

**Decision Document for the
Contractor Laydown Area
and Former Tar Plant,
Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7)**

Fort McClellan
Calhoun County, Alabama

August 2001

Task Order CK08
Contract Number DACA21-96-D-0018



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District**



**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
CONTRACTOR LAYDOWN AREA AND FORMER TAR PLANT,
PARCELS 86(7), 99(7), AND 32(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

AUGUST 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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcels 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. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7). A list of background documents for Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(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 included the Choccolocco

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCELS 86(7), 99(7), AND 32(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), 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, August.

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.

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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7), are located in the west-central portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The Contractor Laydown Area (Parcel 86[7]) is a rectangular parcel situated along a railroad spur north of Nautica Way (formerly 18th Street) and east of Waverly Road. The Former Tar Plant (Parcels 99[7] and 32[7]) is adjacent to the Contractor Laydown Area to the north. Site elevation is

approximately 800 feet above mean sea level. Cave Creek, an intermittent stream, is located along the site's northwestern border and flows to the west-southwest.

Contractor Laydown Area, Parcel 86(7). This site occupies approximately 10 acres and consists of open ground and asphalt bordered by woods to the east, the Former Tar Plant to the north, and Nautica Way to the west. A railroad spur transects the parcel northwest to southeast. The site was used for storing contractor equipment and supplies.

Five excavated underground storage tanks (UST) were removed from other locations at FTMC and were stored at the Contractor Laydown Area from 1990 to 1993. According to a preliminary assessment prepared by Roy F. Weston in 1990, POL-contaminated soils were landfarmed in the central area of

the Contractor Laydown Area and fuel was observed leaking from the soil onto the asphalt. Soils were stained in the southeast corner of the site where fog oil drums were stored, and in the northeast corner of the site where telephone poles treated with creosote and pentachlorophenol were stored.

According to the Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS), no excavated USTs, fog oil drums, or landfarmed soil were reported present at the site in 1998. Treated telephone poles were stored on racks, and no significant surface soil staining was noted. No other information was available regarding site activities (ESE, 1998).

Former Tar Plant (Parcels 99[7] and 32[7]). Parcel 99(7) occupies approximately 2 acres and consists of open ground within a fenced storage area surrounding Building 4437. At the time of the EBS, the fenced storage area was being used

**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.

to temporarily store electrical transformers.

Facilities at the Former Tar Plant included a boiler house (Building 4437), a tar tank, steam piping, and a dispenser pipe. Tar was heated using steam from the boiler plant and was transferred to trucks via the dispenser pipe for application to roads at FTMC. Use of the Former Tar Plant ceased in the late 1960s. The tar tank has been removed, and only Building 4437 and steam piping remain at the site.

A confirmed release at this site was reported in the EBS. In the mid-1960s, the tar tank was drained as a result of vandalism, and a large volume of tar flowed

across the site, into Cave Creek, and reportedly off post. During the response to the release, a soil berm was built to contain as much tar as possible.

Parcel 32(7) consists of a 2,500-gallon UST near Building 4437. This UST stored heating oil until its closure in 1991. A closure report for the 2,500-gallon UST was not available (ESE, 1998).

**SCOPE AND ROLE OF
PARCEL**

Information developed from the EBS 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. Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) were categorized as CERFA Category 7 parcels in the EBS. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(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; QST, 1998).

Twenty-seven surface soil samples, 12 subsurface soil samples, 5 surface water/sediment samples, and 14 groundwater samples were collected at the site. 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 monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from manmade drainage pathways that lead to Cave Creek. Target analyses included metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), and total organic carbon. In addition, surface water samples were analyzed for biological oxygen demand.

Chemical analysis of samples collected at Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) indicates that metals, VOCs, SVOCs, chlorinated pesticides, and PCBs were

detected in the various site media. To evaluate whether the 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), and SVOC concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs in surface soils were compared to polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) background screening values (IT, 2000).

The potential impact to human receptors is expected to be minimal. Although the site is projected for recreational and industrial reuse, the soils and groundwater data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future use. In soils, with the exception of iron in one sample, the metals that exceeded residential human health SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values and thus do not pose an unacceptable risk to future human receptors. Several PAH compounds were detected in surface soils at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and PAH background values. However, the

presence of PAH compounds was probably the result of anthropogenic conditions at the Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant. Much of the site is covered by asphalt. In addition, a railroad spur runs through the site. VOC, pesticide, and PCB concentrations in soils were below SSSLs.

In groundwater, several metals were detected in seven samples at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background concentrations. However, these groundwater samples exhibited high turbidity at the time of sample collection that caused the elevated metals concentrations. Evaluation of six low-turbidity groundwater samples collected at the site indicates that metals have not adversely impacted groundwater.

The pesticide aldrin (0.000031 to 0.000055 milligrams per liter [mg/L]) exceeded its SSSL (0.0000039 mg/L) in three groundwater samples. Currently, there is no established EPA drinking water standard or lifetime health advisory value for aldrin. Human health risk estimated from the SSSL for aldrin, however, is within the EPA risk management range generally considered to be acceptable. Based on its low concentration and limited spatial distribution at the site, aldrin is not expected to pose an unacceptable human health risk.

Three metals (beryllium, mercury, and nickel) were detected in a limited number of surface soil and sediment samples at concentrations exceeding ESVs and the range of background values. In addition, PAHs, VOCs,

pesticides, and one PCB compound exceeded ESVs in site media. However, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be low based on site conditions. The site, which is located within the developed area of the Main Post, is mostly covered by asphalt and is surrounded by roads and buildings. The site does not support substantial ecological habitat.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(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. Furthermore, Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels.

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 the Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(3), 99(3), and 32(3) (formerly Parcels 86[7], 99[7], and 32[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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(3), 99(3), and 32(3) (formerly Parcels 86[7], 99[7], and 32[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. Parcels 86(7), 99(7), and 32(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 Contractor Laydown Area and Former Tar Plant, Parcels 86(3), 99(3), and 32(3) (formerly Parcels 86[7], 99[7], and 32[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
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
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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
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
PAH	polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
POL	petroleum, oils, and lubricants
QST	QST Environmental, Inc.
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

Administrative Copy

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12 Dec 01
Date

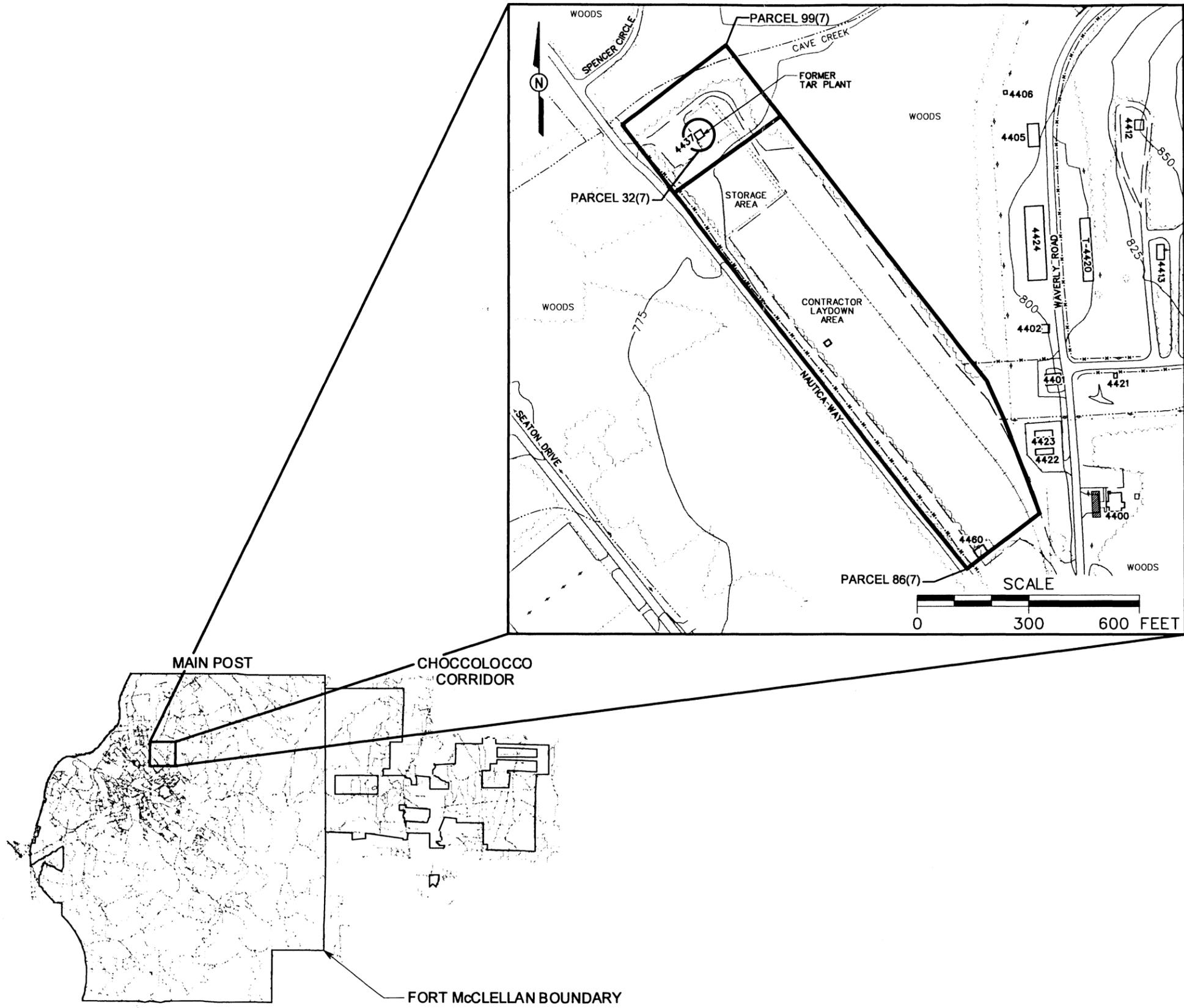
Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

13 Dec 01
Date

DBILLING
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 STARTING DATE: 08/06/01 DRAWN BY: D. BOWAR
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 INITIATOR: T. WINTON PROJ. MGR.: J. YACOB
 DWG. NO.: ... \783149es.239 PROJ. NO.: 783149



- LEGEND**
- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
 - PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
 - BUILDING
 - TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 25 FOOT)
 - TREES / TREELINE
 - PARCEL BOUNDARY
 - CULVERT WITH HEADWALL
 - SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
 - MANMADE SURFACE DRAINAGE FEATURE
 - FENCE
 - RAILROAD
 - UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
 CONTRACTOR LAYDOWN AREA
 AND FORMER TAR PLANT
 PARCELS 86(7), 99(7), AND 32(7)

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

