

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
FORMER SANDEL FLAMETHROWER RANGE, PARCEL 97(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

JULY 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 Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(7), 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.

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 (ADEM). The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at

Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(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 Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 97(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 97(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 comprises 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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR FORMER SANDEL FLAMETHROWER RANGE

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, Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

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

QST Environmental, Inc. (QST), 1998, *Final Site Investigation Work Plan, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

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

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 Sandel Flamethrower Range, also known as Sandel Flame Range, was located on the FTMC Main Post west of Justice Avenue (formerly 11th Avenue) and north of Howitzer Hill (Figure 1). Based on historical aerial photographs, the approximately 3-acre unfenced range was used from 1954 to 1973. However, the actual period of use may have extended beyond these years.

Personnel trained at the site using portable flamethrowers (PFT) and mechanized flamethrowers. The

flamethrowers used thickened and unthickened fuel, which was mixed in the field using M-4 fuel dispensers. These units were decontaminated by flushing with a low-grade fuel, which was drained onto the ground and then burned. PFTs were pressurized using compressed-air cylinders (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998).

Six small buildings were constructed immediately west of the range as part of site operations. The buildings were used to store the flamethrowers, fuel dispensers, and compressed air cylinders.

Presently the buildings are enclosed in an approximately 70-by 285-foot fenced area used as a prisoner-of-war training area, referred to as the confinement mockup (Figure 1).

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 97(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).

**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.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 97(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

IT Corporation (IT) completed an SI at Former Sandel Flame-thrower Range, Parcel 97(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, 2001). As part of the SI, IT incorporated data

previously collected at the site by QST Environmental, Inc. (QST).

IT and QST collected a total of eight surface soil samples, nine subsurface soil samples, and five groundwater samples during the SI at the site. Groundwater samples were collected from one temporary and four permanent monitoring wells installed during the SI. Samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). In addition, one surface and three subsurface soil samples were analyzed for total organic carbon.

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. For groundwater, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs were compared to background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected for passive recreation/mixed business

reuse, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for unrestricted land reuse. In soils, concentrations of VOCs and SVOCs were below SSSLs and therefore do not pose a threat to human health.

Several metals were detected in two groundwater samples at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, only two metals (aluminum and vanadium) also exceeded the background range. The limited distribution and low concentrations of these metals are not expected to pose a threat to human health.

VOCs and SVOCs were not detected in site media at concentrations exceeding ESVs. In addition, the site is located in a developed area of the Main Post near roads and buildings. Consequently, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 97(7). No further action is selected because further 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. Furthermore, Parcel 97(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. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor Former Sandel Flame-thrower Range, Parcel 97(3) (formerly Parcel 97[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 Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(3) (formerly Parcel 97[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. Parcel 97(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 Former Sandel Flamethrower Range, Parcel 97(3) (formerly Parcel 97[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

Mr. Ronald M. Levy
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Environmental Coordinator
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ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
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
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/L	milligrams per liter
PFT	portable flamethrower
QST	QST Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

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Date

Reviewed by:

Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

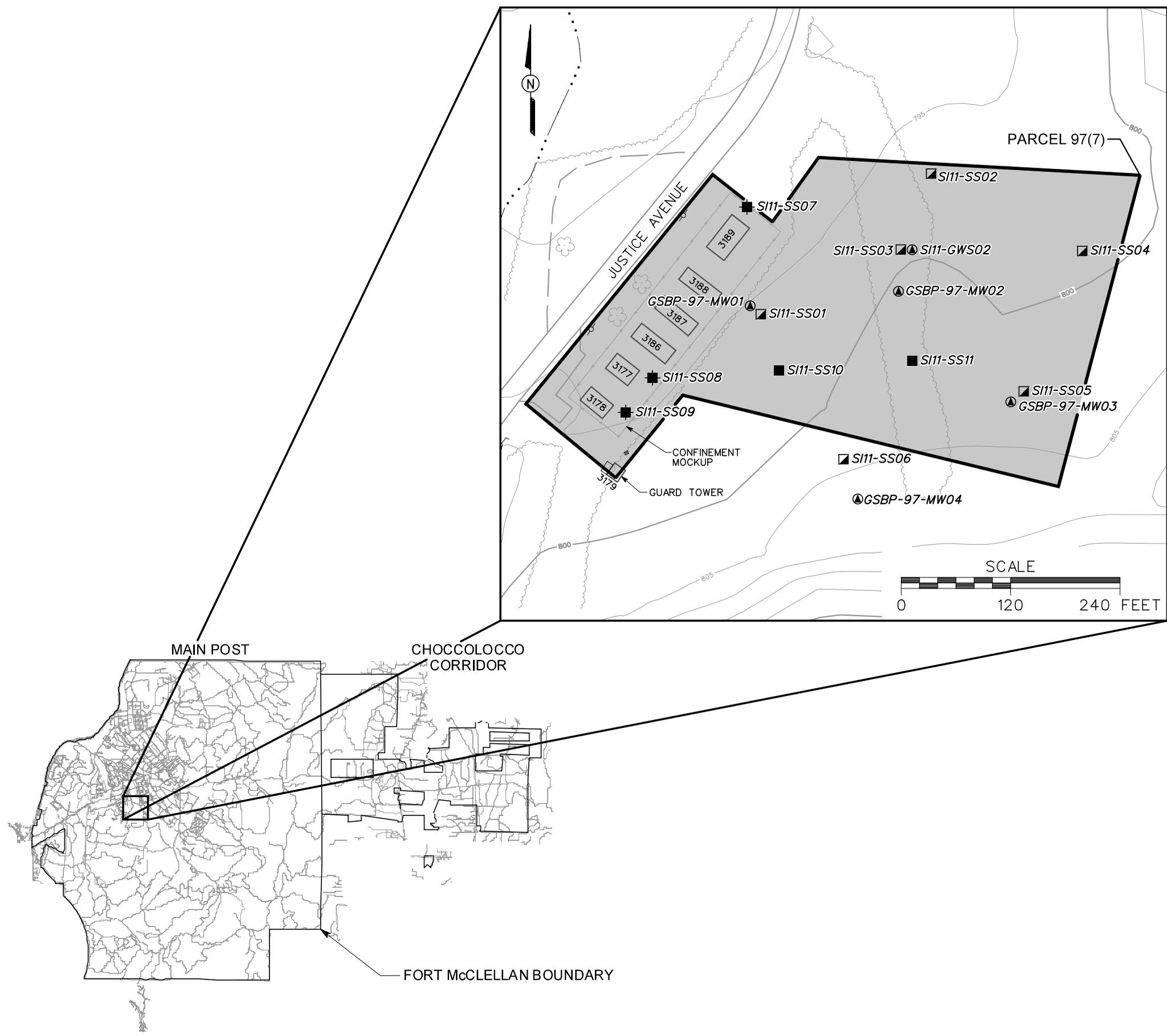
Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

DWG. NO.: ... \783149.es.226
 PROJ. NO.: 783149
 INITIATOR: G. SISCO
 PROJ. MGR.: J. YACOUB
 DRAFT. CHECK. BY:
 ENGR. CHECK. BY: S. MORAN
 DATE LAST REV.:
 DRAWN BY:
 STARTING DATE: 07/02/01
 DRAWN BY: D. BOMAR
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LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 5 FOOT)
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
- FENCE
- UTILITY POLE
- GROUNDWATER SAMPLE LOCATION
- SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE SOIL SAMPLE LOCATION
- SURFACE SOIL SAMPLE LOCATION
- SUBSURFACE SOIL SAMPLE LOCATION

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
 FORMER SANDEL
 FLAMETHROWER RANGE
 PARCEL 97(7)

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 MOBILE DISTRICT
 FORT McCLELLAN
 CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
 Contract No. DACA21-96-D-0018