

**FINAL  
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE  
DIRECTORATE OF ENGINEERING AND HOUSING (DEH) COMPOUND  
PARCELS 64(7) AND 1(7)  
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

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

**FEBRUARY 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 Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the DEH Compound 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 is comprised 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

DEH Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(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 DEH Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 64(7) and 1(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 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 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 is comprised 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 State of Alabama. The

## PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 64(7) AND 1(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, Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, February.

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 for the Directorate of Engineering and Housing (DEH) Compound, Former PCP Dip Tank, Parcel 64(7); Building 202/215, Parcel 1(7); Building 214, Parcel 64(7); Building 211, Parcel 64(7); Building 208, Parcel 64(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

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

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 DEH Compound is located in the northwestern portion of the Main Post of FTMC and is bounded by 6th Avenue to the northeast, Howlee Road to the southwest, 10th Street to the northwest, and 15th Street to the southeast (Figure 1). The study area covers approximately 10 acres. Cane Creek is located adjacent to Howlee Road just southwest of the DEH Compound and flows to the northwest. Man-made surface drainages bound the site to the northwest and

southeast. At the time of SI field activities, the DEH Compound consisted of five sites, as described in the following paragraphs. However, historical operations at the DEH Compound ceased in September 1999 with Base closure, and the area is currently used by FTMC Transition Force personnel.

The former pentachlorophenol (PCP) dip tank (Parcel 64[7]) was located in the west-central section of the DEH Compound (Figure 1). The 2,500-gallon dip tank was installed in the mid 1960s, and was constructed of steel with two doors located at the top of the tank, approximately level with the ground surface. The dip tank was used to store water, diesel fuel, and PCP, which is a hazardous waste. Dipping operations at this site ceased in 1981 (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998).

The PCP dip tank was removed and properly disposed in October 1987.

The DEH Washrack (Parcel 64[7]) was located at Building 214 in the northwestern portion of the DEH Compound, inside the chain-link fence and next to the vehicle washrack (Figure 1). The Washrack was built in 1965 and had a baffle-type oil/water separator that discharged directly into storm water drainage. The washrack facility was rebuilt in 1991 with a settling basin attached to a coalescing plate oil/water separator, which discharged into the sanitary sewer system.

The former pesticide and herbicide storage facility (Parcel 64[7]) was located in Building 208, inside the chain-link fence in the northern section of the DEH Compound (Figure 1). The facility was constructed in 1957

**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.

for use as a vehicle storage area. However, the facility was used for pesticide and herbicide storage from 1971 to 1986. Mixing of pesticides reportedly did not occur at Building 208 (ESE, 1998). Spills or releases have not been documented at Building 208. In 1986, pesticide operations were relocated to Building 211. The tire repair shop later occupied the portion of Building 208 where the former pesticide and herbicide storage facility was located.

The pesticide and herbicide mixing and storage facility (Building 211) (Parcel 64[7]) was located in the northwest part of

the DEH Compound (Figure 1). The building was designed and constructed in 1960 specifically for storing and mixing pesticides and operations began that same year. Building 211 included a mix-rinse area inside the building for small quantity mixing (hand-held pump sprayers) and a covered mix-rinse pad, used by tractor-mounted sprayers (ESE, 1998).

Building 202/215 (Parcel 1[7]) is located in the central and southeastern part of the DEH Compound (Figure 1). Building 215 was constructed in 1955 as a general purpose/administrative

building. Building 202 was added in 1957. The complex formerly housed the building materials storage, painting shop, lawn mower shop, wood shop, refrigeration shop, fog oil storage, engineering warehouse, welding shop, an electrical building, and the Department of Housing and Engineering. At the time of SI field activities, the area around the DEH Compound consisted of housing and recreational, training, and administrative buildings. The site is located on a nearly flat broad crest, approximately 740 feet above sea level. The site is approximately 500 feet wide (northeast to southwest), by 900

feet long (northwest to southeast) and is bounded on all sides by a chain-link fence.

## **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 U.S. Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 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 DEH Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances have occurred, but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

## **SITE INVESTIGATION**

An SI was conducted at the DEH

Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT Corporation [IT], 2001).

Eight surface soil samples, one depositional soil sample, fifteen subsurface soil samples, eighteen groundwater samples, and six surface water and sediment 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 fourteen temporary monitoring wells installed during the SI and from four existing monitoring wells. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds, target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides/herbicides, polychlorinated biphenyls, and dioxins. In addition, sediment samples were 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 (PAH) background screening values (IT, 2000).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for active recreational use, the soils and groundwater analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use.

In soils, with the exception of barium in one depositional soil sample, the metals concentrations that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentration or within the range of background values determined by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) (1998). Three PAH compounds (benzo[a]pyrene, benzo[a]anthracene, and benzo[b]fluoranthene) were detected at one surface soil location at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and PAH background values. However, these PAH compounds are believed to be related to anthropogenic activities (i.e., asphalt pavement) and not related to operations conducted at the site. The concentrations of two pesticides (4,4'-dichloro-

diphenyl-dichloroethane (8.7 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) and 4,4'-dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane [7.7 mg/kg]) exceeded SSSLs at one surface soil location. Low levels of dioxins (0.0000003 mg/kg to 0.013 mg/kg) were detected in the two surface soil samples that were analyzed for these compounds. The concentrations of two dioxins (1,2,3,4,6,7,8-heptachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin and octachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) exceeded SSSLs. Given the low concentrations and limited spatial distribution at the site, the pesticides and dioxins are not expected to pose a threat to human health.

In groundwater, several metals were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, the majority of these metals were detected in groundwater samples that had high turbidity at the time of sample collection that caused the elevated metals results. Vinyl chloride was detected in two groundwater samples at concentrations (0.00043 milligrams per liter [mg/L] and 0.00016 mg/L) exceeding the SSSL (0.00003 mg/L). However, the vinyl chloride concentrations were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standard (0.002 mg/L) and the compound was not detected in any other wells at Parcel 64(7) or in samples collected from downgradient locations. The extent of the vinyl chloride contamination is defined horizontally and, given the low concentrations detected, is not expected to pose a threat to

human health.

Metals, SVOCs, and pesticides were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding ESVs. However, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal based on existing habitat and site conditions. The site, which is located within the developed portion of the Main Post, consists of buildings and paved roads/areas interspersed with limited grassy and wooded areas, and is projected for active recreational use. Viable ecological habitat is presently limited and is not expected to increase in the proposed land-use scenario. Consequently, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low.

#### **SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

Remedial actions were not conducted at the DEH Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7).

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

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 64(7) and 1(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 constituents detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use. Furthermore, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or

migration of hazardous substances have 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 DEH Compound, Parcels 64(3) and 1(3) (formerly Parcels 64[7] and 1[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**

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the DEH Compound, Parcels 64(7) and 1(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, 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 to exposure. The site is released for unrestricted future land use. Parcels 64(7) and 1(7) are recategorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances have 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 DEH Compound, Parcels 64(3) and 1(3) (formerly Parcels 64[7] and 1[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
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DEH	Directorate of Engineering and Housing
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PCP	pentachlorophenol
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound

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