

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR AREA M2, SUBSECTION OF AREA 45  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY**

**NOVEMBER 2000**

**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 Area M2, Subsection of Area 45 at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of Area M2 at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

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 is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, 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 Area M2, Subsection of Area 45, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. 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 Area M2, Subsection of Area 45. A list of background documents for Area M2 is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Area M2 is 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 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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 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 is comprised 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 comprises 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 comprises 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR AREA M2

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 Site Investigation Report, Area M2, Subsection of Area 45, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, November.

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), 2000, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

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

the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Area M2, Subsection of Area 45, is a 20.23-acre area located approximately 400 feet south-southeast of the Summerall Gate and Summerall Gate Road, east of the Anniston-Jacksonville highway and adjacent to the western Main Post boundary (Figure 1). The closest parcel to Area M2 is the Former Weapons Demonstration Area, Parcel 194(7). This parcel is located along the eastern border of Area M2 within Parcel 232Q-X. Parcel 194(7) was reportedly used in the 1950s for familiarization training with various munitions (Environmental Science and Engineering [ESE], 1998).

Because of the proximity of Parcel 194(7) and the presence of two discarded Decontamination Solution Number 2 cans near the center of Area M2, similar

weapons demonstration activities may have occurred at Area M2.

The elevation of Area M2 ranges from about 770 to 840 feet mean sea level. Surface water runoff follows site topography and flows to the north, east, and west. Intermittent streams merge in the east-central portion of the parcel and flow to the north. A gully crosses the southwest corner of the parcel and exists flowing to the west.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the Environmental Baseline Survey (ESE, 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-CERCLA qualifier

designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Area M2, Subsection of Area 45, was identified as a Category 1 CERFA site, qualified "X" for unexploded ordnance (UXO). CERFA Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal (including migration) has occurred (ESE, 1998).

### SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45 to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT MCCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Tele: (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**

9<sup>th</sup> Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Rd. No.

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.

Fourteen surface soil samples, three depositional soil samples, fourteen subsurface soil samples, two surface water samples, and two sediment samples were collected at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45 (Figure 1). Surface and depositional soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from surface water and drainage features associated with the site.

Chemical analyses of the samples included target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile

organic compounds, target compound list semivolatiles organic compounds (SVOC), nitroexplosives, perchlorates, lewisite, and chemical warfare material breakdown products. Sediment samples were also analyzed for total organic carbon and grain size.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, detected constituent concentrations were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC. The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of

human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

Beryllium (one surface soil sample) and thallium (one surface water sample) were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding ESVs and the range of background values. In addition, a total of six SVOCs (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon compounds) were

detected in one surface soil sample and one sediment sample at concentrations exceeding ESVs. The concentrations of the SVOCs exceeding ESVs ranged from 0.054 milligrams per kilogram to 1.6 milligrams per kilogram. However, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal based on the future land use of the parcel. The site is currently undeveloped, but is projected for industrial/commercial use.

Arsenic and thallium were detected in one surface water sample at concentrations exceeding recreational site user SSSLs and background concentrations. The arsenic concentration was within the range of background values and the thallium result was flagged with a "B" data qualifier, indicating that thallium was also detected in an associated laboratory or field blank. Given the limited impacted area, the metals detected in site media are not expected to pose a threat to human health in the industrial or residential land-use scenario.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Area M2, Subsection of Area 45. No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and

organic compounds detected in site media at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45 do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW). UXO investigation at Area M2 is being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. With the exception of UXO, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor Area M2, Subsection of Area 45.

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative to address HTRW:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

#### **DECLARATION**

With regard to HTRW, further remedial action is unnecessary at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45. The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment in the proposed land reuse scenario, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, 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 to exposure. The site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to HTRW

activities. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at Area M2, Subsection of Area 45.

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

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

Mr. Ron Levy  
Fort McClellan BRAC  
Environmental Coordinator  
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

## ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
UXO	unexploded ordnance

**Prepared under direction of:**

---

Ellis Pope  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mobile, Alabama

---

Date

**Reviewed by:**

---

Ron Levy  
Fort McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

---

Date

**Approval**

---

Glynn D. Ryan  
Fort McClellan Site Manager  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

---

Date