



Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:
POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Thomas Kuipers

Creator/Corporate name: Chanute Air Force Base

Inclusive Dates: 1940-2003, Bulk 1970-1988

Physical Description: 1 box, .5 linear feet

Provenance:

The Chanute Air Force Base Subject files were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives from the defunct Chanute Air Force Base Museum upon their closure. The Subject Files were curated and maintained by the History Office of the Chanute Air Force Base and later preserved by the museum.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Starting in the 1970s, Chanute Air Force Base (CAFB) held various events honoring and remembering the service, memory, and sacrifice of American Prisoners of War (POW) and service people Missing in Action (MIA). These events focused on those held in Japanese camps during World War II and North Vietnamese camps during the Vietnam War.

Scope and Content Note:

Records within this collection were produced between 1940 and 2003. The bulk of the records are from 1970-1988. These records predominantly concern POW/MIA service people from the Vietnam War. The few older records relate to POW/MIA service people in Japanese camps during World War II. The records in general deal with different events and programs at CAFB that helped bring POW/MIA's home or honored and remembered their service, memory, and sacrifice. There is correspondence from 1968-2003, with a large amount of correspondence from 1986 and the POW/MIA events they held that year at CAFB. There are also different promotional materials for those events including pamphlets, flyers, and posters. Also included are some general POW/MIA records such as photographs, images of paintings, presidential proclamations, and more. This collection would be of interest to anybody seeking information about POW/MIA events at CAFB or POW/MIA in general, particularly in relation to World War II and the Vietnam War.

Arrangement:

Files are arranged in seven different series: Correspondence, Images and Prints, Events/Programs, Publications, General POW/MIA Records, Ephemera, and Newspaper Clippings. Original order was kept in a few instances, but the majority of the records did not have any semblance of previous arrangement. The correspondence is arranged by year and months they were produced. The newspaper clippings in series 7 is similarly arranged, with each file containing different decades and the years represented within those decades. The remainder of the series (2-6) are arranged chronologically with most records



Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

described at the item level. The subseries within these series were arranged in an order that I hoped would provide a hierarchy of context, with the most contextual records at the front, and the documents that rely on this context following.

Subject Terms:

Air bases – Rantoul – History
Airplanes—Military
Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)
Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.) – History
Chanute Field (Ill.) – History
Military Air Pilots
Military History
Military History—Modern—20th Century
Missing in Action—Japan
Missing in Action—United States
Missing in Action—Vietnam
Prisoners of War—Japan
Prisoners of War—United States
Prisoners of War—Vietnam
Rantoul (Ill.)
United States—Air Force—Airmen

Container List:

Series 1: Base Correspondence

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1968
April
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1970
June-December
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1971
January
March
May
September
November-December
Folder 4: Correspondence, 1972
July
September-December
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1973
January-June
October
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1974
July
Folder 7: Correspondence, 1976
July



Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

Folder 8: Correspondence, 1979

April

June-July

Folder 9: Correspondence, 1981

June

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1982

June

Folder 11: Correspondence, 1984

June-July

Folder 12: Correspondence, 1985

July-August

Folder 13: Correspondence, 1986

January

April-December

Folder 14: Correspondence, 1988

October

Folder 15: Correspondence, 1991

January

May

Folder 16: Correspondence, 2001

October-November

Folder 17: Correspondence, 2003

June

Folder 18: Correspondence, UNIDENTIFIED

Series 2: Images and Prints

Folder 19: Photographs

Don Ellis and returning POW Michael Kerr, 1973 (Includes Metadata)

Don Eliis discussing POW program with Dale Cormier (Includes Metadata)

Camp 17 Barracks Hallway (Unidentified Location)

Unidentified Vietnam Era POW Collages (x4)

Branau, Austria POW Memorial Plaque Dedication

Group Photo—UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 20: Paintings

Metadata for Images

“We Close a Communist Power Plant” by Maxine McCaffrey

“They Got Colonel Larson” by Maxine McCaffrey

“At the Hanoi Hilton” by Maxine McCaffrey

“He Radioed—I Am Hit...Can Not Make It...See You Guys” by Maxine McCaffrey

“Three Shot Down” by Maxine McCaffrey

“Last Walk” by Maxine McCaffrey*

“Children of Missing Pilot” by Maxine McCaffrey

“To our Comrades up North” by Maxine McCaffrey

“Air Force Family—1969” by Maxine McCaffrey

“Prayers of the POW’s Family” by Maxine McCaffrey—MISSING



Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

“Operation Homecoming—Return of POW’s—Clark AFB 1973” by Maxine McCaffrey

“POW’s Return—1973—Panel 1 Hanoi” by Maxine McCaffrey*

“Lest We Forget” by Harry Schaare

**NO METADATA, MAY BE MISIDENTIFIED*

Folder 21: Promotional Materials

Nazi Propaganda by Adolf Hitler, November 1, 1940

“Their Fate, Our Quest” Poster, 1989

Freedom Flight III Graphic, 1998

Code of Conduct 4 Poster

“Remember Our Prisoners of War!” Negative

Series 3: Events/Programs

Folder 22: Planning, 1970s-1990s

Unidentified Event, November 16, 1970—Schedule of Events

POW/MIA Luncheon, July 18, 1980—Schedule of Events

POW/MIA Luncheon, July 18, 1980—Speech

POW/MIA Luncheon, July 18, 1980—Correspondence

POW/MIA Retreat, September 19, 1986—Schedules of Events

POW/MIA Retreat, September 19, 1986—Sequence of Events

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Correspondence

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Program Guidance Letter

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Schedule of Events

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Maps

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Medal Presentation

POW/MIA Medal Presentation Ceremony, October 1988—Executive Summary

POW/MIA Remembrance Week, 1990—Staff Summary Sheet

POW/MIA Remembrance Week, 1990—Proposed Schedule of Events

National POW/MIA Week—Program Guidance Letter

Speech given to Chanute Officers’ Wives Club—UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 23: Promotional Materials

POW/MIA Awareness Campaign Handout, July 1986

Air Force Policy Letter for Commanders, August 1, 1986

POW/MIA Christmas Tree Trimming Flyers, December 13, 1986

M.I.A.—P.O.W. A Reading List Pamphlet, Chanute AFB Library, 1986

POW Medal Ceremony Pamphlets, October 15, 1988

POW/MIA Remembrance Week Flyer, September 16-20, 1991

POW/MIA Freedom Now! Pamphlet, circa 1991

“We think it’s important” Flyer—UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 24: Rosters/Invitation Lists

List of Military Personnel, 1967-68, UNIDENTIFIED

POW/MIA Ceremony Invitation List, July 19, 1979

POW/MIA Day Invitation Lists, July 19, 1985

POW/MIA Reception Invitation List, September 19, 1986

POW/MIA Reception Guest List,

POW/MIA Response Lists, September 27, 1986



Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

- U.S. Unaccounted for in South East Asia—Alphabetical Listing, January 20, 1990
- List of U.S. Air Force Bases, September 1971
- POW/MIA Response List—UNIDENTIFIED
- Names and Addresses of PW's—UNIDENTIFIED
- Names and Addresses (Military)—UNIDENTIFIED
- Names and Addresses (Civilians)--UNIDENTIFIED

Series 4: Publications

Folder 25: Publications, 1944-1987

- LIFE*, February 7, 1944 (COPY)
- POW News Notes*, Volume II, No. 1, July 30, 1945
- "Supplement to the Air Force Policy Letter for Commanders", June 1970
- Commander's Digest*, Volume 9, No. 14, January 16, 1971
- LIFE*, November 1987

Folder 26: Publications, 1988-1996

- American Ex-Prisoners of War*, August 1988
- Sergeants*, November 1996
- Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Personnel Fact Sheet*—UNIDENTIFIED
- Prisoner of War* by Ben Steele

Series 5: General

Folder 27: Presidential Records, 1970s-1980s

- POW/MIA Packet from Office of Press Secretary, 1986
- "A Proclamation" by President Jimmy Carter—OFFICIAL
- "A Proclamation" by President Jimmy Carter—DRAFT

Folder 28: Defenders of Bataan

- Outline of Events
- Causes of Cabanatuan Deaths

Folder 29: Biographical Sketches

- Official USAF Biography—Major Fred N. Thompson
- Missing in Action Sheet, Eugene H. DeBruin, 1966

Folder 30: Miscellaneous

- Petition to Return POWs from South East Asia, May 22, 1971
- List of Persons whom could influence North Vietnam to humanely treat POWs
- List of Publications which could influence North Vietnam to humanely treat POWs
- "How to Write to the Family of a Missing Man"
- Definition of "Former Prisoner of War"
- Vietnam Veterans of America Thank You Letter for purchasing Lee Teter's "Reflections" Print Postcard, UNUSED

Series 6: Ephemera

Folder 31: Handwritten Notes—UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 32: Museum Exhibit Metadata

Folder 33: Maps

- Japanese POW Camps during WWII, 1941-45



The Urbana Free Library

210 West Green Street • Urbana, Illinois 61801 • 217-367-4057 • urbanafreelibrary.org

Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

POW/MIA

COLLECTION 200.005

Map of Illinois—UNIDENTIFIED

Building Layout—UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 34: Miscellaneous

Commander's Guest Pass, POW/MIA Ceremony, September 19, 1986

Firearm Registration, Donald Weckhorst, November 1986

Series 7: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 35: Clippings, 1940s

1942

1943

UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 36: Clippings, 1950s

1958

Folder 37: 1970s

1970

1973

UNIDENTIFIED

Folder 38: Clippings, 1980s

1985

1986

1988

Folder 39: Clippings, 1990s

1990

1992

1997

Folder 40: Clippings, 2000s

2003