

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
TRENCHES WEST OF IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD, PARCEL 500(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

SEPTEMBER 2001

**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 Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7), at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel at FTMC is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW). Unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

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 IV, 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 Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7), 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 Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 500(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 500(7) is 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 comprises two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range.

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 500(7)

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), 2001, *Final Site Investigation Report, Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, September.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1999, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment Site Investigation at the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

Science Applications International Corporation, 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

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 approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

The Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road site (Parcel 500[7]) is located in the west-central portion of the Main Post, approximately 200 feet west of the intersection of BG D.H. Stem Avenue and Iron Mountain Road (Figure 1). The system of trenches is approximately 200 feet long by 50 feet wide. The trenches were discovered by ADEM personnel and were confirmed by IT Corporation (IT) during visual site

inspections. Information regarding the activities conducted at the site or potential site-specific chemicals was not available.

The site slopes from west to east and lies at an elevation ranging from approximately 830 to 845 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1).

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. [ESE], 1998) 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 seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. Parcel 500(7)

was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or that require further evaluation (ESE, 1998).

With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 500(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7), to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT, 1999, 2001).

**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.

Six surface soil samples, six subsurface soil samples, and two groundwater samples were collected at the site. Surface 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 three permanent monitoring wells installed at the site during the SI. A groundwater sample was not collected from the third well because the well was dry. Samples were analyzed for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), and nitroaromatic 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 media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation, 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is projected to be incorporated into the Eastern Bypass, the analytical data were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted land reuse. In soils, with the exception of iron in one surface soil sample, the metals that exceeded SSSLs were below their respective background concentrations or within the range of background values and thus do not pose an unacceptable risk to future human receptors. VOC and SVOC concentrations in soils were below SSSLs. Explosives were not detected in soils.

In groundwater, thallium was detected in one sample at a concentration exceeding the SSSL and the range of background values. VOC concentrations in groundwater were below SSSLs. SVOCs and explosives were not detected in groundwater. Consequently, the overall impact to groundwater at the site is negligible and the potential threat to human health is expected to be low.

Three metals (beryllium, iron, and nickel) were detected in a limited number of surface soil samples at concentrations exceeding ESVs and the range of background values. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below ESVs. Based on the low levels of metals, VOCs, and SVOCs detected, the potential threat to ecological receptors is expected to be very low.

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 500(7). 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. Furthermore, Parcel

500(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances have occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. With regard to HTRW, the U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(3) (formerly Parcel 500[7]). UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the U.S. Army.

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 is unnecessary at the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(3) (formerly Parcel 500[7]). 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 HTRW. UXO-related issues may be present at the site and are being addressed separately by the

U.S. Army. Parcel 500(7) is re-categorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Trenches West of Iron Mountain Road, Parcel 500(3) (formerly Parcel 500[7]).

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
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Environmental Coordinator
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ACRONYMS

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
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
ESE	Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IT	IT Corporation
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
UXO	unexploded ordnance
VOC	volatile organic compound

Prepared under direction of:

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10/23/01
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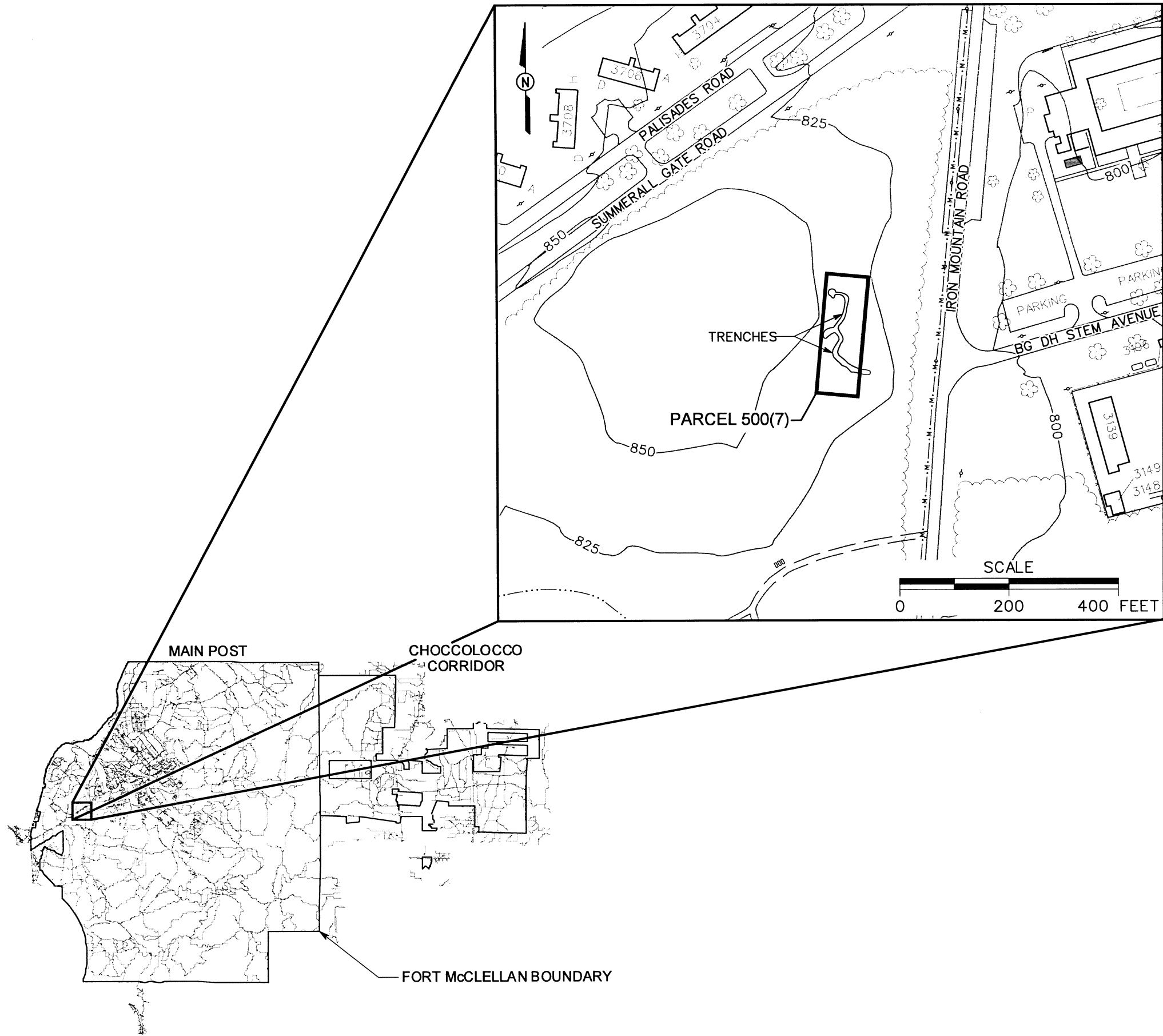
28 Nov 01
Date

Approved by:

Glynn D. Ryan

Glynn D. Ryan
Site Manager
Fort McClellan, Alabama

28 Nov 01
Date



- LEGEND**
- UNIMPROVED ROADS AND PARKING
 - PAVED ROADS AND PARKING
 - BUILDING
 - TOPOGRAPHIC CONTOURS (CONTOUR INTERVAL - 25 FOOT)
 - TREES / TREELINE
 - PARCEL BOUNDARY
 - MANMADE SURFACE DRAINAGE FEATURE
 - FENCE
 - UTILITY POLE

FIGURE 1
SITE MAP
TRENCHES WEST OF IRON
MOUNTAIN ROAD
PARCEL 500(7)

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