

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR  
POSSIBLE RANGE, PARCEL 237Q-X AND IMPACT AREA, PARCEL 238Q-X,  
CHOCOLOCCO CORRIDOR  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**APRIL 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 Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The parcels are within the Choccolocco corridor, 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). Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

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 (EPA) 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 Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, 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 Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X. A list of background documents for Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X is presented on page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X 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

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 237Q-X AND 238Q-X

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, Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor, 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.

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 1999, *Archives Search Report, Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, 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.

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 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 EPA Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC) reported a Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and a nearby Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, within the southeastern portion of Choccolocco Corridor. A review of EPIC photographs indicated that the Possible Range and

Impact Area resembled a landing strip designed to accommodate small aircraft than a weapons range (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). The function of the impact area is difficult to determine using the EPIC aerial photograph.

According to the Archive Search Report (ASR), a training site identified as T-46 Practice Grenade Assault Range was observed on the 1967 range map within southeastern Choccolocco Corridor (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], 1999). This site partially overlaps the northwestern end of the Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X. According to the ASR, training debris (e.g., expended rifle blanks and pyrotechnic devices such as smoke grenades) probably remain on the Possible Range site (USACE, 1999). There was no other information about the T-46

Practice Grenade Assault Range provided in the ASR.

### SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (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. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X were categorized as CERFA Category 1 parcels in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal of hazardous

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES  
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

**Anniston Calhoun County Public Library**

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.

substances or petroleum products has occurred (including no migration of these substances from adjacent areas) (ESE, 1998). Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X were also qualified ("X") for potential UXO. With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X will remain CERFA Category 7 qualified parcels.

**SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at the Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor 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], 2002).

Ten surface soil samples, three depositional soil samples, ten subsurface soil samples, two surface water samples, two sediment 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 monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Two surface water and sediment samples were collected from intermittent streams associated with the parcels. Samples were analyzed for metals and nitroaromatic and nitramine explosives. In addition, the sediment samples 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, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). A

preliminary risk assessment was also performed to further characterize the potential threat to human health.

Although the site is located within an undeveloped area of the Choccolocco Corridor owned by the State of Alabama, the analytical data were evaluated against a residential reuse scenario to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted land reuse. Constituents of potential concern included four metals (aluminum, arsenic, chromium, and vanadium) in soils and 2,6-dinitrotoluene in groundwater. The preliminary risk assessment concluded, however, that exposure to site media poses no unacceptable risk for the resident.

The potential threat to ecological receptors is also expected to be low. Constituents of potential ecological concern were limited to metals, all of which were below their respective background concentrations except for beryllium, copper, and iron in one surface soil sample. Although iron exceeded its ESV and upper background range, it was present at levels within the same order of magnitude as background. Iron is a common element in native soils whose concentration varies over a wide range. Therefore, the elevated iron concentration is attributed to naturally occurring background levels. The beryllium (1.3 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) and copper (56 mg/kg) results marginally exceeded their ESVs (1.1 and 40 mg/kg, respectively) and were within the same order of magnitude. Beryllium and copper concentrations in all other surface and depositional soil samples were

below ESVs and/or background concentrations. Given the conservatism inherent in the ESVs, the relatively small magnitude of the exceedences, and the limited spatial distribution of these metals, beryllium and copper are not expected to pose a threat to ecological receptors.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor.

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

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 237Q-X and 238Q-X. No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health and/or the environment at this site. The metals and explosive 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. 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 Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor.

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 Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor. 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. 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 at the Possible Range, Parcel 237Q-X and Impact Area, Parcel 238Q-X, Choccolocco Corridor.

#### **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

ASR	Archive Search Report
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
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPIC	Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center
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
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	unexploded ordnance

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