

UW-Madison / US Army Civil Affairs Environmental Initiative

The need for expertise on the environment is critical to Civil Affairs operations as per specialist area “38G/4E – Environment and Natural Resources.” Given UW-Madison’s well-recognized expertise across a range of environmental and resource management areas, there is a clear opportunity to help meet USACA’s needs. A clear route of communication and facilitation, however, will be essential so that unit needs are well-articulated and understood by area experts, and sufficient human resources are available to support dialogue. A pilot 2-year Initiative will be established in order to:

- 1) Create an internal organizational structure at UW-Madison to facilitate access to UW-Madison environmental expertise in support of 38G personnel.
- 2) Design a project/request/work-flow system that simultaneously meets the needs of 38G personnel, while simultaneously not overtaxing faculty time/resources.
- 3) Provide infrastructure to support 38G personnel excursions to the Madison campus for workshops/trainings.

Proposed Structure

The Initiative will be overseen from the **Dean’s Office** of the *Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies*. Additionally, an **oversight committee** consisting of a small number of environmental experts from across campus will be periodically convened. A **faculty chair** of that committee will receive a month of summer salary to dedicate a fixed amount of time to the project. In addition, a 60% staff member will serve as the **primary liaison** between USACA and the initiative. In support of this position, **graduate student hourlies** may be periodically assigned to facilitate research, organize workshops, or manage informational requests. Additionally **fractional faculty research time** may be compensated, as needed.

The faculty chair’s role will be to provide knowledge of campus expertise, help scope and scale responses and programs, and guide any staff or student work related to the Initiative, reporting out to the oversight committee twice per year. The chair will receive a month of summer salary and so be expected to provide a fixed amount of dedicated time and attention.

The primary liaison will be a dedicated staff member, preferably with both some background in environmental issues, science and scholarship, but also with a background in working with the United States Army (in service, as a consultant, etc.). The primary liaison will be the first point of contact for USACA personnel.

Proposed Workflow and Expectations

Requests for consultation, workshops, or research will emerge from 38G-identified needs. These will pass directly to the primary liaison for coordination and dissemination. Requests will be submitted with expected initial response durations sufficiently long enough to allow time to coordinate and provide meaningful responses. The scope of requests will be discussed in advance to “right size” the nature of the consultation/response. Ideally, requests will come in the form of specific sets of questions, sufficiently “close-ended” to allow experts to target responses or recommendations. These requests might be met in a number of ways/formats, including:

- A meeting between 38G personnel and area expert (or experts), to follow a Q&A format or brief presentation, using 38G’s preferred secure platform (APAN)
- A short (~1-2 page) precis summary of information relevant to meet needs and decision-making.
- A brief research summary, of one or two paragraphs to target new information relevant to the query
- The scheduling of a workshop/excursion, to be held on the UW-Madison campus or online, for more in-depth review of current knowledge relevant to the query (not to exceed four such events over the two-year program period)

Proposed Assessment

On a periodic basis, the leadership team from UW-Madison will meet with the leadership team from USACA to review overall progress and Initiative status. Specifically, these meetings should encourage the group to collectively determine whether 38G needs are being met, whether the workload and expectations for campus personnel is being correctly scoped, and whether changes in format or structure are needed (course correction).

Proposed Budget

Faculty chair 1-month of summer salary	16,000
Primary liaison - 60% staff time	45,000
Graduate student ad hoc hourly support	20,000
Consultation charges for additional faculty time	6,000
Excursion support expenses	38,000
TOTAL (per annum)	125,000