FINAL

Decision Document for Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X

Fort McClellan

Calhoun County, Alabama

June 2002

Task Order CK10
Contract Number DACA21-96-D-0018

IT CORPORATION
A Member of The IT Group

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mobile District

FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR
FORMER PROBABLE RANGE, PARCEL 247Q-X
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

JUNE 2002

U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES DECISION DOCUMENT

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action, with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW), will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-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 HTRW. 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 (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 the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X, the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site with regard to HTRW. 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 Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X. The background documents for Parcel 247Q-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 (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 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

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 247Q-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***, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2002, ***Final Site Investigation Report, Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama,*** June.

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.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 1990, ***Installation Assessment, Army Closure Program, Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama (TS-PIC-89334)***. Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center (EPIC), Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory.

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 Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X, is located near the southwestern corner of the FTMC Main Post (Figure 1). The probable range was identified in the Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center report (EPA, 1990); however, the range was not observed on any maps reviewed during the environmental baseline survey (EBS), nor was it reported in the Archives Search Report. In a 1961 aerial photograph, the parcel appears as an unaltered, heavily wooded area. Aerial photographs from 1969 depict the first appearance of the probable range as a U-shaped clearing in the center of the parcel. Aerial photographs from 1976, 1982, 1994, and 1998 show that, over time, the size of the cleared area changed. The site appears most used in the 1969 aerial photograph. Currently, the site appears as an elongated clearing oriented northeast-southwest and is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, 1997).

The direction of fire at the probable range would have been either to the southwest or to the northeast. Because of the range's orientation and proximity to inhabited/developed areas, it is unlikely the range was used for firing weapons. Therefore, it is believed that the range was actually used for other training activities (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998).

The types of training aids that may have been used at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X, were noted during a site walk conducted by IT Corporation (IT) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-Huntsville personnel in January 2001. Several items were observed, including a 40-millimeter smoke grenade, possible spent smoke grenades and flares, a gas mask cartridge, and numerous drums (55-gallon and smaller) in varying states of deterioration.

Throughout the area, there appeared to be drum debris on and just below the ground surface. One 55-gallon drum was observed to have reinforced ribs. Another drum, found in good condition, was marked with the words "simulator-atomic." Numerous depressions were observed around the drums, and to the northwest several mounds were located along the side of a hill. Also during the site walk, two shallow trenches were discovered in the northeastern area of the parcel. The trenches were approximately 4 feet wide by

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.

40 feet long and were slightly wider at one end. The walls of the trenches were lined with both intact and dismantled wall lockers and filing cabinets.

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. Parcel 247Q-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 do have other environmental or safety concerns (ESE, 1998). Parcel 247Q-X was qualified for potential UXO because of the lack of information regarding activities conducted at the site.

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 247Q-X will remain a CERFA Category 1 Qualified parcel.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X, to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 2002).

Thirteen surface soil samples, 3 depositional soil samples, 13 subsurface soil samples, and 2 groundwater samples were collected at the site. Surface and depositional 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 two of six monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. The remaining wells did not produce sufficient groundwater for sampling. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), and explosive compounds.

To evaluate whether 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 background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is located within an undeveloped, wooded area of the Main Post, and is projected for passive recreation reuse (EDAW, 1997), the analytical data were screened against a residential reuse scenario to determine if the site is suitable for unrestricted reuse. The metals that exceeded SSSLs in site media were below their respective background concentrations or were within the range of background values. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below SSSLs. Explosive compounds were not detected in any of the samples collected.

Constituents of potential ecological concern were limited to two metals (barium and lead) in one surface soil sample. The barium result (523 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg]) exceeded its ESV (165 mg/kg) and upper background range (288 mg/kg) in one of 16 surface and depositional soil samples. The lead result (288 mg/kg) exceeded its ESV (50 mg/kg) and upper background range (83 mg/kg) in the same sample. All other barium and lead results in soils (including subsurface soils) were below background or within the upper background range. Statistically, the elevated barium and lead results in one sample are not representative of nominal site-wide levels. Therefore, these metals are not expected to pose a significant threat to ecological receptors.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X.

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 247Q-X. No further action is selected because remedial action 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 HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army. With regard to HTRW, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-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 HTRW is unnecessary at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-X. The no further action remedy for HTRW 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 HTRW. 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 HTRW at the Former Probable Range, Parcel 247Q-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
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
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

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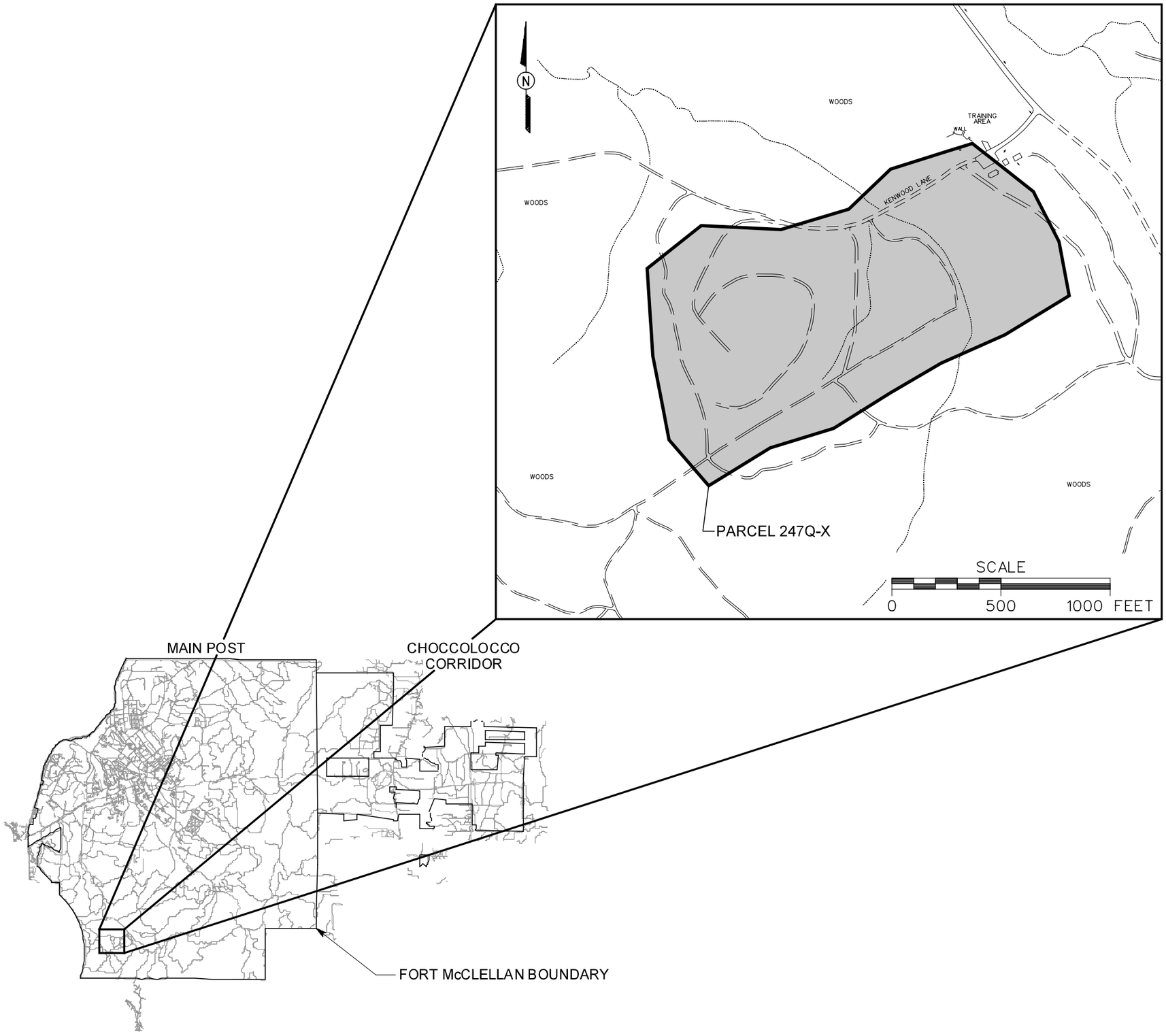

LEGEND

- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
- PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
- BUILDING
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- SURFACE DRAINAGE / CREEK
- UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
FORMER PROBABLE RANGE
PARCEL 247Q-X

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

IT CORPORATION
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