



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT
110 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0110

SEP 30 2004

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

I am responding to your August 27 letter outlining your concerns with the munitions response at Fort McClellan, AL. The Army regards the actions of Tetra Tech-Foster Wheeler (TtFW) at Fort McClellan as extremely serious.

In coordination with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Military Munitions Design Center, a new TtFW crew recovered and properly disposed of 24 81-mm mortar-training rounds that TtFW's initial crew may have improperly relocated. TtFW's investigations and subsequent discussions with ADEM identified two additional areas of concern. Investigations of these areas resulted in recovery of two additional 81mm mortar-training rounds. Based on these actions, ADEM officials now believe that all items TtFW's initial crew allegedly relocated have been recovered. The Army, ADEM and TtFW, which accepted full responsibility for its initial crew's actions, have reached a tentative agreement on a sampling plan to verify that other TtFW work complied with Army safety policies and Alabama law.

As you know, the Army has been working to privatize munitions response at Fort McClellan and elsewhere in the United States. We have been discussing this initiative with the Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and believe these discussions may lead to expansion of the privatization initiative at Fort McClellan. An expansion of this initiative would most likely include the remainder of the property that we have transferred to the JPA.

We believe that the course of action being taken at Fort McClellan is appropriate and that you and the community will be satisfied that actions taken by the Army are protective of public safety and will help restore the public trust.

Thank you for your letter and I trust that I have fully addressed your concerns.

Sincerely,


Raymond J. Fatz

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)
OASA(I&E)