

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
IMPACT AREA, PARCEL 136Q-X
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: U. S. ARMY

MARCH 2003

**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 Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-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 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related hazardous substances. Issues related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. The location of the parcel at FTMC is 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 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 the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances. 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 Area, Parcel 136Q-X. The background documents for Parcel 136Q-X 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 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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 136Q-X

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*, January.

IT Corporation, 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., 2003, *Final Site Investigation Report, Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, March.

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 Area, Parcel 136Q-X, is an approximately 4-acre area located in the northeastern portion of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). For the SI, the area of investigation was expanded to include a possible training area south of the parcel and covered approximately 16 acres.

Parcel 136Q-X was identified on a 1961 aerial photograph composite in an Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center report (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998). In the 1961 aerial photograph, Parcel

136Q-X appears to contain two small cleared areas, one near the northern boundary and the other near the southern boundary of the parcel. In available FTMC aerial photographs from 1937, 1940, 1954, 1969, 1976, 1982, and 1994, the parcel appears to be an unaltered, heavily wooded area.

According to the environmental baseline survey (EBS), Parcel 136Q-X is located approximately 3,100 feet southwest of the 81mm mortar firing line, Parcel 137Q-X (ESE, 1998). Direction of fire was likely from the north-northeast into the impact area. The EBS identified an 81mm mortar range and a former mortar firing point north of this area. During SI site walks conducted in December 2001, items reported to be 81mm mortars, mortar fin assemblies, and stabilizer tubes were observed. In addition, numerous shallow depressions/impact craters and rock-filled 55-gallon drums were observed during the site walks. The drums contained holes, presumably from their use as

targets for small-arms weapons or mortars.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the EBS was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using U.S. Department of Defense guidance (ESE, 1998). All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories or a non-CERCLA qualifier designation, as appropriate. Parcel 136Q-X was categorized as a CERFA Category 1 Qualified 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). Parcel 136Q-X was qualified because chemicals of potential concern and/or UXO may be present at the site as a result of historical range activities.

**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.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 136Q-X will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (Shaw Environmental, Inc., 2003).

Environmental sampling conducted during the SI included the collection of eight surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, and eight subsurface soil samples. Surface and depositional soil samples were collected from the uppermost foot of soil.

Subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. All samples were analyzed for metals and explosives. In addition, two surface soil samples, two subsurface soil samples, and both depositional soil samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds, pesticides, and herbicides.

Metals, VOCs, pesticides, and herbicides were detected in site media. Semivolatile organic compounds and explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected at the site. 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 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). A preliminary ecological risk assessment (PERA) was also performed to further characterize potential risks to ecological receptors.

Although the site is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW Inc., 1997), the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted future use. Low levels of VOCs, pesticides, and herbicides were detected in site media at concentrations below SSSLs. Three metals (aluminum, arsenic, and iron) were detected in site media at concentrations exceeding their respective SSSLs but below background concentrations. Therefore, residential exposure to site media is unlikely to pose a threat to human health.

The PERA identified six pesticides and selenium as constituents of potential ecological concern (COPEC) in surface soil at Parcel 136Q-X. The PERA concluded, however, that the COPECs are unlikely to pose significant ecological risk.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 136Q-X. 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. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. With regard to CERCLA-related hazardous substances, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-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 the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X. 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. 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 for CERCLA-related hazardous substances at the Impact Area, Parcel 136Q-X.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

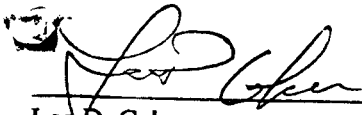
Mr. Ronald M. Levy
Fort McClellan BRAC
Environmental Coordinator
Tel: (256) 848-3539

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
COPEC	constituent of potential ecological concern
EBS	environmental baseline survey
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
PERA	preliminary ecological risk assessment
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:



Lee D. Coker

Environmental Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mobile, Alabama

8/19/03

Date

Reviewed by:



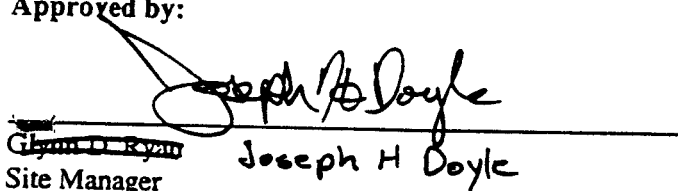
Ronald M. Levy

BRAC Environmental Coordinator
Fort McClellan, Alabama

25 April 2003

Date

Approved by:



~~Glynn D. Ryan~~

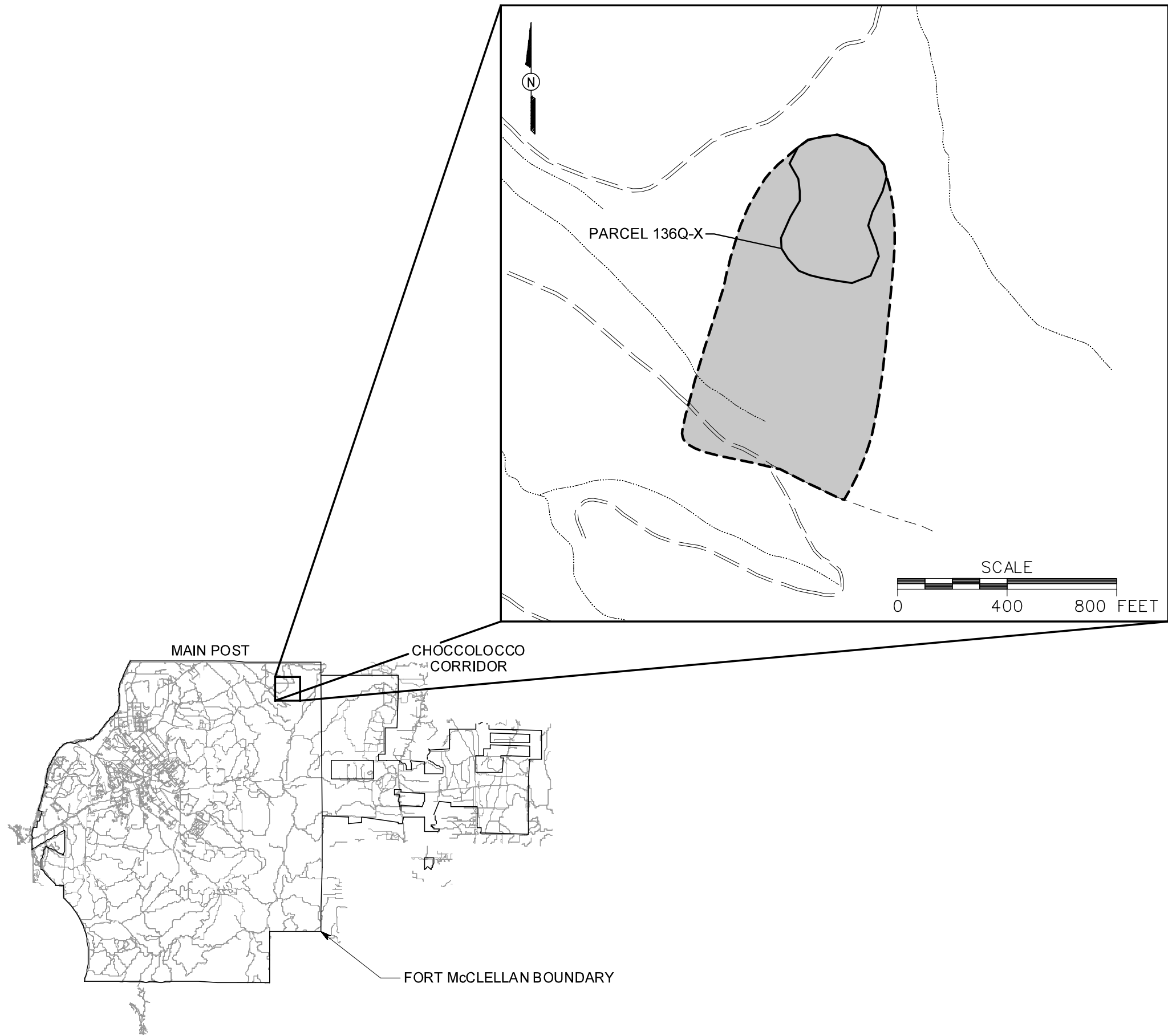
Site Manager

Fort McClellan, Alabama

Joseph H Doyle

26 Sept 03

Date



LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS.
- AREA OF INVESTIGATION
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
IMPACT AREA
PARCEL 136Q-X

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