

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
CLEARED AREA WITH MOUND, CHOCCOLOCCO CORRIDOR, PARCEL 237(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 Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(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 Cleared Area with Mound,

Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(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 Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 237(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 237(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 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 occupies 18,929

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 237(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, Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(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, *Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at the Cleared Area With Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1990, *Installation Assessment, Army Closure Program, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama (TS-PIC-89334)*, Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC), Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory.

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 five miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(7), is located on the lower eastern slope of the Choccolocco Mountains in the center of the Choccolocco Corridor (Figure 1). The site is approximately one-half mile southwest of the junction of Bains Gap Road and Alabama State Route 9 and approximately four miles north of Choccolocco, Alabama. The formerly wooded

site contains dense undergrowth and is located immediately south of a dirt road. An apparent mound within a cleared area, or ground scar, was identified by the Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center on aerial photographs from January 1972 and March 1982 (U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, 1990). However, no mound was observed during SI field activities in 1998. Presently this site and the surrounding area are located within a wildlife management area managed by the Alabama Game and Fish Division. There is no documentation available regarding any activities at this location (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998.

The approximately 2-acre site

gently slopes to the southeast. Site elevation is approximately 745 feet above mean sea level. Runoff from the site follows topography and flows to the southeast.

### 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 DOD guidance. 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

**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.

Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(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 237(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 Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(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).

The SI at Parcel 237(7) consisted of the sampling and analysis of six surface soil samples and six subsurface soil samples. 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 metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), chlorinated pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorinated herbicides, organophosphorus pesticides, and nitroexplosives.

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 [SAIC], 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is located within a wildlife management area, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted land reuse. Polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorinated herbicides, organophosphorus pesticides, and nitroexplosives were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. With the exception of aluminum in one subsurface soil sample, the metals concentrations that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations. However, the aluminum concentration was within the range of background values determined by SAIC, and does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health. VOC, SVOC, and pesticide concentrations in site media were below SSSLs.

The potential impact to ecological receptors is also expected to be minimal. Selenium concentrations (0.86 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg] to 1.2 mg/kg) exceeded the ESV and the background

concentration in each of the surface soil samples collected at the site. However, the selenium results were within the range of background values determined by SAIC. In addition, the pesticide 4,4'-DDE (dichlorodiphenyl-dichloroethene) was detected at a concentration (0.0041 mg/kg) marginally exceeding the ESV (0.0025 mg/kg) at one surface soil sample location. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below ESVs.

### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(7).

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

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 237(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 237(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 Cleared

Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(3) (formerly Parcel 237[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 Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(3) (formerly Parcel 237[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 237(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 Cleared Area with Mound, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 237(3) (formerly Parcel 237[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  
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
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

**Prepared under direction of:**

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