

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
RANGE 24 LOWER, PARCEL 81Q
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MARCH 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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q, 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 with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related issues 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 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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q, 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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q. A list of background documents for Parcel 81Q is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 81Q 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.

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 81Q

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, Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

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

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 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.

Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q, is located just north of Bains Gap Road in the east-central area of the Main Post of FTMC (Figure 1). Range 24 Lower was used for an unknown length of time until the closure of FTMC in September 1999. Ordnance fired at this range consisted of flares and M-16 rifle blanks. Live-fire exercises were not conducted at the range (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). During a site walk by IT in March 2001, numerous remnants of expended star cluster signal flares were observed in the area. Also, soil-filled drums were observed along a dirt road bank east of the parcel and appeared to be used for road stabilization. This range was not shown on any of the plates in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Archives Search Report (USACE, 1999). Further information was unavailable for Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q.

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 Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 81Q was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 qualified parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 1 parcels are areas where no storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substances or petroleum products has occurred (including no migration of these substances from adjacent areas) (ESE, 1998).

**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

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.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 81Q remains a CERFA Category 1 qualified parcel.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q, 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).

Six surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, six subsurface soil samples, three groundwater samples, and one surface water/sediment sample 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 two monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI, and also from a preexisting monitoring well. A surface water and sediment sample was collected from an intermittent stream associated with the parcel. Samples were analyzed for metals, and nitroaromatic and nitramine explosives. 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, 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 projected to be used for passive recreation, the soil and groundwater data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. The metals that exceeded SSSLs in site media were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values. The explosive compound 2-nitrotoluene was detected in one groundwater sample at an estimated concentration well below its SSSL. Therefore, the potential threat to human health is expected to be very low. This conclusion is further supported by the results of the preliminary risk assessment.

The potential threat to ecological receptors is also expected to be very low. Chemicals of potential ecological concern were limited to metals, all of which were below their respective background concentrations except for one selenium result. However, the selenium result was within the range of background values indicating that it is present at naturally occurring background levels and not as a result of site-related activities.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 81Q. No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and explosive compound 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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q.

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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q. 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 Range 24 Lower, Parcel 81Q.

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
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
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
UXO	unexploded ordnance

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