

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORMER GAS MASK TEST CHAMBERS, PARCELS 195(7), 196(7), AND 198(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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcels 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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 195(7), 196(7), AND 198(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 (IT), 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(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 Site Investigation at the Former Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

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

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 and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Former Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7), are located in the northern portion of the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). The site is south of Reilly Airfield, near 10th Street. Gas mask test chambers have been used at FTMC since the 1950s to instill confidence in trainees that gas masks perform as required

and to confirm proper fit before beginning training elsewhere with live chemical warfare agents. The agents used at the Gas Mask Test Chambers were made up of chloroacetophenone (CN) and o-chlorobenzylidene-malononitrile (CS). CN "tear gas" and CS "tear gas" and non-persistent chlorine gas were reportedly used in the past. Live chemical warfare agents were not used at this site. Breakdown products are hydroxyacetophenone (CN), acetophenone (CN), and malononitrile (CS).

Specific procedures for operating the gas mask test chambers were followed: a capsule containing tear agent (CS) would be burned by an instructor in one chamber and trainees would be required to don masks, check for proper fit, enter the chamber, remove masks, and exit upon signal. CN and chlorine gas would have been used in a similar manner.

Small amounts of these irritating agents were used in these gas mask confidence training exercises. Releases have not been reported at any of these sites.

The site slopes primarily from the southeast to northwest. Three small drainage ways cross the site, converge into one and flow to the northwest. The site ranges in elevation from approximately 760 feet to about 810 feet above mean sea level.

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

**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.

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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7), were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels. 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, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7),

196(7), and 198(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 Corporation, 2001).

Four surface soil samples and four subsurface soil 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. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds, and target

compound list semivolatile organic compounds.

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) developed 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 projected for use by the Alabama National Guard and the Joint Powers Authority, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. In soils, the concentration of chromium (two surface soil and two subsurface soil samples) exceeded SSSLs and the respective background concentration. However, the concentration of chromium was within the range of background values determined by Science Applications International Corporation (1998). Volatile organic compound and semivolatile organic compound concentrations were below residential human health SSSLs.

However, based on the physical reactions of field personnel during sampling activities, apparent tear gas compounds are present possibly in soils or building walls at the site. Because of the problems encountered by field personnel, a tentatively identified compound library search for CS/CN compounds was performed on the soil samples. CS/CN compounds were not identified in the tentatively identified compound search.

The potential impact to ecological receptors is also expected to be low. The metals that exceeded ESVs were within background concentrations or the range of background values. Volatile organic compound and semivolatile organic compound concentrations were below the ESVs.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7). 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 do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Parcel 195(7) and a small

segment of Parcel 198(7) are scheduled to be transferred to the Alabama National Guard for continued use as a gas mask training area. Parcel 196(7) and the remainder of Parcel 198(7) are scheduled to be transferred to the Joint Powers Authority. Provided that Parcel 195(7) and the small segment of Parcel 198(7) remain under the control of the Alabama National Guard and is used in the manner historically used, no further action is necessary.

Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and 198(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(3), 196(3), and 198(3) (formerly Parcels 195[7], 196[7], and 198[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 Former Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(3), 196(3), and 198(3) (formerly Parcels 195[7], 196[7], and 198[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. Parcels 195(7), 196(7), and

198(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 Gas Mask Test Chambers, Parcels 195(3), 196(3), and 198(3) (formerly Parcels 195[7], 196[7], and 198[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
CN	chloroacetophenone
CS	ortho-chlorobenzylidene-malononitrile
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level

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