

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
ARTILLERY AND MORTAR IMPACT AREAS SOUTH OF BAINS GAP ROAD,
PARCELS 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, AND 142Q-X
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

MAY 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 Artillery and Mortar Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road, Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcels at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. The site is hereinafter referred to as the Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road and includes all associated parcels. 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). Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) 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 Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road, 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 Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road. A list of background documents for Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X 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
PARCELS 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, AND 142Q-X**

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, Artillery and Mortar Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road, Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, May.

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), 2001, *Archives Search Report, Maps, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, Revision 1 September.

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.

The Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road are located south of Bains Gap Road in the east-central portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The impact areas were observed on 1949, 1954, and 1961 aerial photographs. Artillery and mortars are presumed to have been fired into these impact areas because all other ranges in this vicinity were reported to be exclusively small-arms ranges since the 1940s (ESE, 1998). Shallow depressions, which are probable impact craters, are present throughout each of the parcels.

The impact areas were located near the center of an area marked "Possible Artillery Impact Areas" shown on Plate 3 of the *Archives Search Report, Maps* (USACE, 2001). Maps from the World War I era do not show firing points, firing lines, or artillery and mortar ranges that impacted these areas.

Based on photographs and correspondence, the artillery ranges were from 1,500 to 5,000 yards in length. The Choccolocco Mountains were likely used as a backstop. Documented artillery and mortar use in this area took place from 1912 to the beginning of World War II.

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF
PARCEL**

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey 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.

**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.

Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X, were categorized as CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels 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 (ESE, 1998). The parcels, however, were qualified ("X") because of the potential presence of UXO.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X will remain CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road 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).

Fourteen surface soil samples, five depositional soil samples, fourteen subsurface soil samples, seven surface water samples, seven sediment samples, and six seep water 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. Surface water, seep water, and sediment samples were collected from natural surface water features associated with the parcels. Samples were analyzed for metals, explosives, and perchlorate. 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, metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to 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 (IT, 2002).

Although the site is located within an undeveloped area of the Main Post and is projected for passive recreation reuse, the analytical data were evaluated against a residential reuse scenario to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted land reuse. Chemicals of potential concern for residential exposure to site media included four metals (aluminum, antimony, iron, and manganese) in soils and two metals (barium and lead) in seep water. The PRA concluded that exposure to surface soil, subsurface soil, surface water, and sediment does not pose an unacceptable risk for the resident. Lead, however, was identified as a chemical of concern in seep water. Based on the PRA results, the seep locations were re-sampled to confirm the lead concentrations. Lead concentrations in the seep re-samples were below the SSSL and the background concentration. Therefore, it was concluded that lead is not a chemical of concern in seep water (IT, 2002).

The potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low.

Constituents of potential ecological concern were limited to three metals (antimony, barium, and beryllium) in a limited number of surface and depositional soil samples. Antimony (8.4 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeded its ESV (3.11 mg/kg) and upper background range (2.6 mg/kg) in one surface soil sample. The antimony result was flagged with a "B" data qualifier indicating that the metal was detected in an associated laboratory or field blank sample. Antimony was not detected in any of the other surface and depositional soil samples. Barium was detected at an estimated concentration (488 mg/kg) exceeding its ESV (165 mg/kg) and upper background range (288 mg/kg) in one surface soil sample. Barium concentrations in all other soil samples collected at the site were below the background concentration or within the upper background range. Beryllium (1.1 to 3.1 mg/kg) exceeded its ESV (1.1 mg/kg) and upper background range (0.87 mg/kg) in four surface and depositional soil samples. The average beryllium concentration in surface soils at the site is 0.95 mg/kg, which is below the ESV and only marginally exceeds background concentration (0.8 mg/kg). The presence of antimony likely reflects a laboratory artifact. In the case of barium and beryllium, their presence is believed to reflect variation in naturally occurring levels. Therefore, antimony, barium, and beryllium are not expected to pose a threat to ecological receptors.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X. 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. 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 Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road.

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 Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road. 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 the Artillery and Mortar Impact Areas South of Bains Gap Road, Parcels 138Q-X, 139Q-X, 140Q-X, 141Q-X, and 142Q-X.

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
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

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

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
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
PRA	preliminary risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	unexploded ordnance

Prepared under direction of:

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

Date

Reviewed by:

Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date