HISTORY OF SAMARCAND TRAINING ACADEMY

The newest training facility with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, consisting of 20 buildings, is located on approximately 430 acres in Jackson Springs (Moore County), North Carolina, and is called Samarcand Training Academy.

- Samarcand was originally opened in 1914 as an open-air school for boys by Headmaster Charles Henderson and was known as Marienfeld Open-Air School from 1914-1916.
- In 1917, the North Carolina Legislature purchased the 230 acres from Henderson and in 1918 it became the State Home and Industrial School for Girls and Women, a correctional institution for young women.
- In 1931, sixteen inmates set fire to two dorms and were charged with arson, then a capital crime in the state of North Carolina. Through plea negotiations, the inmates received prison sentences instead of the death penalty.
- In 1974 the state changed the name of the institution to Samarkand Manor and placed it under the purview of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Youth Division.
- Samarkand became one of five state training schools designed to rehabilitate delinquent children (both male and female) between the ages of 10 and 17.
- The school shifted its emphasis to treatment and therapy.
- In the early 2000s Samarkand had approximately 190 clients (40 females and 150 males) and 210 staff members.
- In 2011, the Division of Juvenile Justice closed Samarkand Manor and the property remained vacant.

CONVERSION FROM JUVENILE REHABILITATION TO DPS TRAINING FACILITY

- In 2012, Moore County Legislator James Boles, Jr., submitted a bill to the North Carolina Legislature to provide funding to convert Samarkand Manor into a Corrections and Law Enforcement Training Center for the newly formed Department of Public Safety.
- Session Law 2013-360 appropriated approximately $10.4 million dollars for DPS to renovate 14 buildings as well as build a firearms range.
- This Phase I conversion project included the renovation of six (6) classrooms, dormitories to house 94 overnight students, and food services capabilities (cafeteria.)
- Initial construction began in late 2014 and the Academy began conducting commuter classes in August 2015 with the implementation of Basic Correctional Officer Training.
- In April 2016, a cafeteria and the first of several dormitories opened and overnight accommodations became available for additional training programs.
- The final student dormitory in Phase I was completed in November 2016 and 94 student beds became available.
- The Vocational Annex renovation was completed in January 2017, and the Academy’s 300-degree Use of Force Training Simulator was open for training events.
- The final building, an Instructor dormitory with 10 bedrooms, was completed in May 2017.
• Phase I was subsequently completed with the opening of the Instructor Dormitory in May 2017 and the Firearms Training Center in June 2017.

**PHASE II**

• In March 2016, the citizens of North Carolina voted to approve ConnectNC, a $2 billion-dollar capital improvement bond proposal, which included $8.5 million for the continued renovation of Samarcand.
• These funds will be utilized to construct a brand new, free standing dining hall able to seat 200-250 guests slated to open in August 2019.
• Demolish three (3) dilapidated buildings (Leonard, Ireland, and Gardner.)
• Renovate the Hope Cottage to house 22 beds upstairs and a weight/physical fitness room downstairs. This building opened in late November 2017.
• Renovate the Carroll/Infirmary building to house 26 beds; a classroom; a mat room; separate gender shower and bathroom facilities; and a recreational room, essentially making the building self-sustaining. This building opened in November 2018.
• Renovate the Tufts building to house 24 beds; a classroom; a mat room; separate gender shower and bathroom facilities; and a recreational room, essentially making the building self-sustaining. This building is slated to open in the winter of 2019.
• Renovate the remaining Vocational building to add (3) classrooms; student and instructor break rooms; and office cubicle farm for additional instructors.
• Renovate an existing structure to serve as a Simunitions Building on the main campus for the purpose of conducting tactical room clearing and building searches. Slated to open in the winter of 2019.
• Construct an Obstacle and Conditioning Course for the fitness training of Corrections and Law Enforcement personnel to develop personal fitness and confidence skills.

With the completion of Phase II in the summer of 2020, Samarcand Training Academy will have 11 classrooms; dormitories to provide overnight accommodations for 172 trainees and 14 adjunct instructors; five (5) psychomotor skills mat rooms; two (2) fitness centers with cardiovascular and weight equipment; a dining hall with a capacity of 300 diners; a state of the art firearms training center with (2) outdoor ranges; a state of the art VirTra 300LE use of force training simulator with scenario authoring capability; a two-story simunition training building; and a 16-station obstacle course.

**FIREARMS TRAINING CENTER AT SAMARCAND**

• In September 2015, the North Carolina General Assembly approved an additional $2.89 million dollars to construct a state-of-the-art Firearms Training Center.
• The Center consists of two (2) shooting ranges - a 12 lane range with shooting points out to 50 yards with steel bullet traps and stationary targets, and a 24-lane range with shooting points out to 300 yards, consisting of steel bullet traps and an inverted turning targetry system.
• The turning targetry is operated by a computer system located in the Range Control Tower and has the capability to be activated remotely.
• Included in the range package are mobile lighting stations which provide both white light and blue light illumination for qualification and tactical firearms training, a concrete pad out to 25 yards for utilization of vehicles as a shooting platform, and wooden barricades.
• Lastly, a 3,000 square foot range house consisting of a classroom, restrooms, Range Master office, weapons cleaning room, firearms marksmanship training simulator, and temporary storage have been built.
• A ribbon cutting/grand opening ceremony was held and the firearms training center officially opened in June of 2016.
• Since it opened in 2017, as of June 30, 2019, 5,478 shooters have fired over 681,223 rounds during a period of 2,736 hours of range use.