



The Former Chanute AFB Environmental Update

Published to keep the Rantoul, Ill., community informed of the Air Force's cleanup progress | May 2015

Asbestos Repair and Removal Moves Forward

Air Force contractor, CB&I Federal Services, LLC has completed the detailed assessments of the need for repair and removal of asbestos in 17 facilities at the former Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Ill.

Building-specific repair and removal requirements for asbestos-containing material, or ACM, have been identified and the work plan approved by the Air Force. Repair and removal work began this May.

ACM abatement activities will include the removal of damaged floor tile, removal or repair of insulation on steam piping and on heating/air conditioning duct systems, and removal of ceiling tiles and miscellaneous damaged ACM such as window and door caulking.

A significant portion of the ACM abatement activities will be conducted in Grissom Hall which includes the Chanute Air Museum areas, Lincoln's Challenge Academy hallways, and the Grissom Hall Theater areas. An estimated 127,000 square feet of floor tiles will be removed in Grissom Hall and 6 other facilities.

Repairs will also be completed to damaged asbestos insulation on mechanical equipment to prevent the release of asbestos

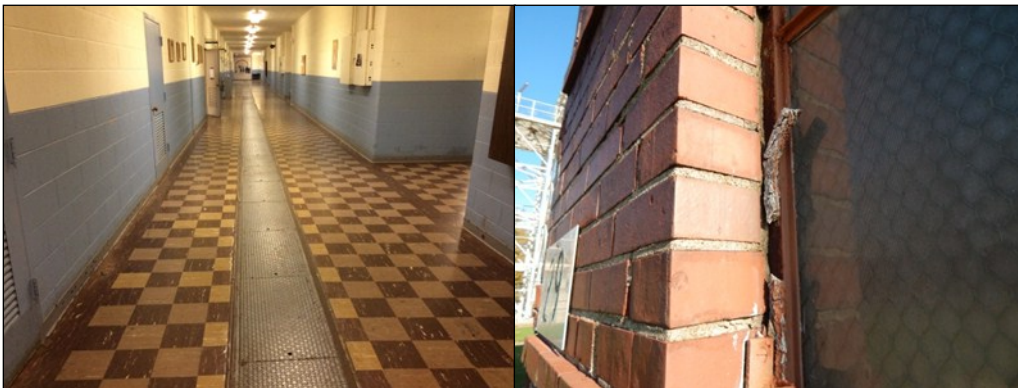
fibers in various facilities. Repairs and replacement of building components such as floor tiles and ceilings will be completed where appropriate.

All occupied facilities have been tested to confirm the asbestos is not airborne and does not present a health concern. As a precaution, during repair and removal activities, the occupants will either be relocated until the work is completed or containment barriers will be erected to isolate the work space from the occupied areas. As was done at the steam plant, negative air

pressure and High Efficiency Particulate Absorption filtration will be used to keep material within the containment areas. Furthermore, the asbestos material will be kept damp to further prevent dust from leaving the containment areas. Air monitoring inside and around the facilities will be used

to ensure no asbestos escapes the work area. Air sampling will also be conducted after the work is complete to verify the areas are safe to occupy.

The repairs and/or removal of ACM at the 17 facilities will be complete before the end of 2015.



Left: View of typical 9-inch by 9-inch floor tile that will be removed in Building 12, an estimated 127,000 square tiles will be removed in 7 facilities. Right: Typical ACM window caulk that will be removed and replaced in Building 29. Photos Courtesy: AF Contractor, CB&I

Work at White Hall Begins!

Air Force contractor, CB&I Federal Services, expects to mobilize for field activities the beginning of May 2015 to start the abatement and demolition work at White Hall, pending finalization of planning documents and approvals. The removal and demolition work will be phased to allow abatement and demolition activities in different sections of the building to be done simultaneously. Work along the west side of White Hall will be minimized to the extent possible to prevent disruption to residents on that side. Noise-generating equipment will be limited to operation from sun up to sun down during normal

working conditions. Normal hours for on-site activities will be from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The contractor will erect containment barriers during removal activities of asbestos-containing material to isolate the work space from the outside areas. As was done at the steam plant, negative air pressure and High-Efficiency Particulate Absorption filtration will be used to keep material within the containment areas. Air monitoring outside the facility will be conducted to verify ambient air standards for asbestos are main-

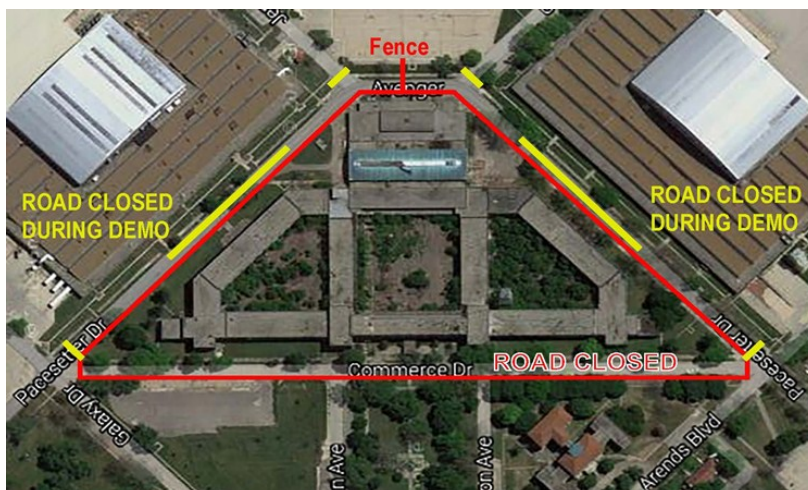
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tained. Air sampling inside the containment areas after the abatement work is complete will verify the work areas are safe for demolition. Furthermore, the asbestos material will be kept damp to further prevent dust from leaving the containment areas. All asbestos and universal waste will be disposed at a permitted facility.

Removal of these materials will require approximately four months. Once the building materials have been abated and testing completed to assure the materials have

been properly removed, then demolition of the structure will begin. Demolition and restoration of the site will require approximately one year and is anticipated to be completed by September 2016.

Road closures should be expected on Commerce Drive and Pacesetter Drive to protect public safety once demolition activities begin.



Map of White Hall showing security fencing and road closures. Photo Courtesy, AF contractor, CB&I

Former Chanute 2015 Five-Year Review

The Air Force is currently conducting a Five-Year Review of the sites at the former Chanute AFB where cleanup left behind wastes that limit site use, or where cleanup has not been completed. For example, the Air Force is looking at the four landfills to make sure the protective covers are not damaged and are working properly. The Air Force is also reviewing 15 sites with cleanup activity still in progress.

Mr. Paul Carroll, Installation Program Manager for AFCEC's Installation Directorate BRAC

Execution Branch, explained how the Five-Year review is like an audit, "Basically, we look back on the remedies that are in place to ensure that they are continuing to provide protection and that they are doing what they were designed to do."

During the review, the Air Force studies information on the sites (including the cleanup and the laws that apply) and inspects the sites to make sure they continue to be protective of

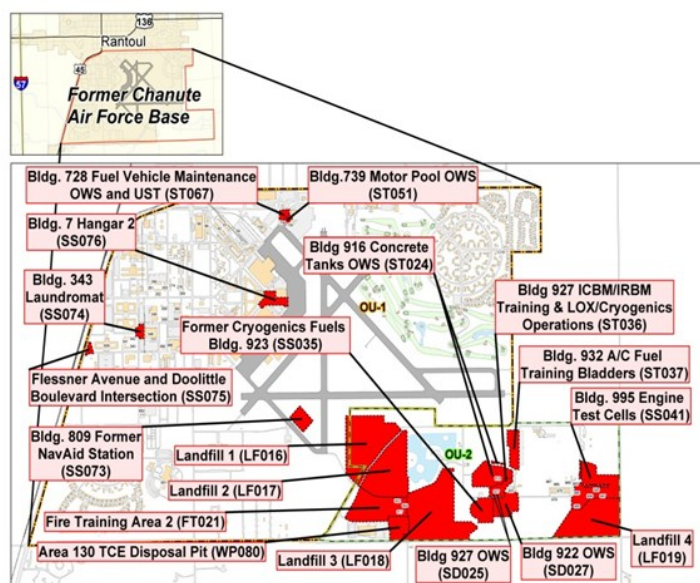


Figure depicts the site boundary locations of the 19 sites currently under review at the former Chanute AFB. Photo Courtesy, AF contractor, CB&I

people and the environment. The review also identifies pending actions, possible future issues, and recommendations for these sites. In addition to the four landfills and the 15 sites with ongoing cleanup, the review also documents the closure of 22 sites where remediation is complete and there are no wastes that limit site use.

As someone living close to the sites, you may be able to help the review team determine if the remedies are still protective. If you know of any unusual activities at or around the sites, such as trespassing, damaged fencing or un-

locked gates, or see any problems or have any other concerns, let the Air Force know right away (Toll Free 1-866-725-7616).

Once the 2015 Five-Year Review Report is complete and receives concurrence from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, it will be signed by the Air Force. The Five-Year review document will be available for public review upon signature by the Air Force.

Investigation Slated for Former Chemical Agent Training Area

The Chemical Agent Training Area (CATA) is located within an estimated 13 acre portion of a parcel near the intersection of Chandler Road and Century Boulevard. The property where this training occurred was previously transferred to the Village of Rantoul and identified for unrestricted use and unlimited exposure.

As part of the Military Munitions Response Program, the Air Force enlisted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or USACE, to conduct an historical records search. The records search revealed that a portion of previously-transferred land hosted chemical agent identification and decontamination training.

During its operational years, between 1930 and 1950, the CATA was used for demonstrations of incendiary bombs, colored chemical smokes, gas sniff tests, and identification/decontamination of chemical agents.

The historic documents do not indicate any on-property disposal of these materials and at present, there is no indication of

contamination in the area. However, the Air Force has notified the Village of the prior training activities at the site, and advised them to discontinue farming activities in the area until the Air Force completes its investigation and, if necessary, clearance of harmful substances.

The Air Force enlisted the USACE to conduct a site inspection and chemical warfare material, or CWM, clearance and related environmental constituent investigation for the CATA.

As part of this effort the USACE assessed the probability of encountering CWM while conducting ground disturbing or other intrusive activities. The USACE concluded that the risk probability is low, but safety measures will be in place to address CWM if it is encountered during the investigation.

Work will involve typical planning and reporting documents, a geophysical survey using metal detectors and clearance of surface debris, soil sampling, and groundwater sampling. If required, subsurface anomalies identified will also be investigated and removed, as applicable.

PFC Site Sampling Continues at Chanute

As reported back in the February edition of this newsletter, recent sampling for Perfluorinated Compounds, or PFCs, was conducted at five fire training demonstration areas and at Fire Training Area 2 (FTA) located at the former Chanute AFB. These six locations were targeted for investigation because there was a high likelihood of PFC use at these based on past operations.

The sampling was conducted in the shallow surficial aquifer, known as the Wisconsin and not used by the public for water supply. Results for five of the six locations exceeded drinking water provisional health advisory levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA.

PFCs are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used for a wide variety of residential, commercial and industrial uses. Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) used for firefighting appears to be the most likely source of PFC presence at Air Force bases, including former Chanute AFB. They are classified as emerging contaminants because they do not have established regulatory standards, but evolving science has identified potential risk to human health and regulatory standards are under consideration.

The Air Force is assessing Fire Training Areas and other potential areas for the presence of PFCs in coordination with Illinois EPA, using a three-step process.

- Step one is to sample areas known to have used or stored PFC-containing products in order to determine if PFCs are present in the environment. The Air Force has completed a portion of Step one as identified above, and will conduct additional sampling in other locations where a Preliminary Assessment has identified potential for PFCs to be present.
- Step two, delineation of the extent of PFCs, will be undertaken where their presence has been confirmed at levels exceeding the EPAs provisional health advisory levels, and a pathway analysis shows a potential of impact to a drinking water source.
- Step three, if required, would be to mitigate, on a case-specific basis, any validated human exposures.

The first two steps should be completed over 2015 and 2016, dependent on the availability of funding and contract acquisition timelines. Step three will be completed on an as-needed basis and mitigation will be implemented to assure protections are in place where necessary.

May 21, 2015 Chanute Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

RAB Meeting: Noon

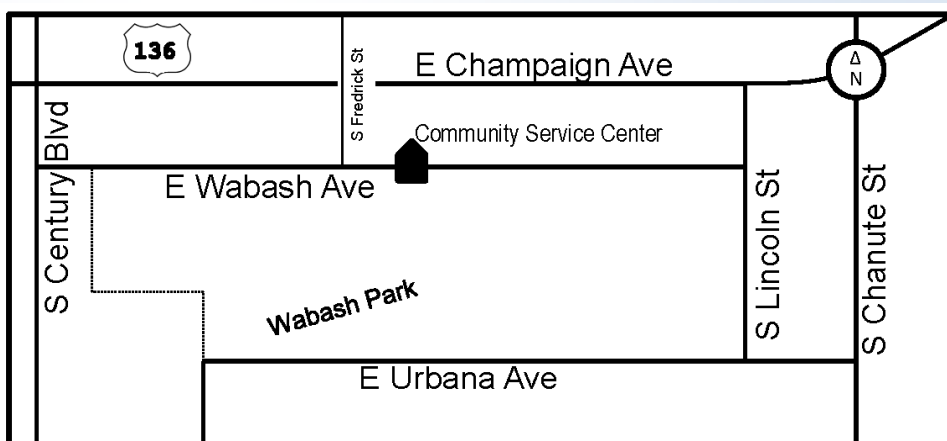
Location:

Community Services Center
520 E. Wabash Ave.
Rantoul, IL 61866

Air Force Civil Engineer Center

Toll Free (866) 725-7616

www.AFCEC.AF.mil



Feedback, comments, and more information

☐

I would like more information about the environmental cleanup of the former Chanute Air Force Base.

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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.

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

Organization _____

Street Address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Additional Comments _____
