**FINAL**
**DECISION DOCUMENT FOR**
**FORMER SMOKE AREA S, PARCEL 106(6)**
**FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**MARCH 2001**

## 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 Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel 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 with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

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 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 Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. 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 Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6). A list of background documents for Parcel 106(6) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 106(6) 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 comprises 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

**PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 106(6)**

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), 2001, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama***, March.

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), 1998, ***Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan for Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** October.

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

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.

Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), is located in the north-central part of the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). Former Smoke Area S was used for training activities involving the use of smoke-generating equipment and fog oil from 1952 to 1970. Aerial photographs were reviewed to locate the approximate site boundary of the parcel; however, the original shape and orientation of the parcel were slightly different from that identified in the environmental baseline survey (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). The actual shape and orientation of the parcel were identified during a site visit conducted by IT Corporation (IT) personnel in April 1998. The parcel is approximately 80 feet wide (southeast to northwest) and 700 feet long (northeast to southwest) and covers slightly more than one acre.

The site slopes from the northeast to the southwest and lies at an elevation of approximately 900 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). Two small tributaries are located near the parcel, one to the west/southwest and one to the southeast. These small streams converge approximately 160 feet south of the site and flow to the south/southwest into Cane Creek.

## 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 U.S. Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), was categorized as a CERFA Category 6 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 6 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred, but required actions have not yet been implemented (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 106(6) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3

**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**
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.

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.

**SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2001).

Two surface soil samples, four depositional soil samples, two subsurface soil samples, and four surface water and sediment samples were collected at the site. 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 bodies associated with the parcel. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds (VOC), target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), total organic carbon (sediment only) and grain size (sediment only).

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT, 2000). 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).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for passive recreational use, the soils data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. In soils, the concentration of manganese (in one depositional soil sample) exceeded the SSSL and the respective background concentration. However, the concentration of this metal was within the range of background values determined by Science Applications International Corporation (1998). Thallium concentrations exceeded the SSSL, the background concentration, and the range of background values in one surface water sample. However, thallium was not detected in any of the other surface water samples collected and is not known to have been used in operations conducted at the site. Consequently, thallium is probably not a site-related contaminant.

The potential impact to ecological receptors is also expected to be minimal. The concentrations of two metals (beryllium and zinc) exceeded ESVs and the range of background values in two and one surface/depositional soil samples, respectively. Additionally, the concentrations of the VOCs trichlorofluoromethane (in two sediment samples) and acetone (in one sediment sample) exceeded ESVs. Acetone is a common laboratory contaminant, and the result was flagged with a "B" data qualifier, indicating that acetone is probably not a site-related contaminant. The trichlorofluoromethane results (0.0048 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg] and 0.004 mg/kg) marginally exceeded the ESV (0.00307 mg/kg). The SVOCs fluoranthene (0.1 mg/kg) and pentachlorophenol (0.14 mg/kg) were detected in one surface soil sample at concentrations exceeding ESVs. The parcel is located within a heavily wooded area, away from the developed portion of the Main Post, and is expected to support viable ecological habitat. The low levels of metals and organic compounds detected are not expected to pose a substantial threat to ecological receptors.

Groundwater was not investigated at Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6); impacts to groundwater are not anticipated from site-related smoke training activities. However, groundwater contamination has been detected at Training Area T-38, Former Technical Escort Reaction Area, Parcel 186(6), located approximately 1,600 feet northwest of Former Smoke Area S. This contamination is being addressed as part of a remedial investigation currently being conducted at that site.

Although site-related impacts to groundwater are not anticipated at Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), off-site contamination from Training Area T-38 could impact groundwater at the site. Therefore, potential impacts to Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6), cannot be positively identified until the completion of the remedial investigation at Parcel 186(6).

## SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(6).

## DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 106(6). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or 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 future land use with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Furthermore, Parcel 106(6) is recategorized 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 U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(3) (formerly Parcel 106[6]), with regard to HTRW.

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

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

## DECLARATION

Further remedial action is unneces-sary at Former Smoke Area S,

Parcel 106(3) (formerly Parcel 106[6]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, 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. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Parcel 106(6) is recategorized 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. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at Former Smoke Area S, Parcel 106(3) (formerly Parcel 106[6]).

**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**

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| BCT | BRAC Cleanup Team |
| BRAC | Base Realignment and Closure |
| CERFA | Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act |
| ESE | Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. |
| ESV | ecological screening value |
| FTMC | Fort McClellan |
| HTRW | hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste |
| IT | IT Corporation |
| mg/kg | milligrams per kilogram |
| SI | site investigation |
| SSSL | site-specific screening level |
| SVOC | semivolatile organic compound |
| UXO | unexploded ordnance |
| VOC | volatile organic compound |

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