

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORESTRY COMPOUND – PELHAM RANGE, PARCEL 84(7)
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 the Forestry Compound – Pelham Range, Parcel 84(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7) is located on Pelham Range, 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). 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 the Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7), 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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 84(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 84(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 consists of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 84(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), 2002, *Final Site Investigation Report, Forestry Compound – Pelham Range, Parcel 84(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

IT Corporation (IT), 2001, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment, Forestry Compound – Pelham Range, Parcel 84(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.

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

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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7), is located on Gate 5 Road in the northeast portion of Pelham Range (Figure 1). The compound was used primarily to store herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides. The facility currently consists of five buildings (Buildings 8504, 8519, 8520, 8521, and 8522) and a gravel parking lot. The Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7), is approximately 300 feet long by 200 feet wide, and covers

approximately 1.4 acres. The site is surrounded by a chainlink fence.

Building 8504 was used as office space with no recorded storage of hazardous substances. Buildings 8519 and 8520 are wooden structures that were used to store and mix herbicides and fungicides. Pesticides were also stored in the southeast end of Building 8519 prior to construction of a pesticide storage area in the northeast end of Building 8521. Building 8521 is a metal structure used for pesticide mixing and storage. The Forestry Compound is not equipped with a mixing pad. According to the environmental baseline survey (EBS), pesticide mixing would likely have occurred on bare ground at the water source (ESE, 1998). Building 8522 contains an earthen floor and was used for parking vehicles. Since 1992 when pesticide-mixing operations were discontinued, the Forestry Compound has only been used to store granular 2,4-D

Arsenical/Diquat. Seed and fertilizer are also stored in Building 8521 (ESE, 1998).

The Forestry Compound is currently used as a storage area for road-building materials, including large piping, gravel, and railroad ties.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the 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. The Forestry

**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.

Compound, Parcel 84(7), was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 84(7) is re-categorized 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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(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, 2002).

Environmental sampling conducted during the SI included collection of eight surface soil samples, four depositional soil samples, and eight subsurface soil samples. 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. Samples were analyzed for metals,

volatile organic compounds, semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides, and herbicides.

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 (PRA) was also performed to further characterize the potential threat to human health.

Although the Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7), is under the control of the Alabama Army National Guard and is projected for continued use in military training operations, the SI analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. Arsenic in subsurface soil was identified in the PRA as the only chemical of concern for residential exposure. There is, however, no plausible way for exposure to subsurface soil without simultaneous exposure to surface soil. The PRA concluded that exposure to combined surface and subsurface soil is unlikely to pose an unacceptable human health threat for residential exposure or any standard receptor scenario.

Three metals (antimony, copper, and lead) and two pesticides (4,4'-DDD and 4,4'-DDT) were identified as chemicals of potential ecological concern in surface soils at the Forestry Compound. However, the site is fenced and is projected for continued use by the Alabama Army National Guard. The site does not support substantial ecological habitat. Therefore, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be minimal.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 84(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 with regard to HTRW. Furthermore, Parcel 84(7) is re-categorized 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. 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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(3) (formerly Parcel 84[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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(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 with regard to HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. Parcel 84(7) is re-categorized 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 Forestry Compound, Parcel 84(3) (formerly Parcel 84[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

2,4-D	2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
DDD	dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EBS	environmental baseline survey
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
PRA	preliminary risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
UXO	unexploded ordnance

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