

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT
RANGE 23A, MULTIPURPOSE RANGE, PARCEL 109(7)/152Q-X
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY

JANUARY 2004

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X, at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous substances regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Range 23A is located within Pelham Range at FTMC as shown on Figure 1.

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 4, 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 23A, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. 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 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X. The background documents for Range 23A are listed on Page 2 and are 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 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 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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR RANGE 23A

CH2M Hill, 2000, *Draft Range 23A Site Investigation Report, U.S. Army, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, December.

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. (ESE), 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, January.

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.

Shaw Environmental, Inc., 2004, *Final Site Investigation Report, Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, January.

22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X, occupies approximately 41 acres in the north-central portion of Pelham Range (Figure 1). The use of this range for training reportedly began in 1987 and continued into 1999. The site was historically used by the FTMC Chemical School for field flame expedient (FFE) training and was known as the Flame Operations Range. There are no records of projectiles fired at this range (ESE, 1998). Range features included a small metal building used for classroom instruction, parking areas, observation bleachers, a fuel mixing area, and a detonation field (CH2M Hill, 2000).

The detonation field was divided into the following training areas:

- Hasty mine field

- Directional area
- Non-directional area
- Wall-of-flame pit
- Nuke-simulator training
- Electric training
- Non-electric training
- Modernized demolition initiators (MDI) training.

Smoke, demolitions, and FFE training activities at the hasty mine field, directional/non-directional areas, wall-of-flame pit, and nuke-simulator area involved the mixing of either gasoline and M4 thickener, or gasoline and fog oil to formulate FFE. Fuel containers used at this range were usually 55-gallon drums, which reportedly leaked. Earthen ditches were used for FFE detonation in the wall-of-flame and nuke-simulator training areas; however, any spillage was reportedly cleaned-up (ESE, 1998).

The electric, non-electric, and MDI training areas were associated with explosives training. Explosives used at these areas included blasting caps,

trinitrotoluene, C-4 explosive, pentaerythritol tetranitrate, and shock tubes. Tetryl bursting charges and thermite (magnesium oxide) trip flares were also used at the MDI training area (CH2M Hill, 2000).

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. Range 23A was categorized as both a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel and a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the EBS. CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcels are areas that have no evidence of CERCLA-related hazardous substance or petroleum product storage, release, or disposal, but that do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Range 23A was

**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.

qualified (X) for potential unexploded ordnance. Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation to determine their environmental condition.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 109(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of CERCLA-related hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. However, Range 23A will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel because of the potential for unexploded ordnance at the site.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at Range 23A to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site as a result of mission-related Army activities (Shaw Environmental, Inc., 2004). The SI consisted of the collection and analysis of 11 surface soil samples, 11 subsurface soil samples, four groundwater samples, six surface water samples, and six sediment samples. In addition, four monitoring wells were installed at the site to facilitate groundwater sample collection and to provide site-specific geological and hydrogeological information. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic

compounds (SVOC), and explosive compounds.

Metals, VOCs, and SVOCs were detected in the various site media. In addition, one explosive compound was detected in surface water. 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) (IT Corporation, 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). Site metals data were further evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals detected in site media were naturally occurring. A preliminary ecological risk assessment was also performed to further characterize potential risks to ecological receptors.

Five metals (aluminum, arsenic, barium manganese, and thallium) were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding SSSLs and background and, thus, were selected as chemicals of potential concern. However, the statistical and geochemical evaluation determined that the metals detected in site media were all naturally occurring. Acetone was also identified as a chemical of potential concern in groundwater because it was detected at an estimated concentration exceeding its SSSL in one sample. However, acetone is a common laboratory contaminant and is not known to have been used at the site. Therefore, it was concluded that acetone is not a site-related chemical.

The preliminary ecological risk assessment did not identify any constituents of potential ecological concern in site media. Therefore, potential risks to ecological receptors were determined to be insignificant.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Range 23A. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and 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 CERCLA-related hazardous substances. With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X.

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 for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at Range 23A. 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 CERCLA-related hazardous substances. There will not be any remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at Range 23A, Multipurpose Range, Parcel 109(7)/152Q-X.

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
EBS	environmental baseline survey
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FFE	field flame expedient
FTMC	Fort McClellan
MDI	modernized demolition initiators
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

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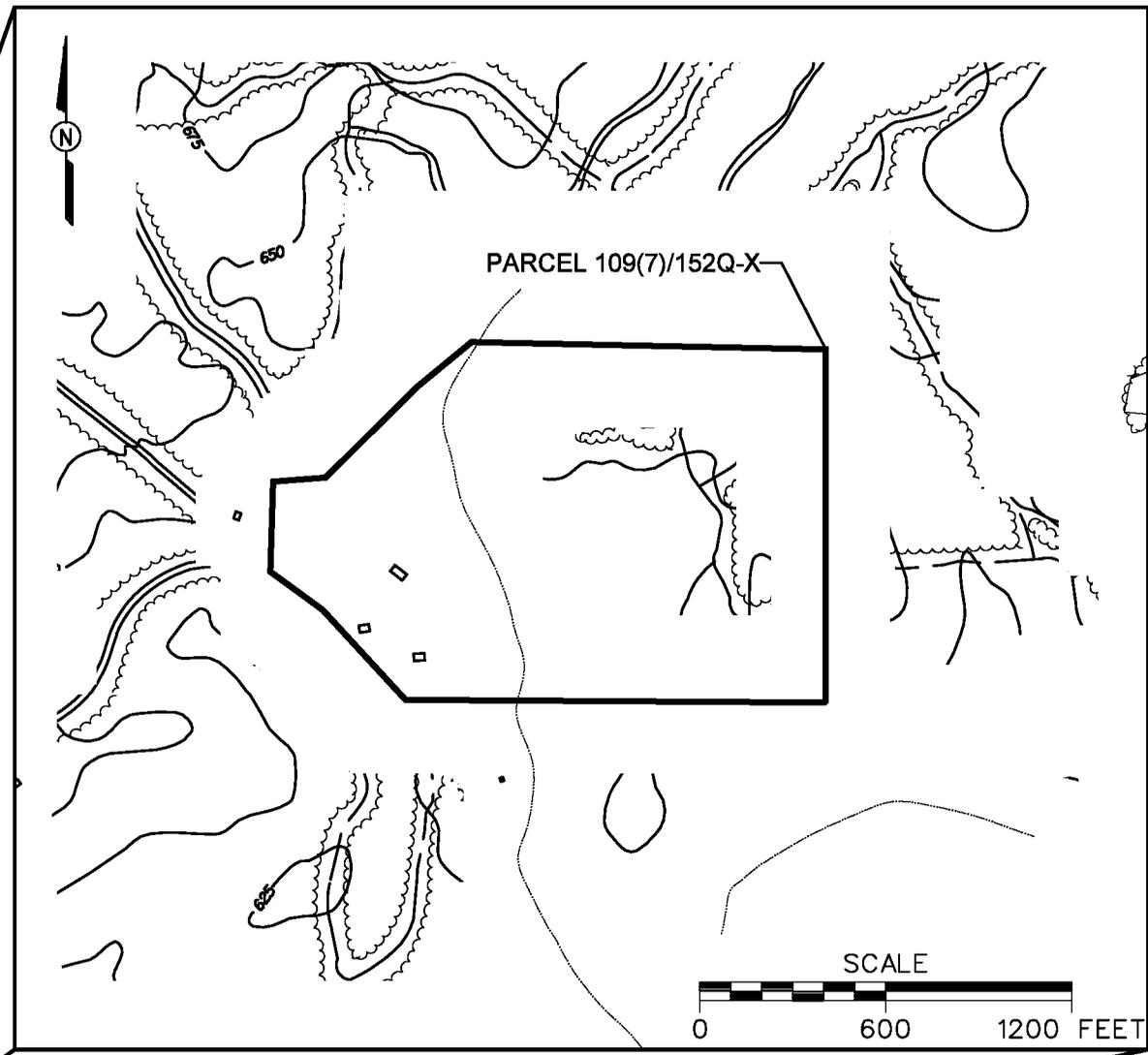
Date

Approved by:

Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

Date

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LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS
(CONTOUR INTERVAL - 25 FOOT)
- TREES / TREELINE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK

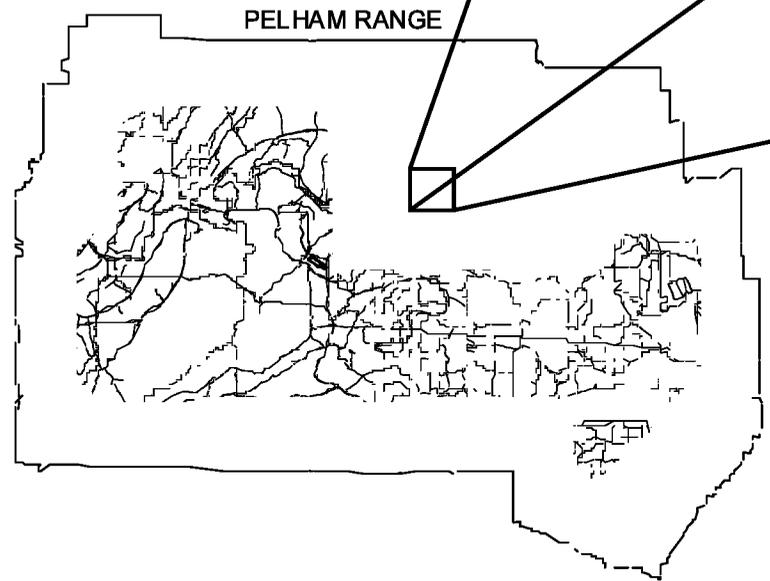


FIGURE 1
 SITE LOCATION MAP
 RANGE 23A, MULTIPURPOSE RANGE
 PARCEL 109(7)/152Q-X

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 MOBILE DISTRICT
 FORT McCLELLAN
 CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA
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