

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
TRENCHES WEST OF REMOUNT CREEK, PARCEL 228(7)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**APRIL 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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(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 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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 228(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 228(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

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 228(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, Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, April.

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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

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

cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC

comprises 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 comprises 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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7), are located in the west-central portion of the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). The parcel, which covers approximately 2 acres, is located

near the intersection of 14th Avenue and 15th Avenue. The site and surrounding area are well-developed, with several inactive buildings present. Buildings 3210 and Building 3278, a former dining facility and former company headquarters, respectively, are located at the south end of the parcel. Building 3240, a former enlisted personnel barracks, is located south of the parcel. Building 3250, a former religious educational facility, and Building 3244, a former enlisted personnel barracks, are located just north and northwest, respectively.

A set of three potential trenches, located west of Remount Creek near 14th Avenue on the Main Post, were identified in a 1949 aerial photograph. The potential trench identified in the northern

portion of Parcel 228(7) was approximately 100 feet long, very narrow, and oriented north-south. The potential trench in the center of the site was irregularly shaped, approximately 150 feet long and 75 feet wide, and was oriented northeast-southwest. The potential trench at the southern end of the site was an oval-shaped area, measuring approximately 100 feet long by approximately 50 feet wide, and was oriented northwest-southeast.

The eastern boundary of Parcel 228(7) is at the top of a sparsely wooded ridge which slopes toward Remount Creek. Surface drainage in the vicinity of the site flows east/northeast towards a tributary of Remount Creek, which is located approximately

100 feet east of the northern portion of the parcel. Site elevation ranges from approximately 760 to 780 feet

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL**

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey

**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.

(Environmental Science and Engineering, 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 of 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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7), was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (Environmental Science and Engineering, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 228(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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(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 Corporation [IT], 2001). As part of the SI, a geophysical survey was conducted at the site to identify suspected trench locations; however, trenches were not identified in the geophysical data.

Five surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, five subsurface soil samples, and three groundwater samples were collected at the site. 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 three temporary monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. The surface water and sediment samples were collected from a tributary to Remount Creek. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), polychlorinated biphenyls, pesticides/herbicides, and nitroexplosive compounds. In addition, the sediment sample was analyzed for total organic carbon and grain size.

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, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998), and SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface and depositional soils were compared to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon background screening values developed for FTMC (IT, 2000).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and nitroexplosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected. In soils, with the exception of iron in one subsurface soil sample, the concentrations of the metals that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values. The iron result at PPMP-228-GP02 (49,800 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) marginally exceeded the range of background iron values (4,480 mg/kg to 48,000 mg/kg). Additionally, the pesticide chlordane was detected in one surface soil sample (PPMP-228-GP05) at a concentration (1.8 mg/kg) marginally exceeding the SSSL (1.69 mg/kg). Given the low concentrations and limited spatial distribution at the site, the iron and chlordane

concentrations are not expected to pose an unacceptable risk to human health.

In groundwater, four metals (aluminum, barium, iron, and manganese) were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and their respective background concentrations. However, these metals concentrations were within the range of background values and do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health. The SVOC bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate was detected in one groundwater sample at a concentration exceeding the SSSL. However, bis(2-ethyl-hexyl)phthalate is a common laboratory contaminant and is probably not related to site activities.

Beryllium, copper, and selenium were detected in a limited number of surface soil samples at concentrations exceeding ESVs and the range of background values. Also, three pesticides were detected in one surface soil sample at concentrations exceeding ESVs. 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 area of the Main Post, consisting of buildings and paved roads/areas interspersed with grassy areas, and is projected for future use as a retirement community. Viable ecological habitat is presently limited and is not expected to increase in the future land use scenario.

## **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(7).

### **DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION**

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 228(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 228(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. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(3) (formerly Parcel 228[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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(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 228(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 Trenches West of Remount Creek, Parcel 228(3) (formerly Parcel 228[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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Environmental Coordinator  
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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
DOD	Department of Defense
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound

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