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By: Jennifer Parks

The demand for armed security guards is up in Arizona according to Anderson Security Agency, in Phoenix.

At the Ben Avery Shooting Range, they are not police officers, but in some cases they can shoot just as well.

"We don't use these weapons for offense, they're for defense," said Anderson Security Officer, Patrick Connor.

He along with about the dozen men and women are armed security guards with Anderson Security agency out of Phoenix.

They are training to be the first and last line of defense.

"That's a great controversy that's taking place today," said Lyle Rapacki, the director of training for Anderson Security. "Should security guards be armed or not."

Rapacki said the current economic climate has businesses wanting to pull the trigger and request the armed guards.

"[We've seen] about a 33 percent increase in calls on potential clients asking for armed response," he said.

Anderson Security covers everything from financial institutions to apartment communities to warehouses.

The company believes businesses can be hot spots for workplace and domestic violence.

"We have to be ready for anything at anytime for any reason," said Jack Amos, Director of Security at Anderson.

Most of their trained guards have a law enforcement or military background, then go through a 16-hour, DPS certified course including classroom and shooting range instruction.

The guards say they don't want to have to use their weapon, but if they are forced to, they want to make sure they're properly trained.

"Do everything you can not to discharge your weapon," Rapacki said. "But if you have to discharge your weapon make sure you know when you're going to discharge your weapon you're going to take down your assailant."

Anderson Security says it's just another line of defense in a time when workplace shootings and domestic violence seem to be on the rise.