

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
THE FORMER FIRE TRAINING PIT, PARCEL 77(7),
USTs AT BUILDING 350, PARCEL 7(7), AND
THE WASHRACK, BUILDING 351, PARCEL 170(7)
FORT MCCLELLAN, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

SEPTEMBER 2000

**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 Former Fire Training Pit, Parcel 77(7), Underground Storage Tanks at Building 350, Parcel 7(7), and the Washrack, Building 351, Parcel 170(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcels at FTMC is shown on Figure 1 (the parcels are hereinafter collectively referred to as the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77[7], 7[7], and 170[7]). 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 (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 Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(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 Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(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 PARCELS 77(7), 7(7), AND 170(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), 2000a, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000b, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1999, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at the Washrack, Building 351, Parcel 170(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

IT Corporation (IT), 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcel 77(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, August.

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

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 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 Former Fire Training Pit is located in the north-central portion of the Main Post. The site is south of the corner of 2nd Avenue and

18th Street where the Consolidated Maintenance Facility (Building 350) is located (Figure 1). The facility was reportedly used approximately once a year to train firefighters. Waste oil and other fluids were spread on the ground at the pit, ignited, and then extinguished during the training exercise.

Although the dates of operation are unknown, use of the pit was discontinued prior to 1986. The entire area (pad and soil) was excavated when Building 350 was constructed because the new facility required a separate drainage system (ESE, 1998). The excavation was backfilled with clean soil. Figure 1 shows the approximate location of the Former Fire Training Pit.

Parcel 7(7) represents two underground storage tank (UST)

locations at Building 350: a 10,000-gallon diesel fuel UST installed in 1991, and a 2,500-gallon waste oil UST installed in 1995. These USTs are located on opposite sides of Building 350 (Figure 1). The USTs have met all Alabama Department of Environmental Management requirements and have been tightness tested within the last five years.

The Washrack, Building 351, Parcel 170(7), is located in the north-central area of the Main Post (Figure 1), in the southern corner of the Consolidated Maintenance Facility (Building 350). The Washrack, Building 351 is a steam-generated washrack used to remove oil and grease from vehicles and was built around 1991. The washrack has a settling basin attached to a coalescing plate oil/water separator attached to a

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT MCCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, AL 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Tele: (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 Rd, No.

Jacksonville, AL 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.

settling basin that discharges to the sanitary sewer system (ESE, 1998).

An intermittent stream is adjacent to the northwest boundary of the parcel. The stream flows northwest for approximately 2.5 miles and disappears near Weaver Cave. A tributary stream enters the parcel along the southeast boundary of the parcel through large drainpipes and travels across the site under Building 350. Site elevation is approximately 780 feet and appears mostly level.

Soils at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7), fall into the Rarden silty

clay loams (ReB3). The Rarden Series are described as moderately well drained, strongly acid to very strongly acid, and occur in large areas on wide shale ridges with slopes of 2 to 10 percent.

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 Parcels (Categories 1 and 2) and CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7); and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(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).

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7). The SI was conducted to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7) at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Seven surface soil samples, 12 subsurface soil samples, seven groundwater samples, three surface water samples, and three sediment samples were collected at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7) (Figure 1). 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. Groundwater samples were collected from seven temporary and permanent groundwater monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from surface water and drainage features associated with the parcels.

Chemical analyses of the samples included target analyte list metals, target compound list (TCL) volatile organic compounds (VOC), TCL semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, herbicides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, detected constituent concentrations were

compared to human health site-specific screening levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC. The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with site investigations 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 (SAIC, 1998), and SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface soils were compared to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background screening values (IT, 2000b) developed for FTMC.

Iron (one subsurface soil sample), antimony (one subsurface soil sample), vanadium (four groundwater samples), and thallium (one groundwater sample) were detected at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and slightly above background values. The remaining metals concentrations were within background concentrations or the range of background values. The SVOC benzo(a)pyrene was detected in one surface soil sample at a concentration exceeding residential human health SSSLs. However, the benzo(a)pyrene concentration was below the PAH background screening value. Although the site is projected for industrial land use, screening soils and groundwater analytical results against the more conservative residential human health SSSLs indicates the potential threat to human health to be very low in the residential

scenario, as well, should the land use change. In the industrial land use scenario, the potential threat to human health is reasonably expected to be negligible.

Two metals (aluminum and zinc) were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding ESVs and background concentrations. In addition, six SVOCs and one pesticide were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding ESVs. However, the potential impact to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal in the industrial land use scenario. Under this land use scenario, substantial ecological habitat is not expected to be present and, consequently, is reasonably expected to be minimally impacted.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and organic compounds detected in site media at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7), do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment in either the industrial or residential land use scenario. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use with

regard to hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) activities. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(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 Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment in the proposed

land reuse scenario, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, 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 with regard to HTRW activities. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Former Fire Training Pit, Parcels 77(7), 7(7), and 170(7).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

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

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

GLOSSARY

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
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
TCL	target compound list
UST	underground storage tank
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

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

Date

Reviewed by:

Lisa Kingsbury
Fort McClellan BRAC Project Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Ron Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approval

David F. Treuting, Colonel
Commander, Garrison Troop Command
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date