

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORMER DECONTAMINATION COMPLEX
PARCELS 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), AND 140(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

AUGUST 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 for a portion of the Former Decontamination Complex, Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7), located at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the U.S. Army's decisions regarding this site. The location of the site 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 (ADEM). The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) conducted at the

Former Decontamination Complex and the future property use, the U.S. Army will implement no further action with regard to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related hazardous substances for a portion of the site. The area for no further action is an approximately 1.2-acre area of Parcel 93(7) located north of Trench Hill Road, including Parcel 140(7) in its entirety. As shown on Figure 2, the portion of Parcel 93(7) north of Trench Hill Road lies on property that was transferred under Early Transfer Authority to the Anniston-Calhoun County FTMC Development Joint Powers Authority (JPA) in September 2003.

The SI also determined that acetone may be a chemical of potential concern in groundwater in the southern portion of the site (i.e., south of Trench Hill Road). Therefore, the remainder of the site requires further investigation to confirm the presence and, if necessary, the extent of acetone in groundwater. Real property accountability for the portion of the site located south of Trench Hill Road was reassigned from FTMC to the National Guard Bureau in February 2005 (Figure 2). These decisions were 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 Decontamination Complex, Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7). The primary background documents for the site 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. A September 1996 amendment to CERCLA allows Federal agencies to transfer property before all necessary cleanup actions have been taken. This provision

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), AND 140(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.

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

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw), 2003, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Decontamination Complex, Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

(§120(h)(3)(C)), known as Early Transfer Authority, authorizes the deferral of the CERCLA covenant requiring all remedial actions to be completed before Federal property is transferred when the findings required by the statute can be made and the response action assurances required by the statute are given. The governor of Alabama concurred with the deferral request for the northern portion of this site on September 30, 2003. 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 potential 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 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Decontamination Complex, Parcel 93(7), is located at the corner of Freemont Road and Trench Hill Road in the

northwestern portion of the Main Post (Figure 1). Parcels 46(7) and 140(7) are located entirely within Parcel 93(7); Parcel 70(7) is located just east of Parcel 93(7). Collectively, the parcels occupy approximately 6.6 acres. The entire investigation area south of Trench Hill Road is fenced, except for Parcel 70(7).

Parcel 93(7) includes Building T-1271 and several concrete foundations (including one for the former Building T-1272) and paved areas. Buildings T-1271 and T-1272 housed the 61st Chemical Company from 1961 to 1973. The company's mission was chemical laundry operations and the Main Post bakery. Chemical laundry operations involved the reimpregnation of undergarments used in chemical exercises with paraffin. Reimpregnation activities used wax, chlorinated oils, and, reportedly, toluene and ethanol. Waste from the laundry operations was discharged into the sanitary sewer system. In 1973, the 61st

**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. Rita Smith (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.

Chemical Company left FTMC and the 548th Battalion continued the mission but discontinued the reimpregnation activities (ESE, 1998).

The 61st Chemical Company returned to FTMC in 1979. From 1980 to 1994, this facility housed the Decontamination Apparatus Branch of the Directorate of Training and the area was used primarily for equipment storage. The Decontamination Complex was closed in 1994 (ESE, 1998).

Parcel 46(7) is an underground storage tank (UST) site located near the southeastern corner of Building T-1271. According to the *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (EBS), in 1996, a 2,500-gallon heating oil tank was removed and

a 3,000-gallon heating oil tank was closed in place.

Parcel 70(7) encompasses Building 1298, a former washrack for a refuse dumpster and dump truck cleaning facility. The washrack was built in 1960 and discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

Parcel 140(7) is a former gas station located in the northern end of Parcel 93(7). Built in 1941, the building consisted of a 9- by 21-foot cement foundation with corrugated steel walls. Two fuel pumps were located on an island approximately 20 feet in front of the building. The original plans called for two 10,000-gallon USTs. However, closure reports for the USTs are not on file at FTMC or ADEM. During the SI, Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw)

investigated Parcel 140(7) using geophysical methods and exploratory excavation but did not find any USTs (Shaw, 2003).

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF
PARCEL**

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance (ESE, 1998). All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7) were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels in the EBS. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation to determine their environmental condition.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, The portion of Parcel 93(7) located north of Trench Hill Road including Parcel 140(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. The remaining parcels associated with the Former Decontamination Complex including the portion of Parcel 93(7) south of Trench Hill Road and Parcels 46(7), and 70(7) will be addressed by the National Guard to determine their environmental condition with respect to potential groundwater contamination.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Decontamination Complex, Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7), to determine whether chemical constituents were present at the site as a result of historical Army activities (Shaw, 2003). The SI was conducted in two phases: an initial investigation (Phase I) and supplemental sampling and monitoring well installation to confirm the presence of organic compounds in groundwater and to determine the horizontal extent of chromium at one surface soil sample location (Phase II).

A total of 27 surface soil samples, 5 depositional soil samples, 26 subsurface soil samples, 25 groundwater samples, 6 surface water samples, and 6 sediment samples were collected during both phases of the investigation. Groundwater samples were

collected from 21 monitoring wells installed at the site during the investigation. Samples were analyzed for various analytical parameters including metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), cyanide, and explosive compounds. A geophysical survey and exploratory excavation were also conducted at Parcel 140(7) to locate potential USTs. However, no USTs were found.

To evaluate the presence or absence of contamination, the analytical results from the site samples were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL), ecological screening values (ESV), and background screening values for FTMC. The SSSLs and ESVs were developed by Shaw as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with investigations performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC (IT, 2000). Background metals screening values are presented in the *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama* (SAIC, 1998). Additionally, site metals data were evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site media were present at naturally occurring levels.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background (where available) were identified as human health chemicals of potential concern (COPC) in site media and included metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), VOCs, and

one explosive compound. With the exception of the VOC acetone in groundwater, these COPCs were determined not to pose a threat to human health based on the Phase II investigation results, statistical/geochemical evaluation results, frequency of detection/areal extent of chemicals, or because the chemicals were judged to be unrelated to historical mission-related activities. Only acetone in groundwater was retained as a COPC for a portion of the site.

Acetone was detected at concentrations exceeding its SSSL in samples from five monitoring wells installed during Phase II of the SI. All of the wells with elevated acetone results are located in the southern portion of Parcel 93(7) (i.e., south of Trench Hill Road). An additional well installed north of Trench Hill Road showed no detections of possible site-related VOCs, including acetone. Although acetone is a common laboratory sample contaminant, it could not be concluded whether the chemical's presence in site samples was attributable to laboratory contamination. A second potential source of acetone was the bentonite pellets used in monitoring well construction. However, evaluation of this potential contamination source was also inconclusive. A review of site history did not indicate that acetone was ever used at the site. Therefore, acetone's status as a site-related chemical was undetermined.

Constituents detected at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background were identified as constituents of potential ecological

concern (COPEC) in site media and included metals, VOCs, SVOCs (primarily PAHs), pesticides, and one PCB compound. However, the COPECs were determined not to pose a threat to ecological receptors based on the Phase II investigation results, statistical and geochemical evaluation results, frequency of detection/areal extent of chemicals, or because the chemicals were judged to be unrelated to historical site activities. In addition, the site is an industrialized area located within the developed portion of the FTMC Main Post and is largely covered with asphalt pavement and buildings or foundations. The entire portion of Parcel 93(7) south of Trench Hill Road is fenced and will continue to be used as a military training area by the Alabama Army National Guard.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Decontamination Complex, Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7).

DESCRIPTION OF FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7). No further action is selected for the approximately 1.2-acre portion of

Parcel 93(7) located north of Trench Hill Road because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment. However, groundwater contamination is potentially present in the portion of Parcel 93(7) located south of Trench Hill Road. Therefore, further investigation is warranted to confirm the presence and, if necessary, the extent of acetone contamination in groundwater within the southern portion of Parcel 93(7). Access and use are controlled by the National Guard.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary for the portion of Parcel 93(7) located north of Trench Hill Road, including Parcel 140(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 property or that require land-use control restrictions. Therefore, the portion of Parcel 93(7) located north of Trench Hill Road is released for unrestricted land reuse with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous

substances. There are no remedial costs associated with implementing no further action.

For the remainder of the site, including the portion of Parcel 93(7) located south of Trench Hill Road as well as Parcels 46(7) and 70(7), further investigation is required to confirm the presence and, if necessary, the extent of acetone contamination in groundwater. Access and use are controlled by the National Guard.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

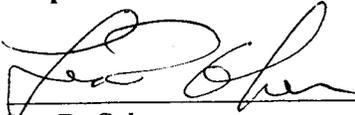
Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Telephone: (256) 848-6853

E-mail: Ron.Levy@us.army.mil

ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
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
IT	IT Corporation
JPA	Anniston-Calhoun County Fort McClellan Development Joint Powers Authority
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
Shaw	Shaw Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
UST	underground storage tank
VOC	volatile organic compound

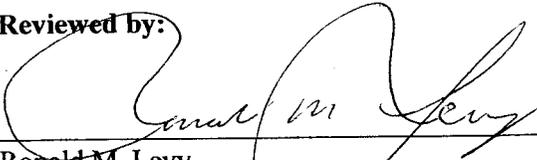
Prepared under direction of:



Lee D. Coker
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

8/19/05
Date

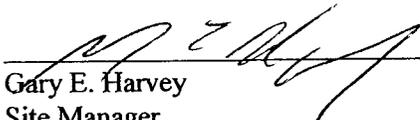
Reviewed by:



Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

25 Aug 2005
Date

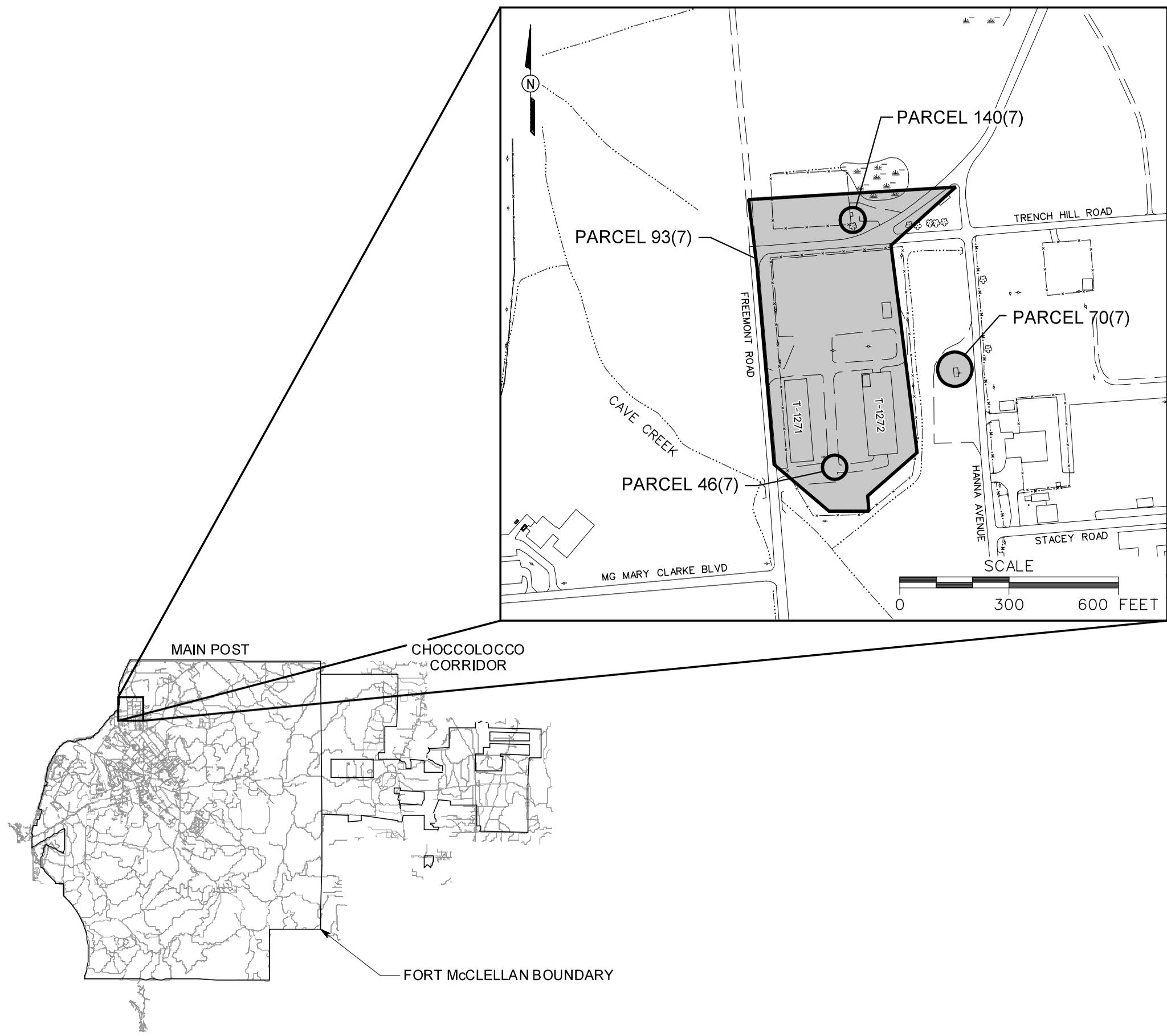
Approved by:



Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

26 AUGUST 05
Date

DWG. NO.: ... \796887es.900
 PROJ. NO.: 796887
 INITIATOR: T. WINTON
 PROJ. MGR.: J. YACOUB
 DRAFT. CHCK. BY:
 ENGR. CHCK. BY: S. MORAN
 DATE LAST REV.:
 DRAWN BY:
 STARTING DATE: 05/16/05
 DRAWN BY: D. BOMAR
 5/16/2005
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LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROAD
- PAVED ROAD AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TREES / TREELINE
- MARSH / WETLANDS
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
- MANMADE SURFACE DRAINAGE
- FENCE
- UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
FORMER DECONTAMINATION COMPLEX
PARCELS 93(7), 46(7), 70(7),
AND 140(7)

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



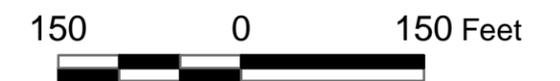
Figure 2

Property Map

Former Decontamination Complex
Parcels 93(7), 46(7), 70(7), and 140(7)
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Legend

- Roads
- Parcel Boundary
- Buildings
- National Guard
- FTMC Development JPA



NAD83 State Plane Coordinates



Shaw Shaw Environmental, Inc.



Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018