



NEWS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

CONTACT: Greg Davy, Public Information Officer

(804) 971-3973 | gregory.davy@djj.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER TO CELEBRATE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION

*Centrally Located Facility Has Helped Public Safety Agencies
Better Coordinate Training, Improve Emergency Response*

Hanover, VA, Sept. 25 – Representatives of all 10 current tenants of the Virginia Public Safety Training Center in Hanover County will gather Wednesday to mark the fifth anniversary of the official dedication of the facility, demonstrate their training techniques, and to reflect on the significant progress the Center has made since its conversion in 2013 from a juvenile correctional center.

“Five years after this Center was dedicated, I believe we can say with confidence that the repurposing of the Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center to the Virginia Public Safety Training Center was a great idea that improved public safety and emergency preparedness in Virginia,” said Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran. “The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) originally saw the possibilities for this property and, thanks to this vision, we now have public safety agencies working together, sharing resources, and better meeting the needs of the people of Virginia.”

“In addition to the clear advantages from a training standpoint for each individual agency that uses the Center, the Center has provided unprecedented opportunities for public safety training units to collaborate and exchange information,” said DJJ Director Andy Block, whose agency oversees the Training Center’s operations. “It has also been incredibly valuable for DJJ as a space for us to provide parallel training and skill-building opportunities for staff from across the agency.”

Agencies now with training units permanently located at the VPSTC include the Department of Juvenile Justice, Virginia State Police, Department of Fire Programs, Department of Forensic Science, National Guard / Military Affairs, Department of Health,

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Department of Corrections, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Division of Magistrate Services of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and the Virginia Commonwealth University Forensic Sciences Department.

“Five years ago the Virginia State Police was fortunate to become a member agency within the Virginia Public Safety Training Center complex in Hanover County,” said VSP Superintendent Col. Gary T. Settle. “The Center has proven to be a great asset to our Bureau of Criminal Investigation’s Richmond Field Office by enabling consolidation of its criminal investigative operations under the same roof.”

The almost 2,000-acre facility is the former home of the Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center, situated on land belonging to DJJ. The Department of Corrections’ AgriBusiness operation, known as Pamunkey Farm, is also located on the property. When the decision was made to close the correctional center, DJJ, which needed it to expand its employee development programs, proposed the idea of repurposing the property into a training center, which could serve other state public safety agencies as well. A coalition of agencies worked together to develop the model that became the VPSTC.

“Initial doubts about whether the concept of a central training facility could work eased fairly quickly as the benefits and practicality were readily apparent very early in the process,” said VPSTC Director Patrick Bridge, who also oversees DJJ’s Training and Organizational Development Unit. “The center has allowed DJJ to develop and improve training programs in a way that would not have been possible in our former location.”

While VPSTC’s focus is on agencies and organizations with a public safety mission, the facility is open to all state and local government entities. The campus includes free parking, fully-equipped training rooms, conference space, a computer lab, and indoor and outdoor space for practical training exercises.

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