Complex Reef Mound Environment on a Cretaceous Shelf: Facies Analyses and Depositional Environment of the Owl Mountain Province, Fort Hood Military Installation, Texas

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The Owl Mountain Province is a plateaued, karst landscape located in the eastern section of the Fort Hood Military Installation (Fig. 1) and is characterized by Lower Cretaceous Fredericksburg Group carbonates. The topography is capped by thick sequences of the Edwards limestone; steep scarps and incised valleys along the edges host inter-fingering outcrops of the Edwards and Comanche Peak limestones, and the lower valleys are covered by alluvial sediments and intermittent outcrops of the Walnut Clay. These formations were deposited to the north and west of the main Edwards trend, and are thought to be one of the isolated shoals that developed in a restricted environment on the Comanche Shelf associated with the western flank of the Belton High. This shoal may be the western extent of the Moffat Mound, which lies just north and east of the study area (Faulkner, 2016). The regional deposition of the Owl Mountain facies follows those proposed by Rose (1972) for middle shelf deposition on the Comanche Shelf: the Llano uplift area to the southwest was an evaporite lagoon; to the east, shoal facies formed along the flank of the Central Texas Reef trend; and farther east and to the north, the waters deepened into the Tyler Basin.

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