

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
RANGES WEST OF IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY

AUGUST 2005

**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 Ranges West of Iron Mountain Road (RWIMR) 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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related hazardous substances.

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

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

RWIMR 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 ADEM.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the RWIMR. The background documents for RWIMR 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 22,245 acres, is located roughly 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR RWIMR

EDAW, Inc., 1997, *Fort McClellan Comprehensive Reuse Plan, Fort McClellan Reuse and Redevelopment Authority of Alabama*, November; Fort McClellan, Updated Reuse Map, Rev. March 2000.

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), 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. (Shaw), 2003, *Draft Site Investigation Report, Ranges West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcels 73Q-X, 91Q-X, 115Q, 116Q-X, 117Q-X, 129Q-X, 151Q, 181(7), 194(7)/518(7), 200Q, 201Q, 228Q, 229Q-X, 231Q, 232Q-X, Washington Tank Range, and 1950 Rocket Launcher Range, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, August.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), 2001, *Archives Search Report Maps (Revision 1), Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama*, September.

The RWIMR are located in the southwestern portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The area of investigation did not extend beyond the current Main Post boundary nor was the SI conducted in the area of any range safety fans. Range safety fans cover an extremely large area that is not representative of their actual impact area. The SI focused on the areas of the firing lines and the probable impact areas of each range (about 750 acres). Generally, the area of investigation is bounded by Summerall Gate Road to the north, the Main Post boundary to the west and south, and Iron Mountain Road to the east. Approximately 25 percent of the area of investigation has been altered by clearing activities associated with construction of the Anniston Eastern Bypass highway (Figure 2).

The elevation in the RWIMR varies from about 780 feet above mean sea level (amsl) in the northwestern portion of the area of investigation to about 1,270 feet amsl atop Iron Mountain in the central portion. A ridge connecting Iron Mountain and Wheeler Hill (about 2,500 feet south-southeast) was used as a "backstop" to many of the firing ranges in the area. Perennial and intermittent streams flow to the west, northwest, and north connecting to Remount Creek, which flows northerly along the eastern side of Iron Mountain Road.

Many of the parcels included in this investigation were first identified on historical aerial photographs or early FTMC maps. In addition, parcels were identified based on research conducted during the *Final Environmental*

Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama (EBS) or from the *Archive Search Report* (ASR).

Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at these parcels and are being addressed separately by the Army.

The following is a brief site description and history of each range or parcel within the area of investigation. The location of each parcel is displayed on Figure 3.

Area 45, Parcel 232Q-X, and Adjacent Sites and Ranges.

Parcel 232Q-X was located in the northern portion of the study area. Area 45 extends from the western boundary of the Main Post across Iron Mountain Road to the eastern edge of the study area. The central portion of Parcel 232Q-X was known as Combat Range No. 2. Built during the period between

**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.

the two world wars, the initial use of the combat range is unknown. During World War II, Combat Range No. 2 was divided into other ranges, including a rocket range, a machine gun range, and two rifle grenade ranges. By 1958, all ranges in this area had been closed or abandoned (USACE, 2001).

Range 17, Explosives Proficiency Training Area, Parcel 73Q-X.

Parcel 73Q-X was located south of Summerall Gate Road and west of Iron Mountain Road. The range was used from 1977 through mid-1994. Records from 1983 indicate that Range 17 was used as an explosives and ordnance disposal training range and impact area. Range 17 was most recently used as a communications training area.

Training Area T-4, Parcel 181(7). Parcel 181(7) was located south of Summerall Gate Road in the north-central portion of Area 45. The small area (about 0.25 acres) was used from 1965 to 1971. Naturally occurring biodegradable biological simulants were used at Training Area T-4 in relatively small amounts for individual exercises. Other materials used at this site consisted of decontamination agents.

Former Weapons Demonstration Area, Parcel 194(7). Parcel 194(7) was located south of Summerall Gate Road in the northwestern portion of Area 45. The site was reportedly used in the 1950s for familiarization training with various munitions, including white phosphorus grenades, flame throwers, white phosphorus, and

field flame expedient (ESE, 1998).

South Gate Toxic Gas Yard, Parcel 518(7). This area, reportedly located within Area 45, is referenced only by name on a 1956 map of *Chemical Corps Training Areas*. The exact location of the South Gate Toxic Gas Yard and the items stored at the yard are unknown. However, this area was probably near or within Parcel 194(7) (USACE, 2001).

Former Rifle Grenade Range North of Washington Range, Parcel 221Q-X.

The *1946 Reservation Map* identified a former rifle grenade range at Range 19, which is the only documentation of this range (ESE, 1998). Results of the SI conducted at Parcel 221Q-X will be

included in the Iron Mountain Road Ranges remedial investigation and will be reported separately by the Army.

Former Machine Gun Transition Range, Parcel 228Q. Parcel 228Q was located in the northeastern portion of RWIMR. The *1946 Reservation Map* identified a range designated *M.G.T.* at Range 17. It is believed that this is a machine gun transition range. The range is part of Combat Range No. 2. The dates of use or types of operations were unknown (ESE, 1998).

Former Rocket Launcher Range, Parcel 229Q-X. Parcel 229Q-X was identified on the *1946 Reservation Map* as a *Rocket Launcher Range* located in the vicinity of Parcel 73Q-X. This is the only documentation of this range (ESE, 1998).

Dud Impact Area, Parcel 91Q-X. FTMC training maps indicated Parcel 91Q-X was located in the central portion of the RWIMR. The Dud Impact Area was observed during the EBS site visit. Members of the 142nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit identified the majority of the ordnance items as fragments of 2.36-inch bazooka rounds (ESE, 1998).

Former Large Caliber Weapons Range, Parcel 114Q-X. This former range was located in the western part of the RWIMR. Ordnance fired at this range included unspecified large- and small-caliber weapons (ESE, 1998). Results of the SI conducted at Parcel 114Q-X will be included in a remedial investigation and will be reported separately by the Army.

Former Small Arms Range, Parcel 115Q. Parcel 115Q was a small-arms range located near the western border of the Main Post. A 1957 aerial photograph documents this range. The range appeared to be constructed in a manner similar to other small arms ranges. Additional information describing this range and the activities conducted at the range was not available (ESE, 1998).

60-Millimeter Mortar Range, Parcel 116Q-X. The *1946 Reservation Map* identified a 60-millimeter mortar range near the post boundary in the southwestern part of RWIMR. According to the ASR, a 60-millimeter mortar range appears to have been first used in this area during World War II. The mortar range was abandoned sometime between 1958 and 1967. Additional information, operational history, and dates of use were not available (USACE, 2001).

Impact Area, Parcel 117Q-X. Parcel 117Q-X occupied most of the southwestern portion of RWIMR and included part of the area currently known as Lagarde Park. The boundary of the parcel was based on information provided by FTMC and from impact areas identified on aerial photographs. Parcel 117Q-X contained a variety of ordnance materials. UXO clearance has been conducted at the Lagarde Park portion of the parcel (ESE, 1998).

Former Mock Vietnam Village, Parcel 129Q-X. Parcel 129Q-X was constructed circa 1968 mostly on land currently occupied by Lagarde Park and was used for various training exercises until approximately 1971 (ESE, 1998).

Former Rifle Range, Parcel 151Q. Evidence of a former rifle range located near the western boundary of the Main Post is limited to aerial photographs from 1957. Additional information was not available (ESE, 1998).

Former Landscape Range, Parcel 200Q. Parcel 200Q was referred to in the EBS as the *Former Landscape Range* and in the ASR as *Old Range 12*. The parcel was built during World War II in the central portion of RWIMR. The range also included Field Firing Points 1 and 2. By 1958, it was listed as *Range 12, Rifle Field Firing*. The range was abandoned by 1967 (USACE, 2001).

Former Rifle Range, Parcel 201Q. Parcel 201Q, located in the southern portion of RWIMR, was the site of the *Field Firing Range* according to a 1948 map and two rifle ranges from the same era: *Field Firing Ranges Nos. 1 and 2*. These ranges were combined to form Parcel 201Q according to the EBS (ESE, 1998).

Former Range O.Q.-2A, Parcel 231Q. The *1946 Reservation Map* identified a range designated O.Q.-2A near the southern boundary of the RWIMR. Additional information regarding the dates of use or operations was not available (ESE, 1998).

Washington Tank Range. This tank range, located in the southern part of RWIMR, first appeared on the *1958 Range Map* and is listed as *Tank, Tables 1, 2, and 3*. It also appears on Plate 10 of the ASR as *OA-54, Ordnance Area 54*. The range was abandoned by 1967 (USACE, 2001).

1950 Rocket Launcher Range.

The *1950 Range Map* shows a 2.36-inch rocket launcher range north of Washington Tank Range. The range was abandoned sometime before 1958. The range also appears on Plate 10 of the ASR as *OA-57* (USACE, 2001).

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 CERFA parcels within the RWIMR (i.e., Parcels 181, 194, and 518) were categorized as Category 7 parcels. Category 7 parcels are areas that have not been evaluated or that require additional evaluation. With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcels 181(7), 194(7), and 518(7) are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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 (ESE, 1998).

For the remaining non-CERCLA parcels, the letter "Q" designates the parcel as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel. These are parcels where no known or recorded storage, release, or disposal of hazardous substances (including migration) has occurred on site property. The parcels were Q-qualified because chemicals of potential concern may be present as a result of historical range-

related activities. Seven of these Q parcels were also qualified "X" for potential UXO. Issues related to UXO may be present at these parcels and are being addressed separately by the Army. The ranges without parcel numbers (Washington Tank Range and the 1950 Rocket Launcher Range) were not CERFA qualified.

SITE INVESTIGATION

Shaw Environmental, Inc. (Shaw) conducted an SI to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the RWIMR as a result of historical mission-related Army activities (Shaw, 2003). The SI consisted of the collection and analysis of 101 surface and depositional soil samples, 94 subsurface soil samples, 62 groundwater samples, and 18 surface water and sediment samples. Groundwater samples were initially collected from 52 of the 73 monitoring wells installed during the SI; 21 of the wells failed to produce sufficient groundwater for sampling as a result of severe drought conditions. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), perchlorate, and explosive compounds. In addition, an x-ray fluorescence (XRF) survey for metals (primarily lead) in surface soil was performed in select areas east of Iron Mountain Road, which included portions of the range safety fans.

Metals, VOCs, SVOCs, perchlorate, and explosives were detected in 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. Metals concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998). In addition, site metals were evaluated using statistical and geochemical methods to determine if the metals were site related. A preliminary human health risk assessment (PRA) and a preliminary ecological risk assessment (PERA) were also performed to further characterize the potential threat to human health and the environment.

Although the area investigated is not projected for residential reuse, the analytical data were evaluated against a residential reuse scenario to determine if the area is suitable for unrestricted future reuse. The RWIMR are projected for a variety of reuses, including the Anniston Eastern Bypass Highway, passive recreation, retail business, and office (EDAW, 1997).

A statistical and geochemical evaluation was performed to determine if metals detected in site media were site-related. The evaluation identified elevated concentrations of cadmium and selenium in one soil sample each and beryllium in one groundwater sample. The geochemical evaluation concluded that these

three elevated concentrations might represent contamination. All other detected concentrations in soil and groundwater, and all detected concentrations in surface water and sediment, were determined to be naturally occurring.

To further characterize any potential threats to human health a PRA was performed. The PRA identified lead as the only chemical of potential concern (COPC) in soil. Groundwater COPCs were beryllium, 2,6-dinitrotoluene, perchlorate, and acetone. COPCs were not identified in surface water or sediment. The PRA concluded that exposure to site media was unlikely to pose a threat of adverse health effects and that the site could be released for unrestricted reuse without further action. In addition, a PERA was performed to evaluate potential risks to ecological receptors. The PERA concluded that the constituents detected in surface soil, surface water, sediment, and groundwater were unlikely to pose adverse risks to ecological receptors at the RWIMR.

In January 2004 ADEM performed an XRF survey to further evaluate potential lead contamination in surface soil at select areas of the RWIMR. Based on the survey ADEM concluded that there were no additional areas of significant lead contamination in soil. ADEM issued a letter of concurrence on May 25, 2005 stating that the ranges did not warrant further action and that the RWIMR may be released for unrestricted reuse.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the RWIMR.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for the RWIMR. No further action is selected because remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary to protect human health and the environment at these ranges. 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. Furthermore, CERFA Parcels 181(7), 194(7), and 518(7) are re-categorized as Category 3 parcels. 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. With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the RWIMR. There are no costs associated with implementing the no-action alternative.

DECLARATION

Remedial action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances is unnecessary at the RWIMR. 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. Furthermore, the CERFA parcels are re-categorized as CERFA Category 3 parcels. 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. There are no remedial costs associated with implementing no further action for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at the Ranges West of Iron Mountain Road.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

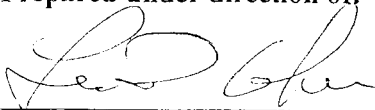
Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-6853

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ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
AMSL	above mean sea level
ASR	Archive Search Report
BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
COPC	chemical of potential concern
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
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
PERA	preliminary ecological risk assessment
PRA	preliminary human health risk assessment
RWIMR	Ranges West of Iron Mountain Road
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound
XRF	x-ray fluorescence

Prepared under direction of:

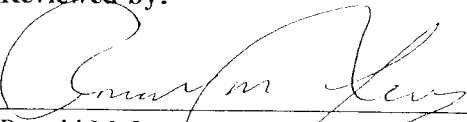


Lee D. Coker
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

8/16/05

Date

Reviewed by:

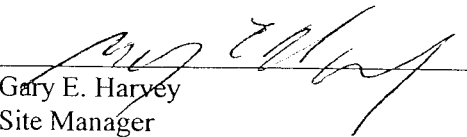


Ronald M. Levy
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

25 August 05

Date

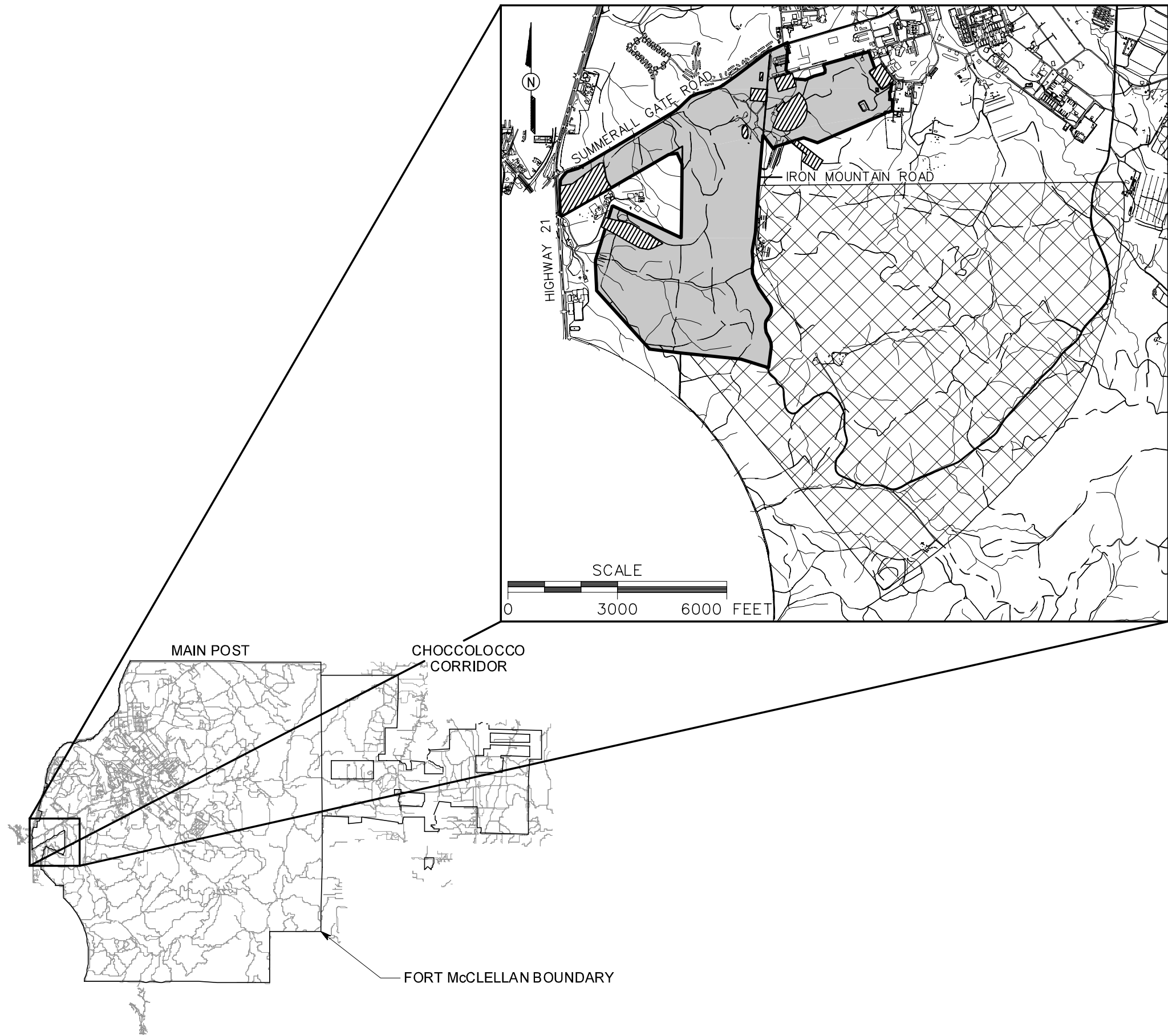
Approved by:



Gary E. Harvey
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

26 Aug 05

Date



LEGEND

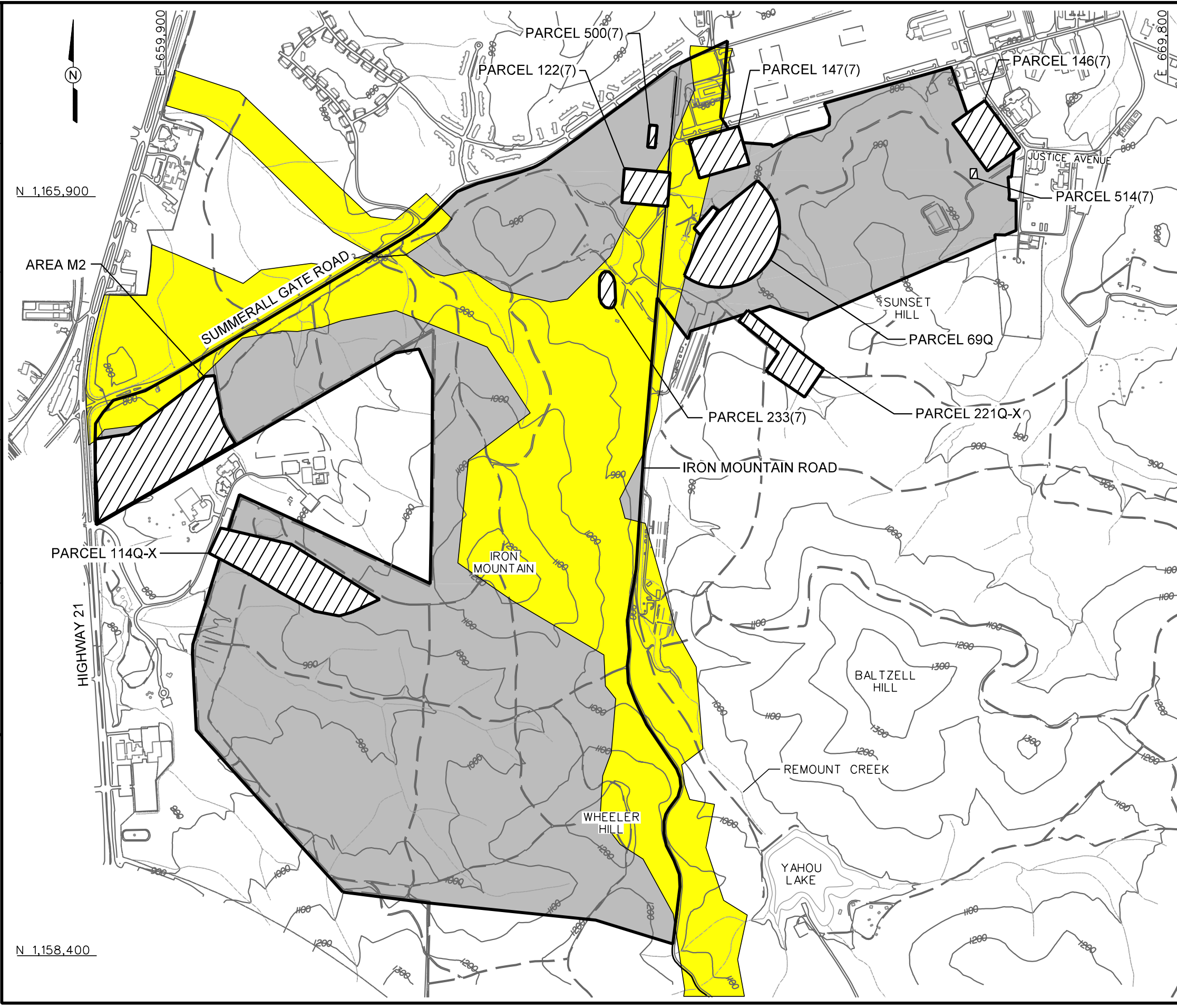
- AREA OF INVESTIGATION
- RANGE SAFETY FANS
- PARCELS EXCLUDED FROM THE AREA OF INVESTIGATION

FIGURE 1
SITE LOCATION MAP
RANGES WEST OF
IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD

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

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LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOUR (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 100 FOOT)
- AREA OF INVESTIGATION
- PARCELS EXCLUDED FROM THE AREA OF INVESTIGATION
- ANNISTON EASTERN BYPASS CORRIDOR

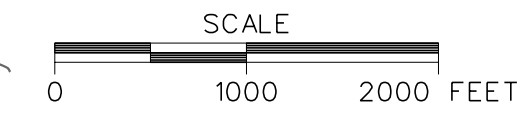


FIGURE 2
AREA OF INVESTIGATION MAP
RANGES WEST OF
IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD

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

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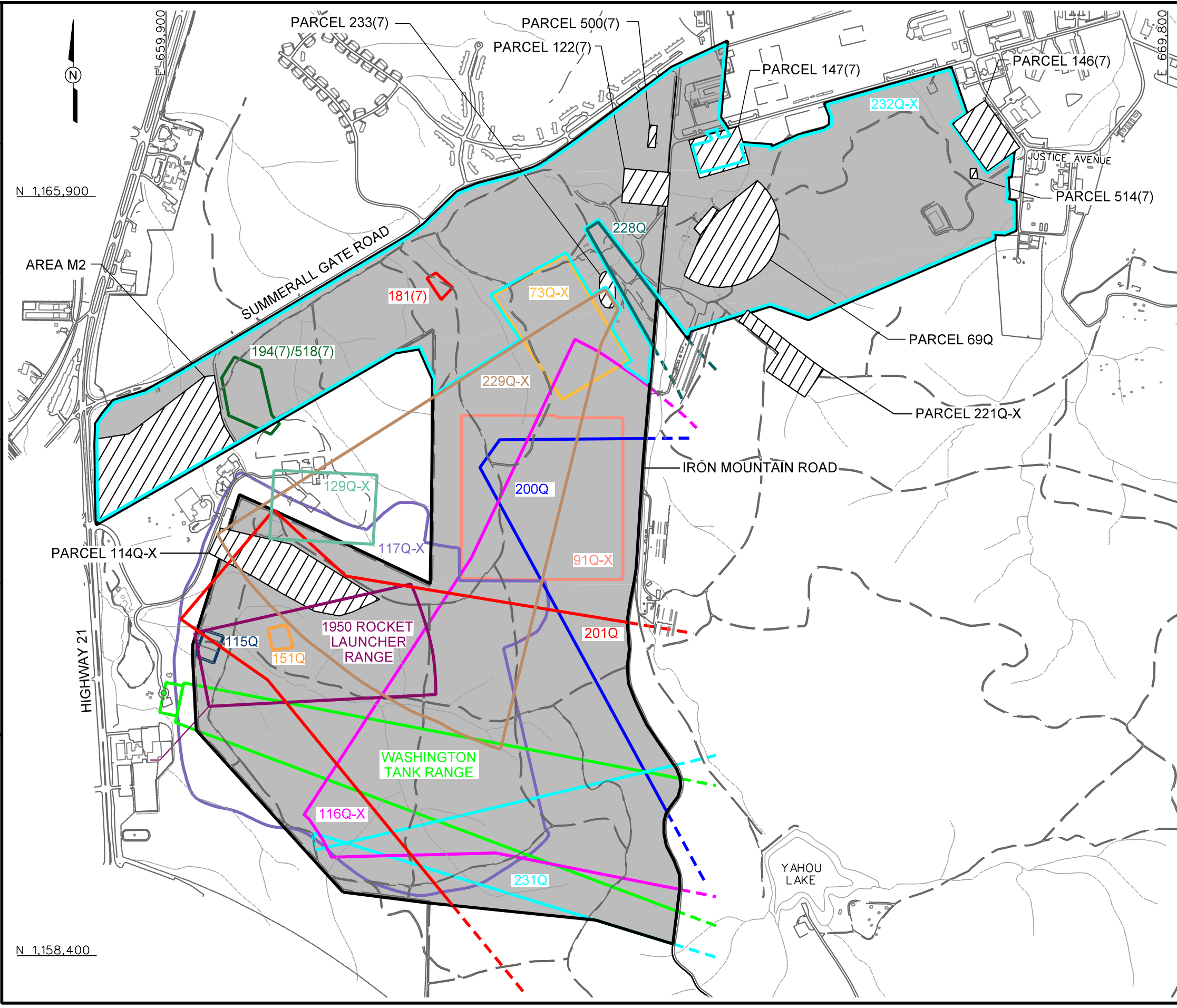


FIGURE 3
PARCEL MAP
RANGES WEST OF
IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD

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