

THE FORMER CHANUTE AFB ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE



Published to keep the Rantoul community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress

May 2017

Air Force Site Investigation Fieldwork Complete

A project team of U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army experts and civilian contractors has completed an investigation at the former Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois, to determine whether past chemical agent training activities have impacted the environment.

The former training area, identified as "Site XU412," is located in the southern portion of the former base, and was used from 1943 to 1951 to train troops to safely identify, handle and decontaminate chemical agents they could potentially encounter during a war situation. The training materials consisted of small quantities of chemical agents in glass vials and bottles. Chemical agents used at the site included mustard, which can blister the skin upon contact. Small quantities of decontamination agents, which are chemical solvents, were also used in training. Records show that no biological or radiological materials were used for training.

During the first phase of the investigation completed in November 2016, the team used ground scanning equipment to identify metallic anomalies in the ground, such as metal containers once used to ship and store training materials. The project team then evaluated the data collected and selected 100 anomalies for further investigation. During the second phase, qualified personnel then dug up and inspected the target anomalies. Environmental samples were collected to determine whether former training activities have impacted the site soil.

Findings to Date

The second phase of the investigation was successfully completed in April with no evidence of former training activities found.

With the exception of one location, all anomalies excavated turned up only miscellaneous metallic debris, like metal rebar and pipe, which was most likely related to construction debris. The construction debris was likely associated with demolition of numerous buildings that were constructed in this area after training activities occurred. At one anomaly location, an empty .50 caliber bullet casing

was found. This item is considered small arms ammunition debris and does not pose a hazard. There are no known site uses of .50 caliber ammunition and the origin of the casing is unknown.

Soil samples were collected at a total of 35 locations across the site. All soil analytical results were non-detect for chemical agents and their breakdown products.

All fieldwork is complete, personnel and equipment have demobilized from the site, and site public access barriers have been removed.



Only metallic debris, like these sewer/water pipe pieces were found during the site investigation. (Courtesy photo/Army Corps of Engineer Contractor, USA Environmental, Inc.)

Next Steps

The soil samples are also being analyzed for other potential site contaminants, including metals, explosives and volatile organic compounds. Those analytical results are expected to be available by the end of May. If all analytical results come back below screening levels and/or metal background levels, the site will be evaluated for site closure and unrestricted use.



Performance-Based Remediation Contracts Update

- Remediation completed at two sites - Building 927 Oil/Water Separator (Site SD025) and Building 728 Fuel Vehicle Maintenance Oil/Water Separator and Underground Storage Tank (Site ST067)
- Second Five-Year Review completed
- Landfill maintenance and operation of the leachate treatment system at Landfill 2 continues
- Groundwater sampling planned for May 2017

Update on PFOS and PFOA Area Site Inspection

Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are components of legacy Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) — a firefighting agent the Air Force began using in the 1970s to extinguish petroleum fires. AFFF provided essential burn-back resistance, protection against vapor release and rapid extinguishment.

PFOS and PFOA are not regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), but EPA issued health advisory levels (HAs) for these chemicals in drinking water in 2016. Using the EPA's guidance to assess contamination risks, the Air Force identified 200 installations where releases may have occurred, to include the Former Chanute AFB where the firefighting agent was historically used for fire training, equipment testing and emergency response incidents.

The Air Force completed a site inspection for the fire training area and fire demonstration areas and a report was published in September 2016. A preliminary assessment identified additional areas of concern which were investigated in a second site inspection. The following is the status of the second site inspection:

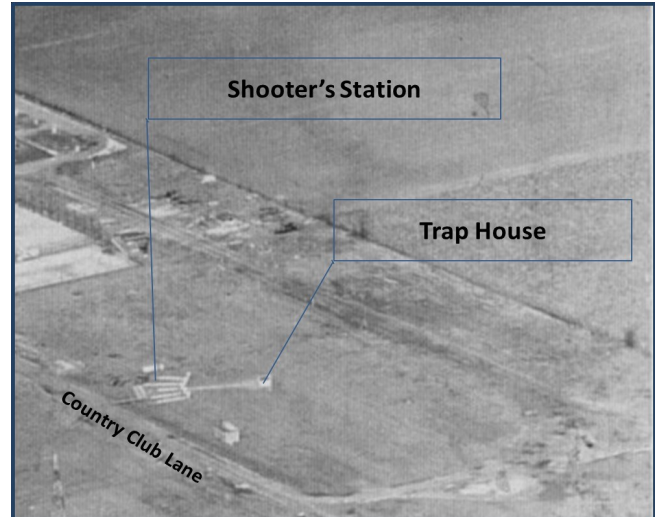
- Soil and groundwater sampling completed at six additional areas.
- PFOS/PFOA were detected in Wisconsinan (shallow) groundwater above the EPA HAs at five of the six areas. Wisconsinan groundwater is not used as a drinking water source.
- Site Inspection Report in preparation.



Update on Pre-World War II Trap Ranges

Chanute Field Trap Range 1 Soil Sampling Planned for May 2017

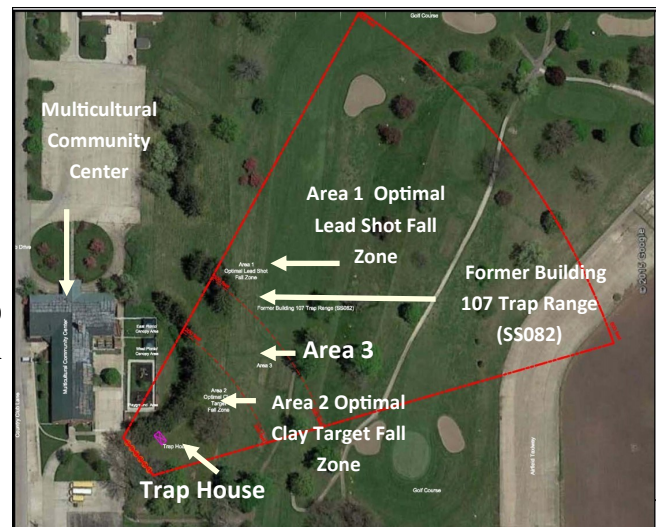
The Chanute Field Trap Range 1 is located in the northeastern portion of the base close to the current intersection of Veterans Parkway and Maplewood Drive. The trap range was identified in historic photographs and appears to have been used in the 1920s. A geophysical survey to investigate the potential of lead shot contamination at the trap range and associated shot fall zone was completed in December 2016. Soil sampling activities to investigate metallic anomalies identified during the geophysical survey is scheduled this month (May 2017). Surface and shallow subsurface soil samples will be collected throughout the site for lead analysis. Samples collected in the fall zone for clay targets will also be analyzed for polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Results will be reviewed to determine if additional action is needed and a report issued later this summer.



Historical aerial photograph showing Chanute Field Trap Range 1. (Courtesy photo/Air Force Contractor, CB&I Federal Services, LLC)

Site Inspection Completed at Building 107 Trap Range

The former Building 107 Trap Range is located in the northeastern portion of the base at the intersection of Country Club Lane and Country Club Drive, south of the Multicultural Community Center, across portions of the public golf course and northeast corner of the airfield taxiway. The range also included a small portion of the Multicultural Community Center playground area. Based on a review of historic photographs, the Building 107 Trap Range replaced the Chanute Field Trap Range 1 and was in use during the 1930s. The former trap range and associated shot fall zone encompasses an estimated 6.0 acres. Soil sampling was conducted in May and July 2016, with additional sampling in February and March 2017 to refine the areas that will need cleanup. The Air Force is planning to excavate shallow soil contaminated with lead and PAHs in 2017.



Historical aerial photograph showing Former Building 107 Trap Range. (Courtesy photo/Air Force Contractor, CB&I Federal Services, LLC)



May 18, 2017 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

RAB Meeting: 12 p.m.

Location: Rantoul Business Center, 601 South Century Blvd., Rantoul, IL 61866

Contact: Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Toll Free (866) 725-7617 / www.AFCEC.AF.mil / afcec.pa@us.af.mil



Feedback, comments, and more information

- ☐ I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base.
- ☐ I would like more information about the Restoration Advisory Board for the former Chanute Air Force Base.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcomed and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup for the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below or email information to afcec.pa@us.af.mil.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____

Organization _____

Street Address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Additional Comments _____

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFCEC/Public Affairs, 2261 Hughes Ave., JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853