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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District is constructing a new barracks for the cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The new structure will relieve overcrowding and be energy-efficient. This is a rendering of what the barracks will look like by the Summer of 2016.

Credit: USACE, New York District

Room To Grow

New Cadet barracks will provide more living space and cut costs at West Point

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D.

Not too long ago, dozens of Cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, became very ill and missed classes.

According to the Academy, this was caused by the fact that almost half of the Cadets were living in uncomfortable, crowded dorm rooms, and it was decided that additional barracks were needed to relieve the situation.

It tapped the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, to construct a new barracks since the agency had a proven track record of successfully building numerous structures on the historic campus.

Presently, the District is blasting more than 100,000 cubic yards of rock to make way for the new barracks. The look of the new structure will fit in well with the rest of the 200-year-old campus, and the facility will be energy efficient and provide taxpayer savings of approximately

\$44,000 annually.

"A new barracks that meets current Army standards is needed to relieve overcrowding in the existing barracks," said Richard Mandra, project manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. "Right now, the entire first-year class and part of the second-year class is housed with three Cadets in rooms designed for two cadets. This project will allow assignment of two Cadets per room."

The new Cadet barracks is being designed and constructed by Army Corps contractor Walsh Construction Company of Chicago, Illinois, and its subcontractor, Clark Nexsen. The barracks will be 287,000 square feet in size and will have six floors. Each floor will accommodate 130 Cadets in two-person rooms. The entire barracks will provide living space for 650 Cadets, including latrines and showers, a laundry area, day rooms, office areas, study and

Unlike the other buildings constructed at West Point, the barracks will be LEED Silver certified.

collaboration rooms, trash and recycling areas, and offices and storage rooms.

The barracks, like the surrounding buildings, will be constructed in military gothic revival architecture. The design will include granite veneers or overlays, gothic arches, sally ports or secure entryways, and crenellated parapets with embrasures and limestone accents. Parapets are structures that were constructed on the tops of castles and forts centuries ago that have openings for shooting from the top of the structure.

"The project is located at the Central Post of the

main campus, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960," said Matthew A. Ludwig, team leader, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. "The barracks will be constructed of granite from a local supplier to match the existing buildings."

The design also will incorporate modern architectural features, such as a curtain wall in the center of the façade. A curtain wall is an outer covering of a building that keeps the weather out, such as precipitation.

Unlike the other buildings constructed at West Point, the barracks will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified. A solar hot water system and a radiant heating and cooling system will contribute to the building's energy efficiency.

During the heating season, the radiant system that is being installed will circulate heated water through tubing in the floor. During the cooling season, the radiant system will circulate chilled water through the same tubing.

Construction is expected to be complete by Summer 2016. Cadets should be able to use the new facility by the end of December 2016. ■

Dr. JoAnne Castagna is a public affairs specialist and writer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. Reach her at joanne.castagna@usace.army.mil. Follow her on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/writer4usacenyc>.

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