

## New Jersey State Police sergeant arrested for alleged sexual assault in Carneys Point

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By



Sgt. Jonathan Gardenhire

**SALEM** -- A New Jersey State Police sergeant was arrested Wednesday afternoon and charged with allegedly sexually assaulting and holding captive a woman in his unmarked police car on Easter morning, authorities have announced.

Sgt. Jonathan Gardenhire, 41, of Franklinville, was taken into custody after officials said he allegedly picked up a woman at a Carneys Point truck stop on April 12, drove her to an undisclosed location and allegedly committed an act of sexual penetration on her.

Charges against him include sexual assault, criminal restraint and one count of official misconduct.

The matter was investigated by detectives from the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, state police Office of Professional Standards and Carneys Point Police.

County Prosecutor John Lenahan said Gardenhire is a 16-year veteran of the force who had been working out of the Woodstown Barracks.

"It's disturbing and it's disappointing when you have to investigate a law enforcement officer for allegedly breaking the law," Lenahan said. "(Officers) did a very thorough and professional job during the course of this investigation."

Gardenhire was committed to the Salem County Correctional Facility on \$75,000 bail. He has been suspended without pay, said state police Sgt. Stephen Jones.

For the full story, see tomorrow's edition of *Today's Sunbeam*.