

5.0 HISTORICAL SITE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

5.1 APPROACH AND RATIONALE

The approach used for this Historic Assessment is the same approach as used in preparing an Archives Search Report (ASR) for Explosive Ordnance or Chemical Warfare Materials. Various Record Groups at the National Archives are searched as well as National Holding Centers for records. State and local archive holdings are also searched. On site reviews of existing records and interviews with knowledgeable sources are conducted. Aerial photos from previous over flights are interpreted if available. A site survey is conducted to confirm the historic research.

5.2 BOUNDARIES OF SITE

All of the locations identified are within the boundaries of Fort McClellan (Main Post) with the exception of the Rattlesnake Gulch Area. This area is south of Summerall Gate Road and includes the northeast corner of the Anniston Community Center property.

5.3 DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

5.3.1 WASHINGTON NATIONAL RECORDS CENTER 4205 SUITLAND ROAD SUITLAND, MD 20409 POC: VELICIA CHANCE (301) 457-7010

Record Group 338 (Records of the US Army Commands)

Accession 68A6001

Boxes 1 – 2

Accession 70B0668

Box 1

Accession 71A0491

Boxes 1 – 2

Accession 72B1094

Box 1

Accession 72C1094

Boxes 1 – 3

Accession 72D1094

Box 1

Accession 73B5398

Box 1

Accession 73C5398

Box 1

Accession 740688

Box 1

Accession 90-0174
Box 1
Accession 90176
Boxes 1 - 17 Destroyed in 1997.
Accession 93-0473
Boxes 1 – 5

**5.3.2 NATIONAL ARCHIVES I
8TH AND PENNSYLVANIA
WASHINGTON, DC 20408
POC: MITCH YOCKELSON
(202) 501-5385**

Record Group 77 (Records of the Chief of Engineers)
Entry 393
Boxes 138 - 140

**5.3.3 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT COLLEGE PARK
8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740
POC: KEN SCHLESSINGER
(301) 713-6800**

Record Group 112 (Records of the Office of the Surgeon General)
Entry 31 Geographic Series, 1945-46.
Box 41 One folder on Fort McClellan.

Record Group 175 (Records of the Chemical Warfare Service)
Entry 1. U.S. Army Schools; Chemical Corps School.
Boxes 1 – 10. Fort McClellan.
The Chemical Corps School Fort McClellan, Alabama General Records, 1949-50.
Box 1
Records of the Office of the Chief Chemical Officer, 1948-60.
Boxes 11 – 13.
Accession 67A4900 Records of the Chief Chemical Officer, 1946-54.
Boxes 372, 373, 422, 479, 481.
General Correspondence, Miscellaneous Series, 1955-59.
Boxes 23 – 26, 45, 46, 49, 67, 68, 73, 74, 75, 82, 102.
General Correspondence, Subject Series, 1955-60.
Boxes 1 – 10, 124, 145 – 149, 166, 181, 182, 192 – 195, 197.
General Correspondence, Station Series, 1955-59.
Boxes 24 – 28, 37 – 44, 53 – 68, 75.
Historian Background Files, 1951-54.
Boxes 7 – 13.

Record Group 337 (Records of the Army Ground Forces)

Entry 1

Box 15 Two folders on Fort McClellan.

5.3.4 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

OFFICE OF HISTORY

7701 TELEGRAPH ROAD

FORT BELVOIR

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22315

POC: LISA WAGNER

(703) 428-6558

Copied Fort McClellan installation maps.

5.3.5 U.S. ARMY CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

HEALTH PHYSICISTS DEPARTMENT, BUILDING 5158

EDGEWOOD AREA, ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD

POC: MR. HARRIS EDGE

(410) 436-8395

The research team copied several reports pertaining to Fort McClellan radiological studies.

5.3.6 U.S. ARMY CENTER FOR MILITARY HISTORY

103 3RD AVENUE

FORT MCNAIR, DC 20319-5058

POC: MARY HAYNES

(202) 685-4042

The research team carefully viewed the appropriate history and found no pertinent information.

5.3.7 NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

9700 PAGE AVENUE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63132-5100

POC: WILSON SULLIVAN

(314) 538-4085

Record Group 338 (Records of the U.S. Army Commands)

Accession 56A0434

Boxes 1 – 2 Copied documents on Talladega Forest Maneuver Area and Morrisville Training Area.

Accession 59A4097

Box 1 Decimals 010.3 – 674. Copied documents on Talladega Forest, HEW Demonstration Area, Pelham Fires.

Accession 69A4172
Box 1 Computer print out cards.
Accession 780758
Boxes 1 – 2 Vault boxes.

**5.3.8 CHEMICAL SCHOOL LIBRARY
BUILDING 1081
FORT MCCLELLAN, AL 36205-4414
POC: RICHARD PASTORETT
(205) 848-4414**

The research team carefully viewed all the pertinent files and made numerous copies.

**5.3.9 U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL CORPS MUSEUM
BUILDING 2299
FORT MCCLELLAN, AL 36205-5020
POC: THOMAS MILLER
(256) 848-4449**

The research team carefully viewed all the pertinent files and made numerous copies.

5.4 PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

During the investigation three site visits were made during 1999. All members of the site visit team had military backgrounds and at least one member on each visit had graduated from the Army Radiation Safety Course. The team looked for visual indications of use such as signage, fencing and burial mounds. Radiation detection equipment was not utilized. These site visits were made in May, September and November of 1999. Summaries of these visits are:

1. During 24-26 May the following radiological sites were visited:
 - a. The area shown on the June 1967 Range Map as T-15 (USACMLS Area 15), negative results.
 - b. The area shown on the June 1967 Range Map as B-1, negative results (no indication of radiological use).
 - c. Naylor Field (T-6), no signs of radiological burials.
 - d. Range 25, fencing used for testing of prototype actuators has been removed.
 - e. Area behind the Anniston Community Center (FUDS), military pickets marking a path up a ravine. This may have been the first Rattlesnake Gulch radiological field survey area.

2. During 20-23 September the following radiological sites were visited:
 - a. Radiological Survey Area #1. One possible storage container for a 3.5" Rocket was found. All debris related to radiological survey training has been removed.
 - b. T-4. The biological training area was partially walked. One expended can of BG Simulant was found.
 - c. The flat area just north of the top Iron Mountain was walked. Pin flags from the 1995 Radiological Survey were found. Evidence of radiological burials were not found.
 - d. Part of the Anniston Community Center complex was walked. Two possible survey lanes were walked. At the end of the survey lanes approximately eight 4" pipes were found. Some of these were in a debris pile, which had been pushed up by a bulldozer.
 - e. The area south of Range I was re-walked. No other signs of training other than the five 4" pipes were found.

3. During 1-4 November 1999 the following radiological sites were visited:
 - a. T-4. The west side of the biological training area was extensively walked. Two expended cans of BG Simulant were found. Numerous metal rods with station numbers were found. These rods were ½" in diameter and had a shelf for contaminates.
 - b. The northeast corner of the Anniston Community Center complex was extensively walked. Two possible survey lanes were walked. At the end of the survey lanes numerous 4" pipes were found. Three debris piles were found with more 4" pipes sticking out of the pile. Two of the debris piles also had hog wire and barb fencing exposed. Site dynamics suggest that a bulldozer pushed up these piles.

5.5 PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

Dr. John May (Health Physics Officer) of the U.S. Army Chemical School was informally interviewed for general information concerning the use of radioactive material at Fort McClellan. Information was also obtained from retired Sergeant Major Bart Truffa's interview done by USACHPPM (see Appendix B-Cited Documents). Bart Truffa (Chemical Corps NCO) was on site during the removal operations at Rattlesnake Gulch in 1971. In 1995 he assisted Dr. May in relocating the burial site.

Lieutenant Colonel Powell's information letter to Major Anderson (1971) was also helpful in locating Radioactive Survey Area #1, the Field Hot Cell and the Chemical School Radioactive Burial Grounds, all of which are in the Rattlesnake Gulch Area. His interview is part of Major Anderson's After Action Report on the Rattlesnake Gulch Cleanup.