

## Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Join us at the next RAB meeting!

August 17, 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

Air Force Real Property Agency  
143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 1  
San Antonio, Texas 78226-1816  
Toll Free (866) 725-7617

#### Property Transfer/Real Estate

Air Force Real Property Agency  
9801 Reese Blvd. North, Suite 300  
Lubbock, Texas 79416  
(217) 892-3241

### Information Repository

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

Air Force Real Property Agency  
143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 1  
San Antonio, TX 78226-1816

AUGUST 2006



# Air Force Real Property Agency

The Former Chanute Air Force Base

Toll Free 1-866-725-7617 • [www.afrpa.hq.af.mil](http://www.afrpa.hq.af.mil)

## Air Force Ready to Transfer 617 Acres of Land to Village

The Air Force is ready to transfer 617 acres of land at the former Chanute Air Force Base to the Village of Rantoul.

The draft deed for the land, which includes 33 facilities and portions of the airfield including runways, was formally presented to Village administrators in early June 2006.

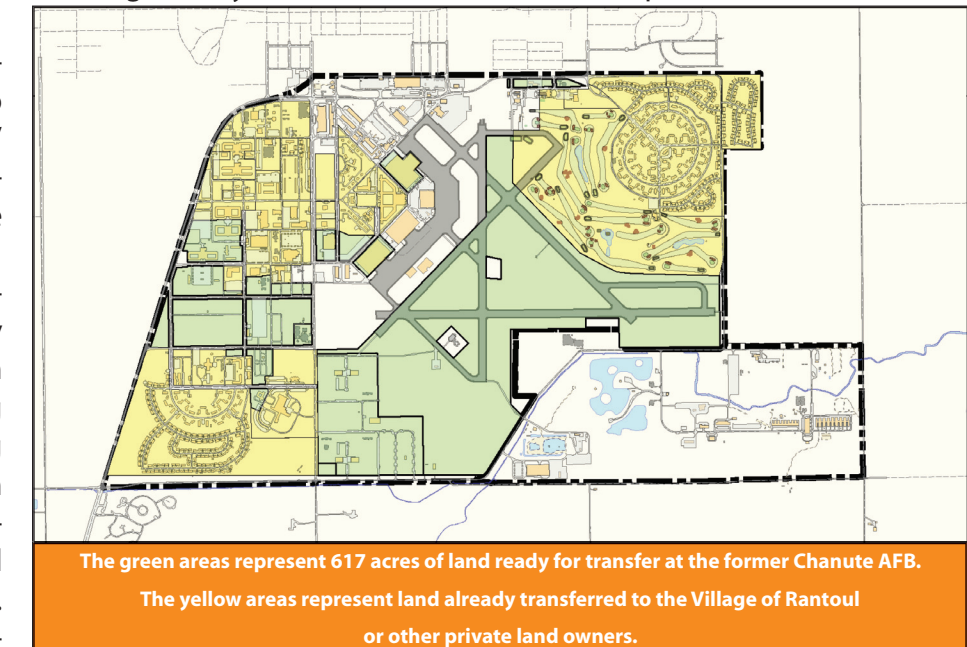
"This is a significant milestone in terms of the effort to transfer the entire property," said Paul Carroll, BRAC environmental coordinator for the former Chanute AFB.

The Air Force began the effort to transfer the 617 acres by publishing a public notice in the Rantoul Press announcing their intention to sign a Finding of Suitability to Transfer, which identifies the land to be transferred and any environmental issues associated with the land. The document along with sup-

porting environmental documentation was made available for public review. AFRPA representatives have also been discussing the Finding of Suitability to Transfer with members of the Chanute Restoration Advisory Board. The document was signed by AFRPA Director

Kathryn Halvorson in late May 2006, paving the way for the Air Force to deed the land to the Village.

To date, approximately 721 acres of land on the former Chanute AFB have been transferred to the Village of Rantoul or other private land owners.



## Management of Chanute Moves to Texas

Beginning May 2006, the Air Force started managing the environmental restoration and real estate activities of the former Chanute Air Force Base from Texas.

The Air Force Real Property Agency is in the process of closing its local office on the former Chanute AFB and moving operations to the Central Regional Execution Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Closing the local AFRPA offices at Chanute is part of the overall effort to centralize

environmental restoration and real estate activities throughout the United States. In addition to managing Chanute activities, AFRPA's San Antonio office also manages the environmental restoration and real estate activities for eight other former Air Force bases.

Although the Chanute office is closing in December 2006, the Air Force remains fully committed to its obligations to the former base. Air Force representatives will continue to work with the Village of

Rantoul, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and other local stakeholders to ensure the former Chanute AFB is cleaned up and transferred.

Additionally, the Air Force continues to host the Chanute Restoration Advisory Board, which meets quarterly on the third Thursdays of February, May, August and November at noon at the Rantoul Corporate Technology Center, 601 S. Century Blvd., Suite 1106 in Rantoul.

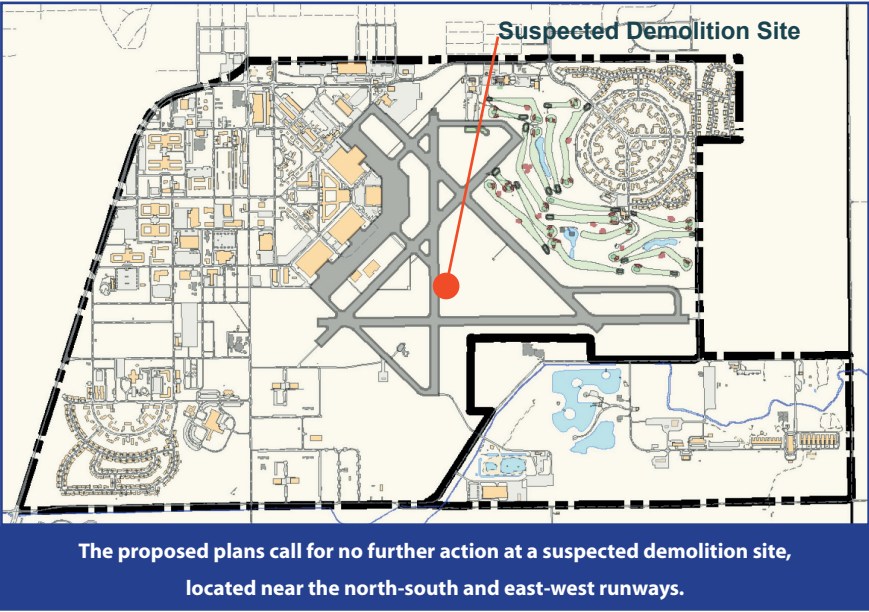
Public Encouraged to Review Proposed Plan for Suspected Demolition Site

The Air Force encourages the public to review a recently released proposed plan to take no further action at a suspected demolition site on the former Chanute Air Force Base.

The site, located near the north-south and east-west runways, was suspected to be an explosive ordnance disposal site. Investigators excavated portions of the site where geophysical investigations identified metal beneath the ground and found nothing more than harmless debris.

The proposed plan is based on environmental site investigations. The plan is also proposed with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The public is encouraged to submit written comments regarding the proposed plan. The proposed plan is available for review at the former Chanute AFB Information Repository located at the Rantoul Public Library, 106 West Flessner Avenue, Rantoul, Ill. Community members are also encouraged to at-



tend the former Chanute AFB Restoration Advisory Board meeting August 17th at noon at the Rantoul Corporate Technology Center, 601 Century Blvd., Suite 1106, Rantoul, Ill. Representatives from the Air Force, U.S. EPA and IEPA will be present to answer questions regarding the proposed plan.

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.

Meet Paul Carroll, Chanute BRAC Environmental Coordinator

In May 2006, Paul Carroll took the reins of the environmental cleanup at the former Chanute Air Force Base. As BRAC Environmental Coordinator for the former Chanute AFB, Carroll is responsible for managing the environmental cleanup program for the former Air Force base. Carroll is also the Air Force cochair of the former Chanute AFB Restoration Advisory Board. He replaced Bill Harris, who left in May.

Carroll, a graduate of Texas Tech University, began his career working with the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the petroleum industry in the state. He then went to work for the Air Force at the former

Reese AFB in Lubbock, Texas when it was an active base. Reese closed in September 1997.

While he has only been the BEC for Chanute for a short time, Carroll feels

confident the cleanup program at Chanute is going well. He is especially excited about his meeting with AFRPA staff to identify planning a strategy and budget for the future cleanup program at the former base. He anticipates all environmental remedial systems will be in place to clean up the former base within the next two to three years.

“The cleanup program at Chanute is solid and realistic,” Carroll said.



Paul Carroll is the BRAC Environmental Coordinator for the former Chanute AFB. He is responsible for overseeing the environmental restoration effort at the former base. He also serves as the installation cochair of the former Chanute AFB Restoration Advisory Board.

In addition to managing the cleanup program at Chanute, he continues to oversee the environmental program at the former Reese AFB, Texas and the former Lowry AFB, Colo. While he

manages these cleanup programs from his Lubbock office, he assures he, along with the Air Force, will continue to work directly with representatives of regulatory agencies and the Village of Rantoul on environmental cleanup issues at Chanute.

“This is just the way of life for a lot of businesses,” he said. “With technology, management of projects from far away is easier than it’s been before.”

Carroll enjoys environmental restoration work because it offers a variety of challenges. At the three bases he manages, there are varying issues, each requiring different solutions. He also takes away a sense of

accomplishment with what he achieves. “Environmental cleanup is such a long process,” Carroll said. “It’s quite an achievement when you finally clean up a site and close it out.”

Meet David Johnston, Chanute RAB Community Cochair

When David Johnston joined the former Chanute AFB Restoration Advisory Board a year ago, he knew he was going to face some pretty significant challenges. Almost 13 years after it closed, the former base still had some outstanding environmental cleanup issues. As the new community cochair, it was his responsibility to take these issues to the citizens.

Johnston is the village administrator for the Village of Rantoul. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the village government supporting the mayor and village trustees. Johnston, who has a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and a Master of Arts in Public Affairs, has had experience working in state- and local-level government and nonprofit organizations.

As community cochair of the



Chanute RAB, Johnston works directly with his government counterpart Paul Carroll, the government co-chair who also serves as the BRAC environmental coordinator. Together, Johnston and Carroll set the agenda of the RAB meetings and lead discussions on environmental cleanup

issues at Chanute. He also helps ensure information presented at RAB meetings is understandable by the average citizen. Johnston replaced Gary Adams, the previous community cochair who had also been a former village administrator.

Johnston believes the RAB is an important part of the overall cleanup

effort at Chanute. It provides an opportunity for the public to become informed about the cleanup and voice their opinions.

“This is an important step for the Air Force,” Johnston said. “It will help them earn and keep the public trust.”

While there are still outstanding environmental cleanup issues at the former Chanute AFB, Johnston feels confident they can be worked through as long as all parties, including the Air Force, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and community members from the Village of Rantoul, work together.

“All players need to be at the table,” he said. “We all have to move forward now.”

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