concealed weapons.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Their security background can vary widely, based on when and where they were trained. After 9/11, anti-terrorism training was significantly increased. Depending on when these officers retired, they may or may not have the updated training necessary.

### 4. Former IDF Soldiers

**ADVANTAGES:** Former IDF soldiers can be meticulously trained and unquestionably loyal. Some may have received additional, specialized training to enhance defensive maneuvers in a civilian setting.

**DISADVANTAGES:** Not all former IDF soldiers are experienced in managing security incidents or have the training ideal for a school, shul, camp, or office setting.



*In memory of our brave soldiers who lost their lives in Operation Defensive Edge, for a refuah shleima to the wounded soldiers, and in honor of those who are currently serving.*



## 5. Military Veterans

**ADVANTAGES:** These personnel are honorable men and women who have devotedly served our country. They are trained for combat in a military environment. They may be automatically licensed to carry concealed weapons.

**DISADVANTAGES:** They are not usually trained for defense of a school, shul, camp, or office. Regrettably, some suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to combat stress. They are not police officers and have no arrest powers.

## 6. Special Police Officers

**ADVANTAGES:** Special police officers can be armed and have some training (e.g., campus police). They have arrest powers.

**DISADVANTAGES:** They have arrest powers only on the property to which they are assigned. They generally do not have active shooter training or other appropriate qualifications.

## 7. Armed Guards

**ADVANTAGES:** Their primary function is as a visual deterrent to criminal activity. As they are armed, these guards can take necessary action to stop threats and protect lives. Training varies by company. Some armed guard companies (especially Israeli-owned) provide their guards with excellent, rigorous training.

**DISADVANTAGES:** The lack of extensive practical handgun training in high risk situations could be dangerous, as some security companies supply their own training. They may or may not have active shooter training or other appropriate qualifications. They are not police officers and have no arrest powers.

## 8. Unarmed Guards

**ADVANTAGES:** These guards are used as a visual crime deterrent or for crowd control. They are good for protecting construction sites and work areas. They are the most affordable option.

**DISADVANTAGES:** These personnel are unarmed. They often have minimal training and are typically paid low wages. They generally do not have any active shooter training or other appropriate qualifications. They are not police officers and have no arrest powers.

### Recommended Security Company Questions:

1. How long have you been in business?
2. Please provide references.
3. What pay & benefits do you provide to your guards?
4. How much liability insurance do you have?
5. How do you stay up to date with technology?
6. What methods do you use to train your guards?
7. Are you licensed, bonded, and insured?
8. Do your guards have lockdown, active shooter, and handgun training?
9. Are your guards trained in CPR, first aid, and automated external defibrillator use?
10. What equipment are your guards provided with?

For more information, contact Frank Storch, Founder and President of The Chesed Fund and Project Ezra of Greater Baltimore, Inc.

3209 FALLSTAFF ROAD | BALTIMORE, MD 21215 | 410-340-1000 | CHESEDFUND@GMAIL.COM

This free guide can be downloaded at [www.chesedfund.com](http://www.chesedfund.com)

#### Legal Disclaimer:

This guide is for educational and informational purposes only. The author of this document and any related entities do not assume, and specifically disclaim, any and all liability with respect to any loss or damage to life or property caused by any omission in, or use or misuse of suggestions described here. Information herein may not be applicable or appropriate in all states and jurisdictions. This document should only be used as a supplementary guide and does not substitute for all or specific legal and camp safety risk-management advice or solutions. Please check with local law enforcement, security personnel, fire departments, and the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that any suggestions implemented are in full compliance with public safety recommendations, laws, and regulations. Copyright 2016 The Chesed Fund Limited and Project Ezra of Greater Baltimore, Inc.