



# Air Force Real Property Agency

The Former Chanute Air Force Base

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## AFRPA Office Moves Operations to the Former Kelly AFB



The Air Force Real Property Agency's office at the former Chanute AFB.



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The Air Force Real Property Agency at the former Chanute AFB officially closed 31 December 2006 and moved operations to the Central Regional Execution Center in San Antonio, Texas.

In May 2006, the Air Force began managing the environmental restoration and real estate activities of the former Chanute AFB from Texas.

Closing the local AFRPA offices at Chanute is part of the overall effort to centralize environmental restoration activities throughout the United States. In addition to

managing Chanute activities, AFRPA's San Antonio office also manages environmental restoration and real estate activities for eight other former Air Force bases.

Although the Chanute office has closed, the Air Force remains fully committed to its obligations at 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.

## AFRPA to Remove Catch and Release Signs at Heritage Lake

The Air Force, with the concurrence of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will remove the "catch and release" signs posted at Heritage Lake. In 2001, the AFRPA placed signs at Heritage lake advising the public to "catch and release" fish caught from the Lake due to an elevated mercury detection from one fish. The Remedial Investigation of Heritage Lake has been completed and this investigation concluded there is no evidence of a release of mercury or other contaminants of concern to this lake from Air Force activities. The USEPA and IEPA have concurred with this finding.

The "catch and release" signs at Heritage Lake will be removed in the spring of 2007. However, State officials have issued a statewide fish consumption advisory due to the concentration of mercury found in some types of fish caught in Illinois waterways. This advisory continues to apply to Heritage Lake. A copy of the fish advisory can be obtained where fishing licenses are sold, by calling the Illinois Department of Public Health at 217-782-6424, or at the following Internet address: <http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/fishadv/fishadvisory02.htm>.

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

## Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

Join us at the next RAB meeting!

February 15, 2007 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  
<https://afrpaar.afrpa.pentagon.af.mil/ar/docsearch.aspx>

## Public Encouraged to Review Proposed Plan

The Air Force encourages the public to review a recently released proposed plan for the former Chanute Air Force Base, to include the following sites: Fire Demonstration Areas 2 and 3; Fire Training Area 1; Pistol Range Area 2; and Post Dump and Incinerator.

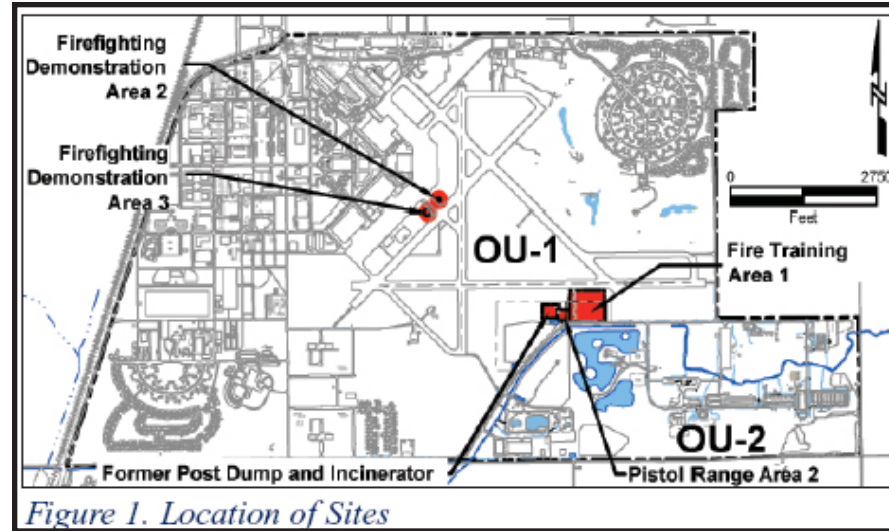


Figure 1. Location of Sites

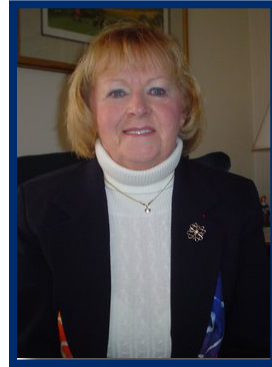
Based on the initial Remedial Investigation, the Air Force, with concurrence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, proposes no further action for these sites. The sites were sampled and analyzed for contaminants. Results of the analysis

concluded there is no apparent risk to human health and the environment.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments during an upcoming public meeting. Representatives from the Air Force, USEPA and IEPA will be present. The meeting will take place February 15, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Rantoul Corporate Technology Center, 604 Century Blvd., Suite 1106, following the quarterly Chanute RAB meeting. The proposed plan will also be available for review at the Information Repository located at the Rantoul Public Library, 106 West Flessner Avenue.

## Meet Helen Lewis, Restoration Advisory Board Member

For Helen Lewis, getting involved in the community and making a difference comes as natural as breathing. She is an active RAB member at the former Chanute Air Force Base, as well as an influential leader/member in several civic organizations and clubs throughout the community.



every aspect of our history so that 20 or 30 years from now, people will know about Chanute."

"Although a lot of work has been done to clean up the base, there is still a lot of work to be done."

In her free time, Lewis is an avid golfer and has held various leadership roles in organizations such as the Rotary Club, The Exchange Club, Peace Meals, Head Start Program, and the Octave Chanute Museum. She has served on the board at the museum since its inception in 1993 and is currently serving as vice president/secretary. Lewis takes pride in being involved with the museum. "I feel it's important to preserve

Lewis grew up being familiar with the former base, as her father worked and retired from working on base as an electrician. Her husband was also stationed at Chanute for 20 years. Ms. Lewis has served 12 years as a board member on the board of trustees at the Village of Rantoul, and is running for reelection for the new term. She first became interested in the RAB when she attended one of the meetings to find out what it was all about. She was so interested in the environmental issues and how they

affect her community, she did not waste any time in applying to become a Chanute RAB member. "All I had to do was fill out an application form and I was immediately accepted" said Lewis. As a RAB member, she believes it is a privilege and important responsibility to be a voice of the community.

She enjoys meeting new people, and especially enjoys working with the representatives from IEPA, the Air Force and contractors. "I feel these people bring a lot to the table and it's interesting to hear perspectives on cleanup from all sides" said Lewis.

Although Lewis believes it is taking a long time to get things done, she appreciates how much has been accomplished. Lewis is committed to serving on the RAB and hopes the property will be cleaned up soon so the Village of Rantoul can move forward.

## 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 Signs Finding of Suitability to Transfer

Another significant step in the cleanup progress has been reached at the former Chanute Air Force Base. The Air Force Real Property Agency gave notice of intent to sign a Finding of Suitability to Transfer of real property and any improvements on Parcels A1b-1, A1d and A2d-1, comprised of approximately 118 acres, at the former Chanute AFB to the Village of Rantoul.

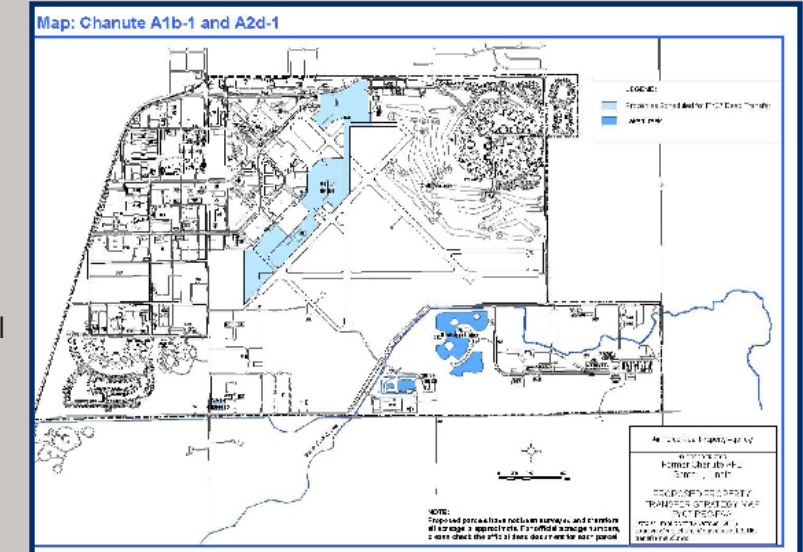
The FOST is based on an extensive review of the environmental conditions of the property in consultation with federal and state environmental regulatory agencies.

The property will be transferred through a Federal Aviation Administration sponsored Public Benefit Transfer for aviation support.

An advertisement was placed in *The Rantoul Press* and *The News Gazette* December 27, 2006, informing the public of the Air Force's intent to sign the FOST.

Individuals interested in learning more about the FOST should contact Mr. Paul Carroll, BRAC environmental coordinator for the former Chanute AFB, at

AFRPA/COO Reese, 9801 Reese Blvd., North, Suite 300, Lubbock, TX 78416; or by e-mail at paul.carroll@afropa.pentagon.af.mil.



Areas in light blue are the locations of the property transferred per the FOST