

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORMER PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION STATION
AT BUILDING 3185, PARCEL 179(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 Personnel Decontamination Station (PDS) at Building 3185, Parcel 179(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 with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Chemical warfare material (CWM)-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 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 PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(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 PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 179(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 179(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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 179(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, Former Personnel Decontamination Station at Building 3185, Parcel 179(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, February.

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 Former Personnel Decontamination Station at Building 3185, Parcel 179(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

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

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 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 PDS at Building 3185 (Parcel 179[7]) is located near the intersection of 25th Street and 13th Avenue in the west-central part of the Main Post (Figure 1). The study area around Building 3185 covers 1.7 acres. The PDS was used from about 1954 to 1973 for final decontamination of personnel after completion of

training exercises at Naylor Field (Parcel 183[6]), located approximately 1,800 feet to the east along the northeastern slope of Howitzer Hill. The initial decontamination of personnel occurred at Naylor Field, historically called the Howitzer Hill Decontamination Area or T-6 Chemical Area Training exercises at T-6, typically included mustard or distilled mustard, although sarin and lewisite were also used (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). CWM was decontaminated using supertropical bleach, decontamination agent noncorrosive, and decontamination solution No. 2. Training aids were intentionally contaminated with up to 2 gallons of distilled mustard during each exercise. The training aid was then decontaminated using volumes of decontaminant well in excess of the volume actually required to achieve complete decontamination. Reportedly,

personnel decontamination was conducted at the T-6 area before trainees left the site, and consisted of the decontamination of outer garments using water and government-issue soap.

To decontaminate their boots, trainees walked through a shuffle pit filled with the decontaminant supertropical bleach at the T-6 area and another shuffle pit at the PDS (ESE, 1998). At the PDS at Building 3185, trainees repeated the boot decontamination process at this second shuffle pit directly behind (south of) Building 3185. Outer garments were then further decontaminated and/or exchanged inside Building 3185.

During a site walkover by IT Corporation (IT), ventilation pipes were observed in the vicinity of the building and air locks were observed in the building (Figure 1). The purpose of these structures is unknown; however, they may have been associated

**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.

with a negative air pressure system to prevent airborne contamination from exiting the building.

A tributary of South Branch of Cane Creek is located approximately 300 feet east of the parcel. Surface runoff in the vicinity of the site follows site topography, and generally flows to the northeast toward South Branch of Cane Creek. Site elevation is approximately 810 to 825 feet above mean sea level.

**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. The Former PDS at Building 3185, Parcel

179(7), was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (ESE, 1998). With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 179(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

An SI was conducted at the Former PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(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).

Five surface soil samples, five subsurface soil samples, and three groundwater samples were collected at the site (Figure 1). Surface soil samples were collected from the upper 1 foot of soil, and subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Groundwater samples were collected from three temporary groundwater monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Samples were analyzed for target compound list volatile organic compounds and target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). In addition, one surface soil sample (PPMP-179-GP05) was analyzed for CWM breakdown products.

The analytical results indicate that volatile organic compounds and SVOCs were detected in the various site media. CWM breakdown products were not detected in the one surface soil sample for which these constituents were analyzed. 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, SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface soils were compared to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background screening values developed for FTMC (IT, 2000).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for industrial (mixed business) use, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. A total of five SVOCs (PAH compounds) were detected in two surface soil samples (PPMP-179-GP01 and PPMP-179-GP02) at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and PAH background values. The PAH concentrations in the two samples ranged from 0.041 milligrams per kilogram to 8.3 milligrams per kilogram. Based on the spatial distribution and the low concentrations detected, the elevated PAHs appear to be the result of anthropogenic activities, (e.g., asphalt) and are not related to site operations.

A total of six SVOCs (PAH compounds) were detected in two surface soil samples at concentrations exceeding ESVs and PAH background values. Much of the site is covered by Building 3185 and asphalt or concrete pavement; grassy areas are limited. The site does not currently support viable ecological habitat, and is not expected to support ecological habitat in the projected land-use scenario. Therefore, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 179(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The chemical constituents 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. CWM-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Furthermore, Parcel 179(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.

With regard to HTRW, The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(3) (formerly Parcel 179[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.

Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

DECLARATION

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the Former PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(3) (formerly Parcel 179[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 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.

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With regard to HTRW, the site is released for unrestricted future land use. However, CWM-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Parcel 179(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 PDS at Building 3185, Parcel 179(3) (formerly Parcel 179[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision

ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CWM	chemical warfare material
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PDS	Personnel Decontamination Station
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound

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