



## **Military academy is set to go green**

By: Preston Knight, NVDaily.com (North Virginia Daily)

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WOODSTOCK -- Craig Jones can look out a window and see that brighter days are ahead for Massanutten Military Academy's enrollment.

"Green" technology is coming to the school, as energy-efficient projects are set to begin in the coming days at a number of campus buildings. Included in the list are cadet dorms and classrooms, which lack central heating and cooling systems, one major component of the energy work, said Jones, MMA's head of school.

"Our air-conditioning system has been open the window or put in window units," he said. Jones said the new system will provide more comfortable living conditions for students, and the energy project as a whole will eventually help enrollment.

MMA is teaming with Linc Services LLC, of Washington for the more than \$3 million project, called Bundled Energy Solutions. It is estimated to save the school at least \$6.7 million in energy and operational costs in the next 15 years, a press release states. Those savings will pay for the project, Jones said, and the academy also will apply for energy grants to offset some costs.

Benchoff, Harrison, Lantz and Warehime halls, as well as the dining hall and gymnasium, are part of the project. Renovations will include installation of new high-efficiency lighting, the heating and cooling systems, replacing and upgrading mechanical systems and incorporating water conservation measures, the release states. Jones, who started as MMA's head last year, said the school and Linc have talked about the project for "a while," but it has been on hold. "I'm just proud the board [of trustees] said, 'Look, we've got to do this,'" he said. "The board said, 'Let's go.'"

The majority of the upgrades are expected to be finished by the end of this year, said Jeffrey Buennemeyer, vice president of Linc Services. That includes addressing a 40-year-old boiler and an infrastructure near the end of its life, he said.

Linc teams with about a dozen schools or school divisions a year, and a project in Waynesboro Public Schools was completed in March, Buennemeyer said.

"The academy's been very proactive with this approach," he said. "It's a tough economy. People are looking for new and better ways to keep up with the costs."

The energy work will come as MMA continues fundraising for the renovation of the two oldest buildings on campus, Riddleberger and Sperry halls. Both have had no use except for storage since closing in 1998.

The plan continues to take shape, but Jones said the idea is to bring back MMA's original look. Renovations will include the opening of a new library, as well as the addition of more classroom space and the creation of new arts programs, officials have said.

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