

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
FORMER SMOKE AREA, SOUTH SLOPE OF MORGAN MOUNTAIN, PARCEL 159(7)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**FEBRUARY 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 the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), 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.

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 the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain,

Parcel 159(7), 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 the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 159(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 159(7) 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

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 159(7)

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

IT Corporation, 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, February.

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

IT Corporation, 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan for the Former Smoke Area, South Slope Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

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

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 the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), is located in the eastern portion of the Choccolocco Corridor at the south toe of Morgan Mountain (Figure 1). The parcel is approximately 300 feet wide (east to west) and 600 feet in length (north to south) and covers approximately 5 acres. Training activities conducted at the site involved the use of smoke generators. The dates of use could not be determined and other information regarding operations at the site was not available.

The site slopes from the northeast to the southwest and lies at an elevation of approximately 700 to 730 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). A small stream (Willis Branch) is located approximately 1,600 feet south of Parcel 159(7) and flows westward into Choccolocco Creek.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 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. The Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), was categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 159(7) 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.

### SITE INVESTIGATION

**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**

9<sup>th</sup> 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.

An SI was conducted at the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2001).

Four surface soil samples, one depositional soil sample, and four subsurface soil 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. Samples were analyzed for target

analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds (VOC), and target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC).

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 Corporation, 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 located within an undeveloped area of the Choccolocco Corridor owned by the State of Alabama, the analytical data were screened against residential human health

SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. The metals that exceeded SSSLs, with a few limited exceptions, were below the respective background concentration or within the range of background values, as determined by Science Applications International Corporation (1998) and thus, do not pose a significant threat to human health. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below SSSLs.

The concentrations of three metals (copper, iron, and selenium) exceeded ESVs and the range of background values in surface/depositional soil samples. Additionally, the concentrations of two VOCs (acetone and trichloroethene) exceeded ESVs at two surface/depositional soil sample locations. Acetone is a common laboratory contaminant and the trichloroethene result was flagged with a "B" data qualifier, signifying that it is probably a laboratory artifact as well. The parcel is located within a wooded area in the Choccolocco Corridor and is expected to support viable ecological habitat. However, the low levels of metals and VOCs detected are not expected to pose a substantial threat to ecological receptors.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(7).

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

Remedial alternatives were not

developed for Parcel 159(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals and organic 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. Furthermore, Parcel 159(7) 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 the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(3) (formerly Parcel 159[7]).

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

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

#### **DECLARATION**

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(3) (formerly Parcel 159[7]). 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. Parcel 159(7) 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 the Former Smoke Area, South Slope of Morgan Mountain, Parcel 159(3) (formerly Parcel 159[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

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

**Prepared under direction of:**

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Date

**Reviewed by:**

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Fort McClellan, Alabama

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Date

**Approved by:**

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

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Date