

FACT SHEET

Fort McClellan, Alabama

March 2002



Fact sheets are published as needed to inform community members about the cleanup and closure of Fort McClellan, Alabama. Cleanup of sites throughout the post are being conducted under the regulatory process called the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (also known as Superfund). In September 1999 the current mission of Fort McClellan ended with the post being closed under Public Law 101-510, Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act.

CWM Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis

Fort McClellan recently completed an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for 33 sites located within the main post of Fort McClellan. The purpose of this EE/CA was to determine whether any chemical warfare materiel (CWM) or related chemical agent contamination remains at these 33 sites, which were used historically for CWM training, and to characterize the type and extent of any such contamination. If found to be present, this study would include an evaluation of the potential risk to human health and the environment due to the presence of CWM or related contamination, and recommend the most technically feasible and cost effective approach for reducing the risk of exposure to these materials.

During various periods of operations from the 1950's until closure of the fort, three basic types of training using chemical agents were conducted at Fort McClellan. These training activities included confidence training, round tapping and agent transfer, and decontamination and reaction training. Information on the training locations and activities conducted during these training exercises was obtained from records and military personnel who were interviewed about their experiences on Fort McClellan. This effort resulted in the identification of 33 locations that may have been used for some type of training related to chemical warfare agents. During this training, at most sites, only small quantities of chemical agents were used; excess amounts of decontamination chemicals were routinely used to decontaminate the areas immediately after the training.

This historical information, results of previous investigations conducted on Fort McClellan, and information gathered from site visits were assessed in planning the EE/CA investigation. The results of this assessment indicated sufficient information was already available to make a determination that chemical agents were absent on 14 of the sites. Additional investigations were then planned and conducted at the remaining 19 sites to evaluate whether CWM or chemical agents were present. The additional investigations included geophysical surveys to detect buried metal objects, excavation of these objects as well as excavation into trenches and pits associated with the training, air monitoring around the excavations to detect the presence of chemical agents or related chemicals, and soil sampling and laboratory analysis for remnant agent and/or agent breakdown products.

Analytical results from this investigation, as well as from previous investigations, show that no residual agents or degradation products were detected at these training sites. Based on the historical records and these sampling results, it can be inferred there are no known sources of chemical agent remaining in the environment at the Fort McClellan CWM EE/CA sites, and therefore the likelihood of current or future risk of human exposure to chemical agents is very unlikely.

The Army has determined that the No Further Action (NFA) response alternative for CWM achieves the response action goal of minimizing the public's exposure to chemical warfare materiel at these training sites.

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