FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT
FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE, PARCEL 98Q
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

OCTOBER 2006

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, located at the former 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 hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Transition Force 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 a site investigation (SI) completed at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-regulated 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 Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q. The background documents for Parcel 98Q are listed on Page 2 and are available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SITE

The former 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, 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

The former FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC consisted of three main areas: Main Post, Pelham Range, and Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama until May 1998. The Main Post, which occupied 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 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the former Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot to the south.

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 98Q

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, ***Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama***, Final, January.

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

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

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2006, ***Site Investigation Report, Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** Final, October.

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

The Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, is located near the intersection of MOUT Road and Syracuse Street in the northern-central portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). Including its extensive range safety fan, Parcel 98Q occupies approximately 700 acres; however, the area of investigation for the SI was limited to an approximately 100-acre area encompassing the range firing line and impact area.

According to the *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS), Parcel 98Q was one of seven former rifle/machine gun ranges identified in the northern Main Post (ESE, 1998). Dates of operation and types of weapons fired at this range are unknown; however, based on the range name presented in the EBS, it is assumed that small-arms were used at this range. Aerial photographs indicate that Parcel 98Q was used from 1940 until approximately 1964.

During SI site reconnaissance conducted in November 2001, numerous range-related features were observed, including mounds, berms, targets, and trenches. Most of the target berms had an associated pit where the target was likely placed.

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 98Q was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-regulated hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal, but that do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcel 98Q was qualified for the potential presence of chemicals of concern (e.g., lead) as a result of historical range activities.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 98Q will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2006). The SI consisted of the collection of 35 surface and depositional soil samples, 32 subsurface soil samples, 2 groundwater samples, 1 seep water sample, and 1 sediment sample. In addition, two groundwater

PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library
Reference Section
Anniston, Alabama 36201
Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison
Telephone: (256) 237-8501
Fax: (256) 238-0474
Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library
9th Floor
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road
Jacksonville, Alabama 36265
Point of Contact: Ms. Paula Barnett-Ellis (256) 782-5249
Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

monitoring wells were installed during the SI to facilitate groundwater sample collection and provide site-specific hydrogeological information. All SI samples were analyzed for potential range-related constituents, namely metals and explosive compounds; approximately 10 percent of the samples were analyzed for a broader list of constituents, including volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, and herbicides.

Metals and a limited number of VOCs, pesticides, and herbicides were detected in site media. SVOCs and explosives were not detected in any of the samples. To determine the presence or absence of contamination, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to FTMC background values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). Site metals data were further evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site samples were naturally occurring or if they contained a component of contamination. A preliminary ecological risk assessment (PERA) was also performed to further evaluate potential risks to ecological receptors.

Although the site is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, 1997), the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted land reuse. Chemicals of potential concern (COPC) were lead and copper in surface soil, the pesticide heptachlor in groundwater, and lead in seep water. Lead and copper concentrations in surface soil, however, were below SSSLs. Although heptachlor was detected at an estimated concentration (0.000062 milligrams per liter [mg/L]) above its SSSL (0.000014 mg/L) in one groundwater sample, the pesticide's concentration was

well below the EPA maximum contaminant level of 0.0004 mg/L for drinking water. Lead was selected as the only COPC in seep water because its concentration (0.04 mg/L) exceeded its SSSL (0.015 mg/L) and background (0.0087 mg/L). The SSSL, however, is the EPA action level for lead in tap water. Because the incidental nature of exposure to seep water is expected to be far less intense than exposure to tap water, the SSSL was deemed overly conservative. The SI report concluded that the metals and pesticide COPCs at Parcel 98Q are not expected to pose a threat to human health.

Constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) identified in the PERA were two metals (copper and lead), three pesticides (beta-BHC, gamma-BHC, and dieldrin), and one herbicide (MCPP) in surface soil, heptachlor in groundwater, and lead in seep water. With the exception of lead, the PERA concluded that these COPECs are unlikely to pose significant risk to ecological receptors based on the relatively small magnitude of the exceedances, comparison to other relevant screening values, and consideration of site-specific conditions. With regard to lead in surface soil at the site, the PERA concluded that the highest detected lead concentrations are not expected to pose an unacceptable risk to ecological receptors except for potential impacts to only the most sensitive species. Although lead in seep water was judged to have the potential to pose adverse ecological effects to aquatic and semi-aquatic species, the PERA concluded that actual ecological exposures were unlikely because the creek is dry during significant portions of the year and would not provide adequate habitat to support an aquatic community.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q.

DECLARATION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q, because remedial action for CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances is unnecessary at this site. The no-action alternative protects human health and the environment, complies with relevant federal and state regulations, and has no cost. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the site or that require land-use control restrictions. Parcel 98Q is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Rifle/Machine Gun Range, Parcel 98Q.

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	Archives 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
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
mg/L	milligrams per liter
PERA	preliminary ecological risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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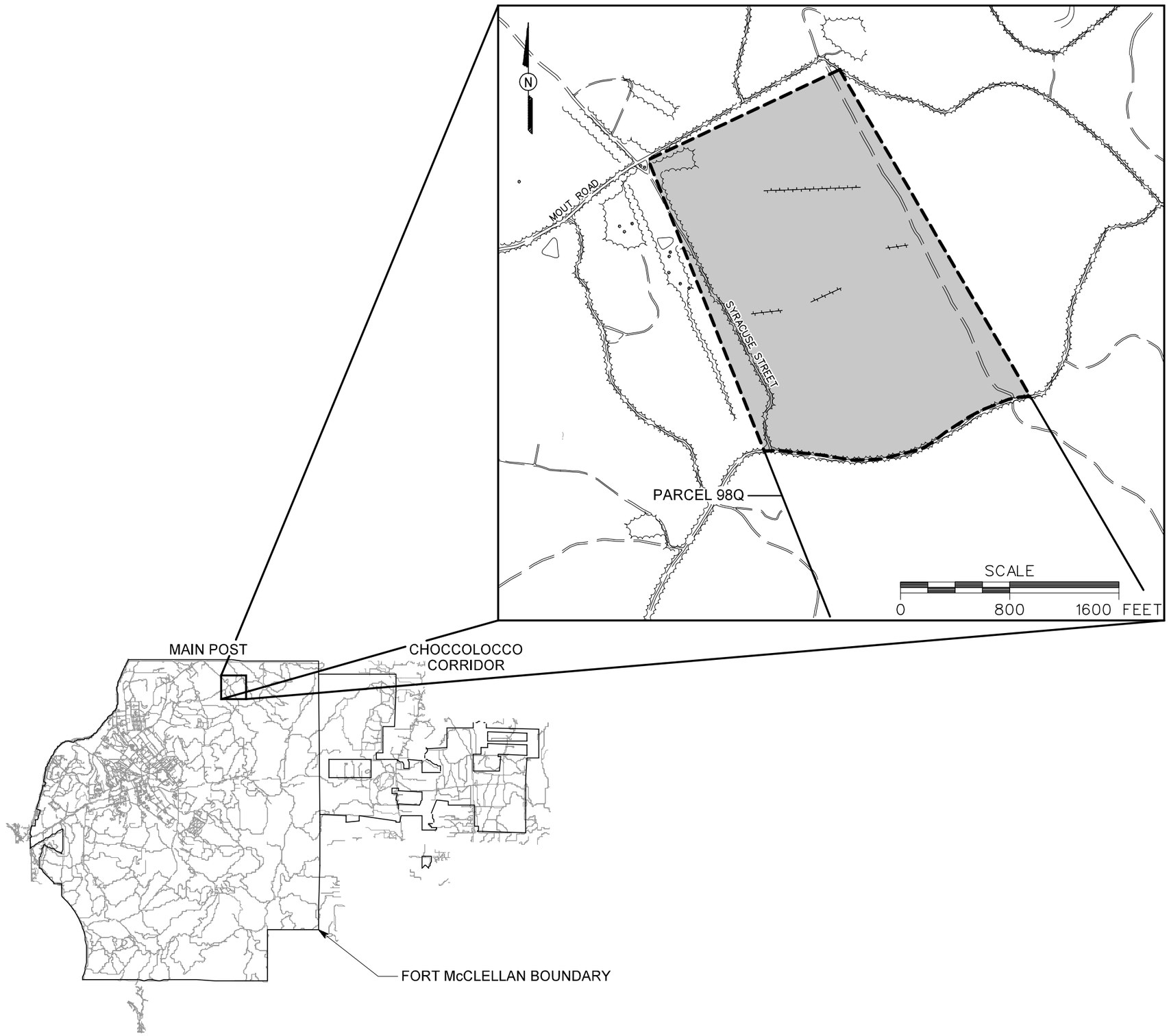

LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- AREA OF INVESTIGATION
- BERM

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
FORMER RIFLE/MACHINE GUN RANGE
PARCEL 98Q

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

Shaw™ Shaw Environmental, Inc.

DATE LAST REV.:		DRAFT. CHCK. BY:	
DRAWN BY:		ENGR. CHCK. BY: S. MORAN	
STARTING DATE: 10/10/06		INITIATOR: T. WINTON	
DRAWN BY:		PROJ. MGR.:	
DWG. NO.:	796887es.936	PROJ. NO.:	796887

10/10/2006 2:06:40 PM
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