FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FILL AREA WEST OF RANGE 19, PARCEL 233(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY

JULY 2005

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related hazardous substances. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. This decision was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7). The background documents for Parcel 233(7) are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510, established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA), Public Law 102-426, requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the CERCLA process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which occupies 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which occupies

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 233(7)

EDAW, Inc., 1997, ***Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama***, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, ***Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, ***Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 2002a, ***Draft Final Site Investigation and Fill Area Definition Report, Landfills and Fill Areas, Parcels 78(6), 79(6), 80(6), 81(5), 175(5), 230(7), 227(7), 229(7), 126(7), 233(7), and 82(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, March.

IT Corporation (IT), 2002b, ***Draft Final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, Landfills and Fill Areas, Parcels 78(6), 79(6), 80(6), 81(5), 175(5), 230(7), 227(7), 229(7), 126(7), 233(7), and 82(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, March.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, ***Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama,*** July.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2003, ***Final Wetland Determination, Landfills and Fill Areas, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** April.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2004, ***Draft-Final Site Investigation Report, Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** September.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2001, ***Archives Search Report Maps (Revision 1), Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama***, September.

22,245 acres, is located roughly 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7), is located in the west-central portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). Parcel 233(7) is an elliptical 1.3-acre area measuring approximately 350 feet long by 150 feet wide. Iron Mountain Road and Remount Creek are located approximately 500 feet east of the site. Troop Road is located along the northern and eastern boundary of the parcel and provides access to the site from Iron Mountain Road. Parcel 233(7) ranges in elevation from approximately 820 to 835 feet above mean sea level and gently slopes to the north toward a tributary to Remount Creek located along the northern boundary of the site.

Parcel 233(7) was identified as a small "fill area" on a 1949 aerial photograph composite. Information was not available regarding the type of material placed at this location nor were the exact operational dates determined based on the review of available reports (ESE, 1998). In 2001 partially exposed empty 55-gal drums were removed as part of clearing and construction activities for the Anniston Eastern Bypass Highway.

The Archive Search Report (ASR) identified the area that Parcel 233(7) falls within as the former Combat Range No. 2. Combat Range No. 2 was built sometime between WWI and WWII; however, the initial use of this range is unknown. During WWII, this area was divided into a rocket

range, a hand grenade court, and two rifle/grenade ranges. These ranges were closed or abandoned before 1958. According to the ASR, 3.5-inch rockets may have been used on this range. Although Parcel 233(7) was located outside of any suspected ordnance impact areas, the entire area has been cleared of all potential unexploded ordnance (UXO) as part of the Eastern Bypass removal action. The Army has addressed all UXO-related issues separately.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 233(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the EBS. Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation. With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 233(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response (ESE, 1998).

SITE INVESTIGATION

SI and fill area definition activities were conducted at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical Army activities (IT, 2002a). SI field activities included a geophysical survey, trenching, and the collection and analysis of six surface soil samples, one depositional soil sample, six subsurface soil samples, and one groundwater sample. Four groundwater monitoring wells were also installed at the site. However, only one well produced sufficient groundwater for sampling. This was followed by an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) that summarized the site characterization and provided a streamlined human health risk assessment (SRA) and a screening-level ecological risk assessment (SLERA) in accordance with CERCLA criteria (IT, 2002b).

The geophysical survey identified one area of anomalously high conductivity. Exploratory trenching was performed within the fill area based on the results of the geophysical investigation. Trench excavations consisted of one 50-foot-long trench crossed by a 30-foot-long trench. These trenches were excavated to depths of 3 to 6 feet below ground surface. The trenches did not indicate the presence of fill material below ground surface.

Target analyses for the soil and groundwater samples collected included metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), pesticides, and herbicides.

Chemical analysis of samples indicated that metals, VOCs, SVOCs, and pesticides were detected in site media. To evaluate whether the detected constituents pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) (IT, 2000). Additionally, site metals data were evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site media were naturally occurring.

Three metals in soil (barium, iron, and manganese) and two metals in groundwater (chromium and nickel) were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background (where available) and, thus, were selected as chemical of potential concern (COPC). The statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that these metals were naturally occurring, except for chromium and nickel in groundwater. To address the presence of chromium and nickel in groundwater, groundwater data were evaluated from four additional wells that surround the site. The data from the surrounding wells indicated that chromium was not detected in any of the wells and nickel was detected in only one upgradient well (800 feet away) at a level below the SSSL. Therefore, the chromium and nickel detected in groundwater at Parcel 233(7) appear to be isolated occurrences, and are not believed to pose an unacceptable threat to human health. The pesticide aldrin was also identified as a COPC in groundwater because it was detected at an estimated concentration exceeding its SSSL. The SRA completed as part of the EE/CA for Parcel 233(7) concluded that aldrin in

groundwater was not a human health concern because the calculated risk was within acceptable limits (IT, 2002b).

Four metals (barium, beryllium, cobalt, and manganese) were detected in surface soil at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background and, thus, were selected as constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC). However, the statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that these metals were all naturally occurring. The VOC acetone was also identified as a COPEC in surface soil because it was detected at an estimated concentration minimally exceeding its ESV in one sample. Based on the relatively small amount by which the acetone result exceeded the ESV, coupled with the destruction of much of the terrestrial habitat through construction of the Eastern Bypass Highway, it is concluded that acetone does not pose an unacceptable threat to ecological receptors at this site. This conclusion is consistent with the findings of the SLERA completed as part of the EE/CA (IT, 2002b).

In addition, an assessment of wetlands located within an approximate 200-foot perimeter of Parcel 233(7) was performed in December 2002. The wetland determination concluded that wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the United States do not exist on or within 200 feet of the parcel (Shaw, 2003).

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 233(7). No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and chemical compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. Furthermore, Parcel 233(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7). There are no costs associated with implementing the no-action alternative.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. Furthermore, Parcel 233(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at the Fill Area West of Range 19, Parcel 233(7).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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ACRONYMS

ASR	Archive Search Report
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPC	chemical of potential concern
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
EBS	environmental baseline survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
SI	site investigation
SLERA	screening level ecological risk assessment
SRA	streamlined human health risk assessment
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

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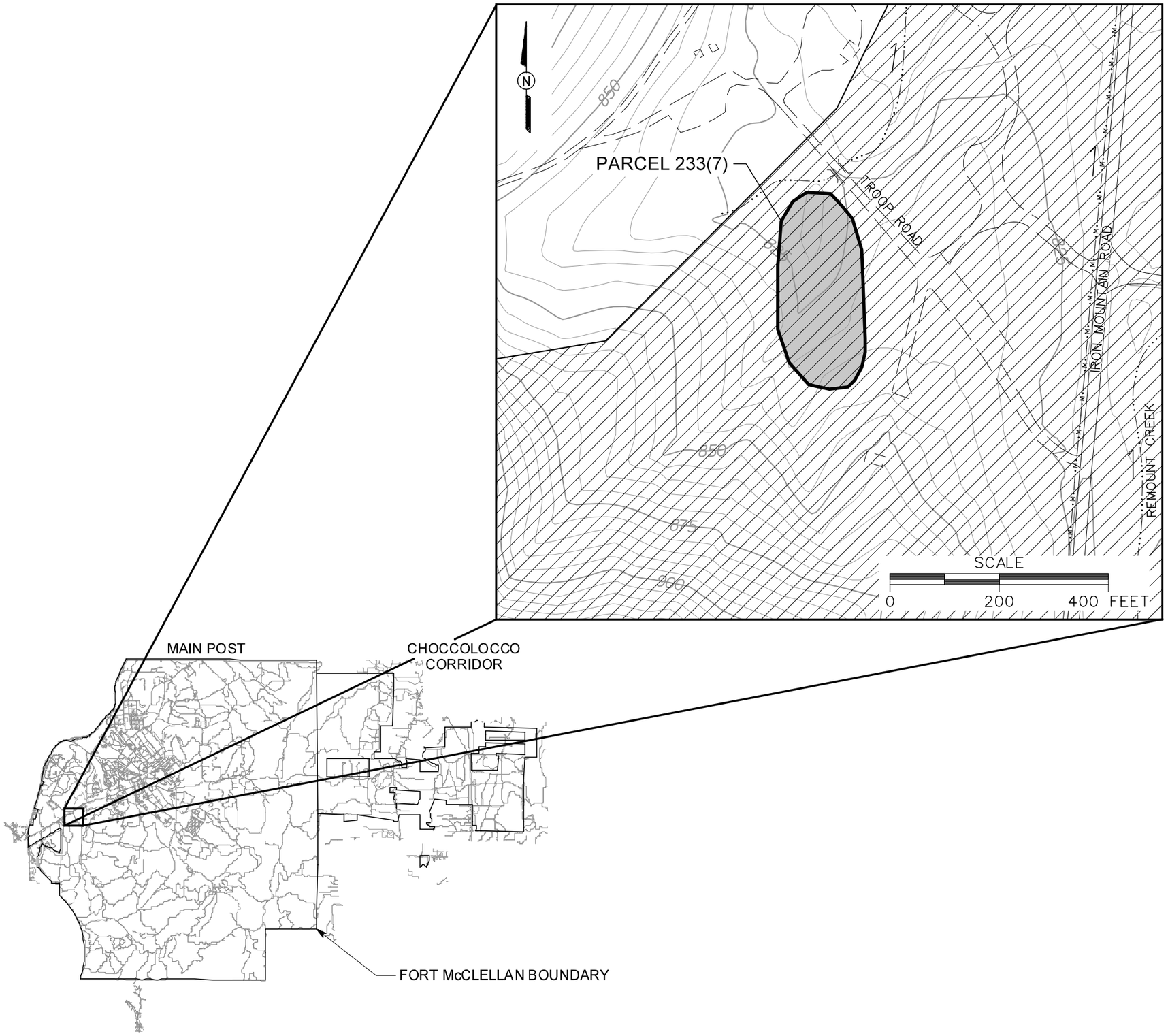

LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS
- PAVED ROADS
- FORMER BUILDING
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOUR (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 5 FOOT)
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK W/ FLOW DIRECTION
- MANMADE SURFACE DRAINAGE FEATURE W/ FLOW DIRECTION
- EASTERN BYPASS CORRIDOR

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
FILL AREA WEST OF RANGE 19
PARCEL 233(7)

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT
FORT McCLELLAN
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018

Shaw™ Shaw Environmental, Inc.

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