

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-16-2-0002
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2016**

Project Title: Overview and Synthesis of Prehistoric Archaeological Resources on the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms: A Spatial and Temporal Expansion

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN) to address an overview and synthesis of prehistoric archeological resources at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twenty-nine Palms, California. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is Cooperative Agreement under 10 USC §2684. Approximately \$100,000.00 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 10 USC §2684

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unite Californian cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms has been the subject of intensive cultural resources studies for two decades and contains one of the most thoroughly documented archaeological records in the Mojave Desert region. In December 2013, the Marine Corps acquired roughly 105,000 additional acres resulting in the establishment of three new training areas (Cleghorn Lake, Bessemer mine, and Galway Lake). Surveys on the installation to date have identified 1916 site deposits with prehistoric components, with site densities varying significantly from one range to the next based on differences in hydrology, biotic potential, and access to lithic resources. Evaluation efforts have been completed at no fewer than 887 site locations, providing a robust body of information regarding the nature of surface and subsurface cultural deposits across MCAGCC. Temporal data acquired during these studies reflect an extended occupation sequence, beginning in the Paleo-Indian period and continuing into historic times. Comparable data are available for few other localities in the Mojave Desert (cf. Fort Irwin, NAWS China Lake, Edwards AFB), while, by contrast, almost none are available in the immediate vicinity of MCAGCC (cf. Joshua Tree National Park).

What has yet to be developed is the broader research and information potential of the MCAGCC archaeological record and how different training areas may or may not contribute to understanding the whole. Data demonstrate that some ranges contain fewer archaeological resources than others and generally harbor sites of limited interest; other training areas clearly contain high densities of

habitation sites that offer information on diverse research themes. Cultural resource studies have been conducted over more than two decades by a wide variety of research teams and there has been little opportunity to synthesize results and assess the MCAGCC record against one frame of reference. A document that systematically reviews the archaeological content and research prospects of individual training ranges can serve as an effective planning tool in making decisions about where future funding and protective actions might best be targeted. Additionally, the synthesis of such a large region with varied landscapes and numerous cultural resources could be applied as a model in areas near MCAGCC where no such synthesis has been performed.

This is a follow on action to Cooperative Agreement N62473-14-2-0011 that is providing an ongoing study that is currently synthesizing information for the old installation boundaries up to fiscal year 2013. Whoever secures this cooperative agreement will need to coordinate efforts with the cooperator of the existing synthesis study. This new project is intended to incorporate additional data from the three new ranges (Cleghorn Lake, Bessemer Mine, and Galway Lake) and bring information for the other ranges current through fiscal year 2015. This will provide a wholly inclusive and up-to-date summary of prehistoric archaeological resources at MCAGCC that will serve future research and management efforts across the Mojave Desert region.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statement of interests that address an overview and synthesis of archeological resources at MCAGCC. The overview would need to be organized according to individual training area, with the ultimate intent of integrating these specific treatments into a composite synthesis of occupation trajectories across the installation. Important by-range data components would include the following:

- Data on the hydrological, geological, and biotic composition of landscapes within each training range
- Basic information on survey coverage, site densities, and evaluation status of known archeological resources
- An assessment of spatial relationships between identified sites and how these relationships correlate with topographic, geological, and other features in the environment that might be influencing locational patterns
- Characterization of functional variation in the archeological record according to various measures:
 - Basic settlement categories employed at MCAGCC and other Mojave Desert localities – quarries/workshops, habitation sites, rock art sites, lithic scatters, and the like
 - Specific artifact classes and feature types, detailing the density and distribution of such elements as burned rock concentrations, segregated reduction loci, and functionally diagnostic tool categories such as projectile points, bifaces, cores, milling tools, cobble tools, ornaments, and pottery
 - Compositional variability in lithic material groups (e.g., cryptocrystalline quartz, fine-grained igneous, obsidian, and quartzitics) according to particular technological categories
- Chronological reconstruction based on range-specific radiocarbon dates, obsidian hydration, and time-diagnostic artifact classes (cf. projectile points, beads, ceramics, etc.); these data will be assembled from NREA databases as well as original reports.

This expanded treatment of MCAGCC prehistory should continue to focus on two levels of integration and synthesis. The first operates according to individual training areas, comparing and contrasting the nature of local occupation patterns, temporal profiles, functional variation, and the like. While it is apparent, for example, that lithic prospects are abundant in some ranges, while habitation sites occur more frequently in other contexts, these patterns have yet to be quantified and assessed in a systematic fashion. Range-specific occupation histories would then be integrated at the installation level to explore differences in prehistoric activities across the broader landscape. This step provides an effective synthesis of MCAGCC archeology that can then be contrasted to other sectors of the Mojave Desert and southwestern Great Basin. Base-wide data needs are as follows:

- Synthesis of regional data relating to past climatic and environmental data; these include extant MCAGCC woodrat and lake level data as well as information derived from other Mojave Desert localities.
- Synthesis of regional chronometric data, especially as reflected in the abundance and distribution of time markers, obsidian hydration measurements, and radiometric dates; these are expected to show variability across the installation and beyond.
- Synthesis of settlement profiles from different physiographic and environmental contexts to assess how prehistoric peoples engaged local habitats and partitioned activities; this is dependent on correlation of range-specific activity profiles determined previously.
- Discussion of research potential of different landscape types on MCAGCC with respect to priorities for future funding and work levels; these results will be useful in configuring subsequent cultural resource management plans for the installation, but could be adapted elsewhere.

Please see enclosure 1 for full scope of work and enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement is expected to be approximately 24 months from date of award (approximately April 2016). The exact period of work performance will be determined upon award, and will be subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341).

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo (reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil).

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF-LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or

will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Scientific Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, completeness of responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

A. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place for project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- A minimum of a PhD in Anthropology, Archaeology, or related scientific discipline;
- Extensive knowledge of, and hands-on experience in, the archaeology of the Mojave Desert and the western Great Basin;
- Knowledge of environmental geology and a demonstrated proficiency in GIS analysis and interpretation of archaeological location data;
- Familiarity with the collections and physiography aboard MCAGCC will be necessary to facilitate this undertaking;
- Experience working on live-fire ranges

B. Technical Staff: The person(s) shall have, at the minimum:

- Extensive knowledge of, and hands-on experience in, the archaeology of the Mojave Desert and the western Great Basin

With the Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form, the Applicant shall provide type written resumes, not to exceed 3 pages, single spaced with 12pt font for the Principal Investigator and Technical Staff proposed for this project. Resumes must state qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. The Offeror may only propose additional geographic and environmental variables to consider, not mentioned in the RSOI, but pertinent to the study issues.

The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the optional work years as listed within the statement of work.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form*(Enclosure 5).

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.

- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by March 29, 2016 2:00 PM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after March 29, 2016 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
619.532.2090