



Air Force Real Property Agency

The Former Chanute Air Force Base

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Land Transfer and Revitalization at Chanute Continues

In 1993, Chanute Air Force Base was officially closed, ending a 73-year legacy of providing military aviation, training, supply and maintenance services to the U.S. Air Force. More than 2,100 acres suddenly became vacant almost overnight. Since then, the former base has evolved from a deactivated military installation into a land of opportunity that is being used by private and public entities.

To date, more than 700 acres of land have been transferred at the former Chanute AFB, which is approximately a third of the base. Most of that land, including base housing units and recreational areas, was sold to the public by the General Services Administration shortly after the base closed. The rest of the base became the responsibility of the Air Force Real Property

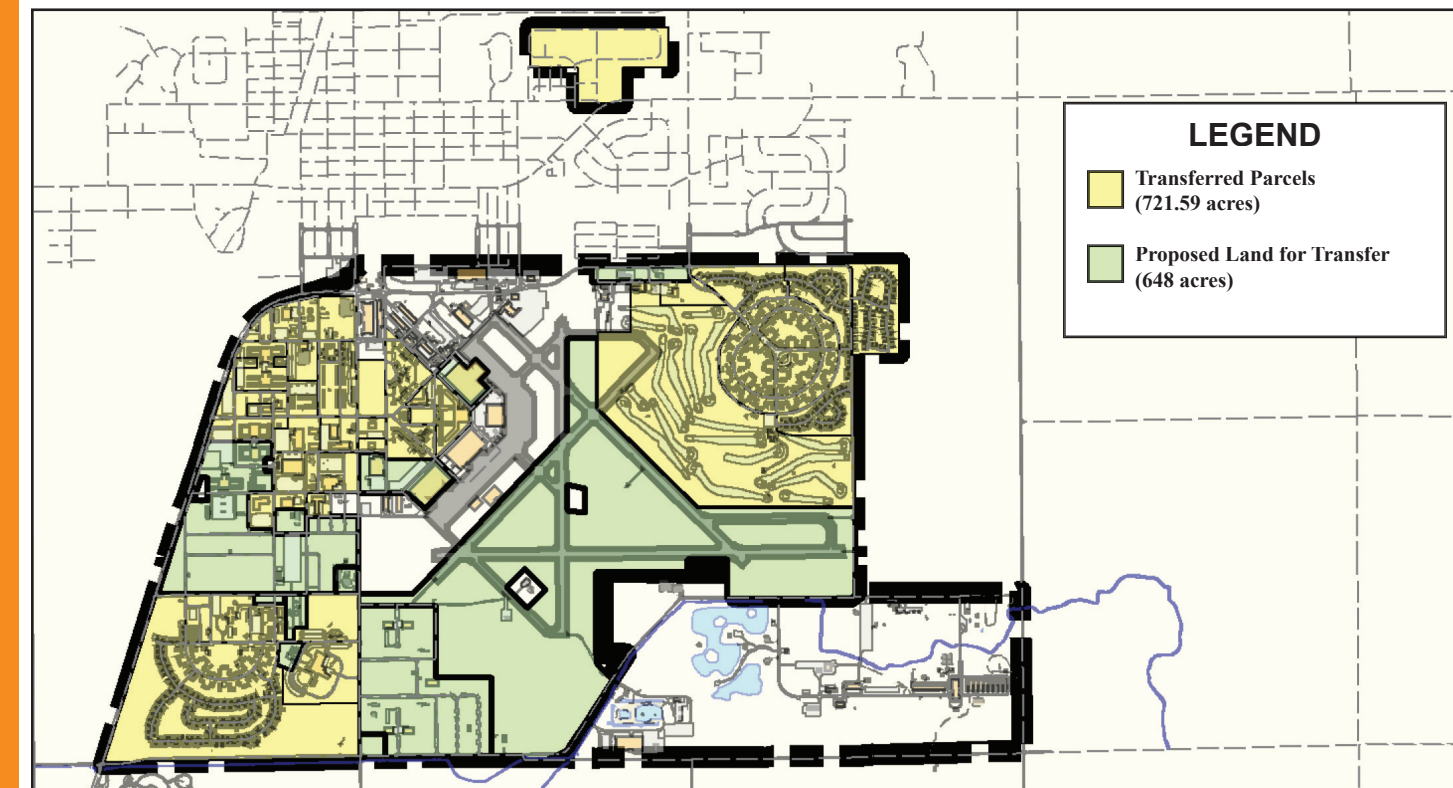
Agency, which investigates and restores areas that were environmentally impacted by past military operations at the base. AFRPA also leases the non-transferred buildings and land on the former base to the nearby Village of Rantoul, which leases land to other organizations.

Reed Berger, director of Aviation and Economic Development for the Village of Rantoul, works closely with the AFRPA in obtaining land conveyances from the Air Force and ensuring it is put to productive reuse. He said the former base has brought numerous opportunities for private enterprise and for the Village of Rantoul.

Berger notes numerous organizations have set up shop on the former base. Manufacturers such as *Bell*

Sports and Collins & Aikman occupy industrial and hangar facilities, providing numerous jobs to the region. The Illinois National Guard operates the *Lincoln's ChalleNGe Academy*, a youth intervention program, out of buildings on the former base including a former dormitory. Additionally, former recreational facilities such as parks and baseball diamonds are still being used on the former base with new facilities being constructed, including a new swimming pool.

AFRPA released a public notice in an April 2005 issue of the *Rantoul Press* announcing their intention of signing a Finding of Suitability to Transfer, paving the way to transfer 33 buildings and 648 acres of land to the Village of Rantoul. AFRPA expects the transfer to occur this spring.



Transferred Property and Property Proposed for Transfer

To date, 721.59 acres of land have been transferred at the former Chanute Air Force Base. Approximately 1,452.17 acres of the total 2,173.76 acres has yet to be transferred. AFRPA signed a Finding of Suitability to Transfer document, paving the way to transfer 648 acres in 2006.

Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Join us at the next RAB meeting!

February 16, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.

Rantoul Corporate Technology Center (Former Smith Hall)

601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106

Rantoul, Illinois 61866-2945

Contact Information

General Questions

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Property Transfer/Real Estate

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Information Repository

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106 West Flessner Avenue
Rantoul, Illinois 61866
(217) 893-3955 ext. 22

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143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 1
San Antonio, TX 78226-1816

Investigation Finds Harmless Debris at Disposal Site

During a recent investigation of a suspected demolition disposal area on the former Chanute AFB, Air Force contractors found harmless metallic debris in the soil.

The investigation took place between 31 August and 2 September 2005 and was conducted by URS Corporation in response to two earlier geophysical surveys that identified 98 geophysical anomalies near the north-south and east-west runways. Historical maps of the base identified the site as a demolition site, so precautions were taken in case any explosive ordnance was discovered.

Investigators excavated each of the sites where the geophysical anomalies were found. Of the 98 anomalies originally identified, 68 were determined to be false positives, 15 to be naturally-occurring geologic anomalies and 15 to be metallic debris. The debris was comprised of various metal artifacts including nails, re-bar, wire and other man-made objects.

Air Force contractors also conducted an investigation of the 25-foot buffer zone around the suspected demolition disposal area, leading to the discovery of an additional 60 subsurface



Some of the harmless debris Air Force contractors found buried under a suspected demolition disposal area (DP069).

anomalies. Of these anomalies, 28 were natural anomalies and the rest were harmless man-made objects such as nails, sheet metal, pliers and metal bars.

Preliminary findings support conclusions that no munitions or explosives of concern exist at the site and that there is no evidence ordnance disposal operations occurred at the site. The site is currently used for farming soybeans.

Meet Reed Berger, Community Restoration Advisory Board Member

For Reed Berger, Director of Aviation and Economic Development for the Village of Rantoul, Illinois, involvement in the former Chanute Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board is natural.

Since 2002, Berger's responsibility was to attract new business and industry to Rantoul and the former Chanute AFB. He also provides tenant services and facility management for properties leased from the Air Force. His participation in the RAB is natural because the environmental restoration of the base affects his mission to ensure the base's facilities and land are put back to productive use.

Berger also believes the RAB provides an opportunity to inform the community about the environmental condition and closure progress of the former base. He thinks new tenants using



Mr. Reed Berger
Chanute Restoration Advisory Board
Community Member

facilities on the former base as well as community members need to be more aware of environmental restoration operations at Chanute. He appreciates the opportunity for citizens to ask questions of the Air Force and provide input regarding

environmental restoration.

Additionally, Berger praises the Air Force's efforts to better educate the local community through new technology. He especially likes the Air Force's Geographic Information System. The Air Force uses this tool to present detailed updates to the RAB. Berger feels this is important because unlike the local mass media, which inform the community about the good things that are happening at the former base, the GIS informs community members of the exact progress being made at the former base.

While Berger believes there are many things that can be improved upon, like having more tours of the former base, he feels the Chanute RAB has done an excellent job of bringing community attention to restoration activities on the former Chanute AFB.

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.
- I would like more information about how to join the Chanute Restoration Advisory Board.

Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

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

Phone

Organization

Street address

City

State

Zip

Additional comments

Detach and mail this section in a stamped envelope to: AFRPA/COO-Kelly, 143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 1, San Antonio TX 78226-1816.

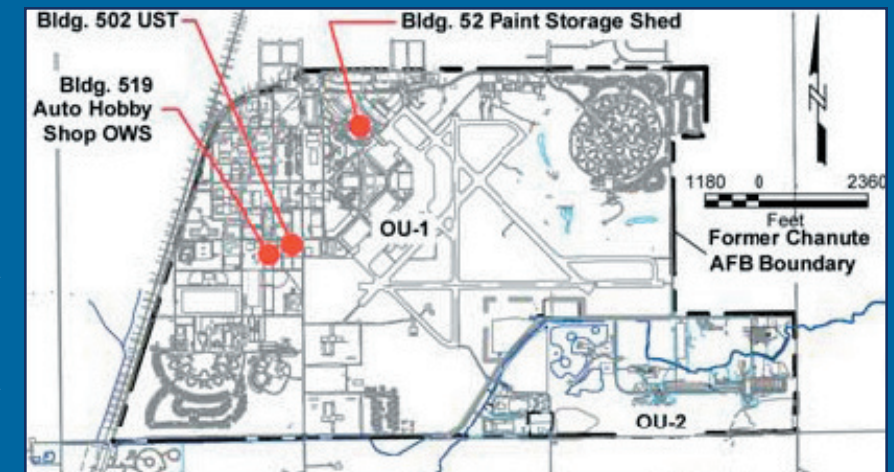
Air Force Releases Proposed Plans for Three Sites at Chanute

The Air Force recently released proposed plans to take no further action at three sites on the former Chanute AFB.

The three sites listed in the proposed plans are Building 52, a former paint storage shed located between Condit Drive and Galaxy Street, the oil/water separator at the Building 519 Auto Hobby Shop located south of Flessner Avenue and east of Dobbins Avenue, and the underground storage tank site near Building 502 located near the intersection of Nan Fuller Drive and Flessner Avenue.

The proposed plans were based on environmental site investigations and an assessment of human health and ecological risks. The plans were proposed with the concurrence of the federal U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

A public comment period will be announced in which the public is encouraged to send written comments to the proposed plans to the AFRPA representative at the former Chanute AFB. Community members are also encouraged to attend the former Chanute AFB Restoration Advisory



Three sites on the former Chanute AFB are the subject of proposed cleanup plans released by AFRPA

Board (RAB) meeting Feb. 16 at 12:00 p.m. at the Rantoul Corporate Technology Center, 601 Century Blvd., Suite 1106, Rantoul IL. Representatives from the Air Force, USEPA and IEPA will be present to answer any questions regarding the proposed plans. Documents pertaining to the proposed plans can be found at the former Chanute AFB Information Repository located at the Rantoul Public Library, 106 West Flessner Avenue, Rantoul IL.