

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, FORMER SHELL TAPPING AREA, PARCEL 208(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MAY 2002

**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 Anniston Army Depot, Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. Parcel 208(7) is located on Pelham Range, as 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).

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 4, 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 Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. 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 Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 208(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 208(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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 208(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), 2002, *Final Site Investigation Report, Anniston Army Depot, Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, May.

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

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

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 Anniston Army Depot, Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7), is located along the south-central border of Pelham Range, northwest of historical Gate No. 14 (Figure 1). The parcel is irregularly shaped and encompasses over 90 acres of wooded terrain on a hillside that slopes to the northwest, north, and northeast. Elevation at the site ranges from approximately 650 to 850 feet above mean sea level. FTMC personnel have indicated that this site was the location of suspected chemical warfare material (CWM) shell tapping disposal or decontamination activities (Environmental Science

and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). During a site walk conducted by IT Corporation (IT), mounds were observed at several locations near the central portion of the site. In addition, spent 40-mm artillery rounds and two small depressions were observed in the southeast portion of the site. No other information is available regarding the site usage.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using DOD guidance (ESE, 1998). 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 Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 208(7) was categorized as a CERFA

Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. This CERFA category identifies areas that are not evaluated or that require additional evaluation. Parcel 208(7) required additional evaluation to determine its environmental condition (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 208(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 Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(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, 2002). Environmental sampling conducted during the SI consisted

**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

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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.

of the sampling and analysis of three surface soil samples, three subsurface soil samples, one surface water sample, and one sediment sample. In addition, groundwater samples were collected from two permanent monitoring wells installed at the site.

Chemical analysis of samples collected at the site indicates that metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), and explosives were detected in the environmental media sampled. CWM breakdown products were not detected in any of the samples collected. To evaluate whether the detected constituents pose an unacceptable risk to human health

or the environment, the analytical results were compared to site-specific screening levels (SSSL), ecological screening values (ESV), and background screening values for FTMC. Additionally, a preliminary risk assessment (PRA) was conducted to further characterize potential human health risk (IT, 2002).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be minimal. Although Pelham Range is projected for continued military training reuse, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future use. Chemicals of potential concern identified in the PRA were limited

to arsenic and 2,4-dinitrotoluene in subsurface soil, and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate in groundwater. Arsenic concentrations (38.1 and 50.8 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeded the SSSL (0.426 mg/kg) and upper background range (38 mg/kg) in two subsurface soil samples. 2,4-dinitrotoluene (0.94 mg/kg) slightly exceeded its SSSL (0.927 mg/kg) in only one subsurface soil sample. Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, a common sample contaminant, exceeded its SSSL in one groundwater sample. The PRA concluded that exposure to site media does not pose an unacceptable threat to human health for either the National Guardsperson or the on-site resident (IT, 2002).

The potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be very low. Constituents of potential ecological concern were limited to arsenic (in one surface soil sample and in the sediment sample), and 2,6-dinitrotoluene (in one surface soil sample). The arsenic results, however, were within the range of background values indicating that the arsenic is present at naturally occurring levels. Although 2,6-dinitrotoluene (0.48 mg/kg) exceeded its ESV (0.033 mg/kg) in one surface soil sample, the compound was not detected in the remaining surface soil samples or in the surface water/sediment samples. Given the conservatism inherent in the ESVs and its relatively low concentration in one sample, 2,6-dinitrotoluene is not expected to pose a significant threat to ecological receptors.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 208(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 with regard to HTRW. Furthermore, Parcel 208(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. With regard to HTRW, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(3) (formerly Parcel 208[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 Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(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 with regard to HTRW. Parcel 208(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 Former Shell Tapping Area, Parcel 208(3) (formerly Parcel 208[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
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CWM	chemical warfare material
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
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
PRA	preliminary risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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