

## Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Join us at the next RAB meeting!  
November 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

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

### 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

NOVEMBER 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)

## Cleanup Test Project Scheduled for the former Chanute AFB

The Air Force has completed the majority of environmental investigation work at the former Chanute AFB. For multiple locations, no further action will be required and the sites will be closed. For a few other sites on base, more action is required to further close them.

Recent fieldwork conducted identified 21 sites with shallow groundwater contamination. At these sites, the shallow groundwater contamination was caused by chemical solvents from historical spills or releases. Contaminants of concern at these sites include tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE) and carbon tetrachloride. TCE and PCE were common chemicals used in paint removers, spot removers and to degrease metal parts.



Example of a monitoring well installed to measure the progress of substrate and other chemical injection treatments.

Now that the fieldwork is completed, the Air Force is planning to conduct a treatability study

to identify the best method to clean up the groundwater. The main purpose of the study is to analyze and evaluate a treatment option in order to determine if the technology would permanently and effectively reduce, contain and remediate the contamination. The main objective of this study is to determine which method will work best in Rantoul's clay-type soils.

The study will evaluate three of the 21 locations where groundwater has been impacted using three methods of remediation— enhanced bioremediation, chemical oxidation and oxygen/hydrogen injection.

Enhanced bioremediation relies on naturally occurring bacteria and fungi that live in soil and groundwater to clean up the contaminants by increasing its organic material and reducing the oxygen content.

Field technicians will inject nutrients into the groundwater such as oxygen and hydrogen through a process called HRC/ORC injection. The Oxygen reducing compound (ORC) is a fine powder that is mixed with water and injected into the soil. The Hydrogen reducing compound (HRC) is a liquid injected in soil designed to react with naturally occurring hydrogen. Soon after the injection, the bacteria ingest the chemicals and break them down and



Contractors installing a Hydrogen Injection System. The hydrogen in liquid form is injected into the groundwater. (photo courtesy of USACE)

release them into the water and air as harmless gases.

Critical questions to be addressed during the test are: How much substrate is required to achieve the regulatory clean-up levels? How far apart do the injections need to be in order to be effective yet cost-efficient? Are multiple injections required?

Following injection, the treatability study will monitor the groundwater to evaluate progress and to determine overall effectiveness. The test is planned for the beginning of next year and if successful, all 21 groundwater sites will be treated using the most effective treatment method over the next several years.





ATSDR Conducts Health Assessment at the Former Chanute AFB

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is currently conducting a health assessment at the former Chanute AFB. This is a follow-up study to the one conducted June 26 and 27, 2001, with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Air Force. The ATSDR is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The agency serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances. The previous report concluded there was no apparent threat to human health and the environment. Furthermore, they have categorized the area as “no apparent public hazard.” The assessment currently underway at the former Chanute AFB is a follow-up to ensure the environmental activities are protective of human health and all precautions are taken to protect the surrounding community. The study is expected to be released early next year.



One of the areas sampled at the former Chanute AFB

Meet Diana Herbert, Last Person Standing at the Former Chanute AFB

From making copies to repairing electrical equipment, one could say Diana Herbert has done it all. After 30 years of working at Chanute AFB, she will officially retire 31 December 2006. Long before the Air Force Real Property Agency existed, she had a hand in almost every duty at the former Chanute AFB. She started working at the young age of 15, and she held her first government job at the Social Security office in Champaign in 1977. She recalls her first big break came when she was hired as a clerk typist. Eager to take on a new challenge, she applied for the Upward Mobility program where she was hired as a factory worker on base. She was responsible for repairing/maintaining a wide variety of equipment for several training squadron schools. She ensured all parachute packs and other equipment were packed and assembled correctly for Air Force survival school training. In October of 1983, she transferred to the data communications department where she learned the basis of logistics support. She learned how to operate and maintain all types of audiovisual equipment and set up conferences and meetings. Her next

assignment led her to the Public Affairs department which she remembers fondly: “Working in public affairs was one of the highlights of my career; I was able to meet so many influential people and prepare for the annual air show, which was a big deal” said Herbert.



After 30 years of service at the former Chanute AFB, Diana Herbert will officially retire December 31, 2006. She has been a part of AFRPA since 1993.

Herbert’s extensive experience prepared her for the challenges ahead at the environmental program at AFRPA. She started working with the AFRPA in 1993. She has performed a wide variety of job functions in her tenure. She is currently responsible for the administrative records; filing and preparing documents to be scanned; setting up RAB meetings; distributing informational flyers to the community; ensuring public information is available at the public library; ensuring all grounds

maintenance is performed; organizing and handling correspondence to headquarters; and performing general secretarial duties. Herbert believes the environmental progress at Chanute has come a long way. The former Chanute AFB was in the first round of bases recommended

for closure and there was little to no guidance on the process of closure; this fact caused the tasks ahead to be extremely difficult. “It took a long time to get where we are today, but with a lot of communication and team work we have had many accom-

plishments and I feel we are finally on the right track.” For retirement plans, Herbert says she may go back to work in the public school system because she loves children and working with people. But for now, she plans on relaxing, enjoying life and spending time with her grandchildren. Looking back on her successful career with the Air Force, she says “I am proud to be the last Chanuter”!

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.

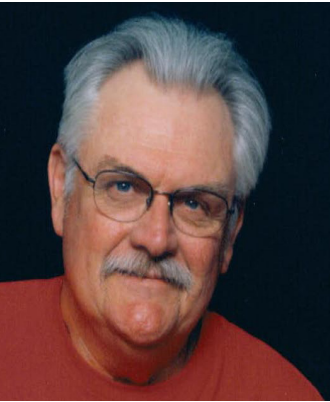
Please let us know how we are doing. Your comments and opinions are welcome and assist the Air Force in providing the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base. Fill out this form and send it to the address listed below.

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 Caryl Fothergill, Chanute RAB Member

Caryl Fothergill served his country for 22 years in the United States Air Force, and to this day he continues to serve his community by being a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) member of the former Chanute AFB. Fothergill believes it is his responsibility as a RAB member to stay informed on all present environmental issues and to ensure actions are being taken to protect all Rantoul residents now and in the future. “I feel as a RAB member you have the responsibility to attend all meetings and gain as much information provided to determine all is being done to accomplish necessary cleanup of all areas.” Fothergill was first introduced to environmental issues, specifically Hazardous Waste Management, while stationed in Davis-Monthan AFB in 1983. He served as the Hazardous Waste Monitor of the Transportation Squadron where he became well versed in the procedures and best practices for maintaining a Hazardous Waste Program. His experiences



gained at Davis-Monthan AFB prepared him for his future assignment in Yokota AB, Japan, which he believes was the highlight of his career: “Even though I only spent one year at Yokota, it was the most enlightening period of my

“From my past training of assessment, plan of action, and final action, I think things are progressing rather well.”

career where I learned so much about Hazardous Materials and Waste.” During his duty in Yokota, he was responsible for monitoring the hazardous waste for vehicle maintenance and for starting the groundwork in the substitution of hazardous materials with non-hazardous materials used at squadron level. Fothergill also had the privilege of being a part of several initiatives that reduced hazardous waste generation while serving at Scott AFB, IL. Two important initiatives were the development of the Gasoline/Diesel Engine Oil Analyzer

which significantly reduced hazardous generation, and antifreeze recycler which reduced antifreeze generation. Fothergill carries all of his environmental expertise to the RAB meetings at the former Chanute AFB where he takes an active role in the issues at hand. He enjoys the assembling of vast technical personnel who present RAB members with the status of cleanup efforts. He especially enjoys the collaboration of the state and federal regulators working together to achieve a common

goal. “Not only do I enjoy the presentation to the RAB, but I enjoy the reaction from the regulators, especially when they feel further explanation is necessary for RAB members to understand a certain item of interest” said Fothergill. He feels the progression of cleanup efforts are going very well. Although he plans to stay an active member of the RAB, he looks forward to the day when all RAB members decide that no further meetings will be necessary and cleanup activities are finalized.