

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
TRAINING AIDS BUILDING (BUILDING 267), PARCEL 166(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

SEPTEMBER 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 Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(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 consists of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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 Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(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 Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 166(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 166(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 (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 (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 (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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 166(7)

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, Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

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 Attachment for the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

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

Roy F. Weston, Inc. (Weston), 1990, *Enhanced Preliminary Assessment, Fort McClellan Calhoun County, Alabama*, Prepared for the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency, December.

and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7), is centrally located on the Main Post on the corner of Blacman Road (formerly MacArthur Avenue) and Castle Avenue (formerly 6th Avenue) (Figure 1). The building was constructed as a post exchange in 1942, and was used for that purpose until at least 1975. In 1980, it became the Training Aids Building, where equipment and supplies (printed material, transparencies, pictures, overhead projectors) for classroom training were produced. The building housed two photographic laboratories and a graphics department that operated from 1989 until Base closure in 1999. The photographic laboratories had four developing machines for slides, black-and-white prints, and color prints.

Photographic wastes were drained to a concrete sump located on the north end of the Building 267. The sump, which was connected to the sanitary sewer, was constructed during either 1989 or 1990, after the photography laboratory moved to Building 267. The sump extended approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) and was capped with an iron manhole cover. From 1993 until 1995, the FTMC Directorate of Environment sampled the sump contents annually for metals to determine hazardous waste characteristics. Sampling results indicated that the sump contents did not exceed regulatory limits. The photography laboratory was converted to digital processing in 1995 and no further testing was performed. At the request of FTMC, the sump and associated drain piping were removed by IT Corporation (IT) in February 2001 (IT, 2001).

The preliminary assessment report produced by Roy F. Weston, Inc. in 1990 noted that used "hypo," a developing chemical (sodium thiosulfate, used as a fixing agent in photography), was reportedly stored in 5-gallon buckets behind the building. The photography laboratory stored and used small quantities of developing materials. However, there was no evidence of spills at the site.

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 DOD 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

**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.

Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 166(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 166(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.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 1998, 2001).

Two surface soil samples, two subsurface soil samples, and five groundwater samples were collected at the site. Surface 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. Groundwater samples were collected from two temporary monitoring wells and three

permanent monitoring wells installed at the site. Target sample analyses included metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). In addition, three of the five groundwater samples were analyzed for pesticides/herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and cyanide.

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, metals 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. In soils, only iron (in one sample) and aluminum (in two samples) exceeded SSSLs and their respective background concentrations. However, the concentrations of these metals were within the range of background values and do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health. VOC and SVOC concentrations in soils were below SSSLs.

In groundwater, three metals (antimony, iron, and manganese) exceeded SSSLs. However, with the exception of antimony in one sample, the concentrations of these metals were below their respective background concentrations or were within the range of background values. The antimony exceedance was flagged with a "B" data qualifier, suggesting that the metal is a laboratory-related contaminant. Antimony was not detected in any of the other soil or groundwater samples collected at the site.

The pesticide 4,4'-DDT (0.00011 milligrams per liter [mg/L]) marginally exceeded its SSSL (0.000109 mg/L) in one groundwater sample (FTA-166-MW01). 4,4'-DDT was not detected in the other groundwater samples collected at the site. Based on its low concentration and

limited spatial distribution at the site, 4,4'-DDT is not expected to pose an unacceptable human health risk.

Five metals were detected in surface soils at concentrations exceeding ESVs but below background concentrations. In addition, three VOCs (1,2-dimethylbenzene, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, and xylenes) were detected at concentrations (less than 0.2 milligrams per kilogram) exceeding ESVs in one surface soil sample. However, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal based on the existing viable habitat and site conditions. The site is located within the developed portion of the Main Post, has limited grassy areas, and is projected for industrial reuse. Viable ecological habitat is presently limited and not expected to increase in the future land-use scenario.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 166(7). 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 land reuse.

Furthermore, Parcel 166(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 U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(3) (formerly Parcel 166[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

Remedial action is unnecessary at the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(3) (formerly Parcel 166[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 parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions. The site is released for unrestricted land reuse. Parcel 166(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. There will not

be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Training Aids Building (Building 267), Parcel 166(3) (formerly Parcel 166[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
bgs	below ground surface
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/L	milligrams per liter
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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