

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR  
RANGES SOUTH OF RANGE 25, PARCELS 224Q, 226Q, AND 227Q  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**JUNE 2002**

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES  
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action, with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW), will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to HTRW. Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. The location of the site at FTMC is shown on Figure 1.

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 Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. 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 Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q. The background documents for this site are listed on Page 2 and are 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

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR RANGES SOUTH OF RANGE 25

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

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, Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, June.

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, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2001, *Archives Search Report, Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, Revision 1, September.

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 area of investigation for the Ranges South of Range 25 is located in the central area of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q are the primary ranges of concern for the area of investigation as defined in the environmental baseline survey (EBS) (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). However, except

for Parcel 224Q, only small portions (i.e., firing line areas) of these parcels lie within the area of investigation. The impact areas of these ranges extend beyond the area of investigation for this SI and will be investigated separately. As defined in the SI report (IT Corporation [IT], 2002) and as cited in this Decision Document, the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, refer to the area of investigation shown on Figure 1. Presently, the site is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, 1997).

Parcel 224Q, which is approximately 375 feet by 675 feet, was identified as a pistol range south of Range 25 on the 1937 General Map of FTMC. The firing direction for the range was likely to the east or to the south, and the impact area is probably within the area of investigation for

this SI. A berm that runs northeast-southwest across the eastern boundary of the parcel may have been the backstop for the range. The impact area likely would not have been to the north because of the location of Range 25. Also, the direction of fire likely would not have been to the west towards the main cantonment. There is no other information available regarding this range for dates of use or operation activities (ESE, 1998).

Parcel 226Q was identified on the 1946 Reservation Map as a former machine gun range south of Range 25. The 1946 Reservation Map provides the only documentation of this range. The direction of fire, based on the range fan presented in the EBS, was to the southeast. The parcel boundary extends in a fan shape to the southeast and overlaps most of Range 23. The impact

**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.

area for Parcel 226Q, as depicted in the EBS, appears to be to the southeast, beyond the area of investigation. No other information was available regarding this range, dates of use, or operation (ESE, 1998).

Parcel 227Q is a former pistol range identified as Range 23 on the 1946 Reservation Map. According to information in the EBS, the direction of fire was nearly due east. Aerial photographs taken in 1944 show the firing line area as a rectangular clearing on the western end of the parcel. The parcel boundary extends to the east and overlaps Range 23. The impact area for Parcel 227Q, as depicted in the EBS, appears to be to the

southeast, beyond the area of investigation. No other information was available regarding this range or its operation (ESE, 1998).

In addition to Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q described in the EBS, all or portions of ten other ranges (areas) were included within the SI area of investigation based on information in the *Archives Search Report, Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], 2001). These ranges are not described in the EBS, and most of these ranges are not formally named or described in the *Archives Search Report*.

Physical features within the area of investigation were noted during site walks conducted by IT personnel in March and June 2001. Most of the area of investigation is densely wooded. Along the former firing line for the Former Machine Gun Range, Parcel 226Q, was a berm approximately 10 to 18 feet wide with 3-foot pipes and railroad ties running its length. This berm appeared more like a firing line than an impact area and may have been the firing line for the former machine gun range. A firebreak extends south from Bains Gap Road midway through Parcel 224Q and bends west toward Ingram Creek. Two concrete slabs, approximately 25 by 36 feet, were observed in the northern portion of

the area of investigation. A mound with broken concrete was located about 50 feet west of the larger concrete slab. Additionally, a 12-foot by 4-foot trench was noted immediately west of Parcel 224Q.

A large cleared area containing bullet fragments is in the center of the probable firing area for Parcel 226Q, just east of Parcel 224Q. Just southwest of this cleared area, a metal rail was present, possibly used to maneuver targets. A long natural embankment was present southwest of the cleared area and appeared to have been used as an impact area.

Two low berms, oriented north-south, were observed south of Parcel 227Q. The longer berm extended south of Snap Lane. Numerous shallow depressions and shallow trenches were also observed throughout the area of investigation and may have been used for defensive position training. From observations during the site walk, it appeared that the area of investigation had been used in recent years for bivouac or defensive training activities rather than for range activities (IT, 2002).

## **SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL**

Information developed from the EBS 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. Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q were categorized as CERFA Category 1 Qualified

parcels in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no history of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal but do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q were qualified because of their use as weapons ranges.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, will remain CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels.

## **SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q, 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 of the collection and analysis of 22 surface soil samples, 8 depositional soil samples, 22 subsurface soil samples, 5 groundwater samples, and 5 surface water/sediment samples. 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. Groundwater samples were collected from five of six monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. The sixth well did not produce sufficient groundwater for sampling. Surface water/sediment samples were collected from surface drains

and creeks associated with the parcels. Samples were analyzed for metals and explosive compounds.

Only metals were detected in site media. Explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. To evaluate whether the 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 background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). A preliminary risk assessment (PRA) was also performed to further characterize the potential threat to human health (IT, 2002).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, 1997), the analytical data were evaluated against a residential reuse scenario to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted reuse. Chemicals of potential concern identified in the PRA were limited to metals in soils and groundwater for the residential reuse scenario. No chemicals of potential concern were selected for the recreational site-user scenario. The PRA concluded, however, that

exposure to site media does not pose an unacceptable risk for either the resident or the recreational site-user (IT, 2002).

Constituents of potential ecological concern were limited to three metals (antimony, beryllium, and lead) in surface soils and one metal (arsenic) in one sediment sample. Antimony was detected at estimated concentrations (4.38 and 4.41 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) marginally exceeding its ESV (3.5 mg/kg) and upper background range (2.6 mg/kg) in two surface soil samples. Antimony was not detected in the remaining 28 surface and depositional soil samples. Beryllium concentrations (1.14 to 1.64 mg/kg) marginally exceeded its ESV (1.1 mg/kg) and upper background range (0.87 mg/kg) in five surface soil samples. It is likely that the beryllium results reflect naturally occurring levels. Lead (135 mg/kg) exceeded its ESV (50 mg/kg) and upper background range (83 mg/kg) in only one of 30 surface and depositional soil samples. Statistically, one elevated lead result out of 30 samples is not representative of nominal site-wide levels. In sediment, arsenic was detected at an estimated concentration (43.9 mg/kg) exceeding its ESV (7.24 mg/kg) and upper background range (20 mg/kg) in one sample. Based on the relatively small magnitude of the exceedances and/or limited spatial distribution in site media, these metals are not expected to pose a threat to ecological receptors.

## **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q.

## **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q. No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at this site. The metals 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. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. With regard to HTRW, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q.

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 for HTRW is unnecessary at the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q. The no further action remedy for HTRW 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. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for HTRW at the Ranges South of Range 25, Parcels 224Q, 226Q, and 227Q.

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

Mr. Ronald M. Levy  
Fort McClellan BRAC  
Environmental Coordinator  
Tel: (256) 848-3539

E-mail: LevyR@mcclellan-emh2.army.mil

## ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
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
EBS	environmental baseline survey
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
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	unexploded ordnance

**Prepared under direction of:**

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Ellis Pope  
Environmental Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mobile, Alabama

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Date

**Reviewed by:**

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Ronald M. Levy  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

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Date

**Approved by:**

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Glynn D. Ryan  
Site Manager  
Fort McClellan, Alabama

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Date