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Chanute Air Force Base: Technical Training

COLLECTION 200.008

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled By: Leslie Straus and Ani Karagianis
Creator/Corporate Name: Chanute Air Force Base
Inclusive Dates: 1917-2001; bulk 1940s-1980s
Physical Description: 4 boxes; 4 linear feet

Provenance:

The Chanute Air Force Base collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives from the now defunct Octave Chanute Air Museum upon their closure in 2015.

Access:

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

Biographical/Historical Notes:

Chanute Air Force Base, home of what was once one of the oldest Technical Schools in the Air Force, was established in 1917 to train pilots for World War I. In 1921 the Army Enlisted Mechanic School was established at Chanute when mechanic and technician courses were transferred from Kelly Field, Texas. During the following year, the Photography School at Langley Field, Virginia, and the Air Force Service Communications School in Ft. Sill Oklahoma, were added to the Technical Training Program at the Base. The original school embraced the fields of photography, communications, and armament -- and from 1922 through 1938, Chanute served as a training school for all Air Corps mechanics.

In 1941, Air Corps Technical Training Command headquarters was temporarily moved to Chanute. Technical training operations during World War II included aircraft maintenance, weather observation, life support, and metal processing. This time period marked the peak period for technical training when over 200,000 individuals graduated from various courses.

Following World War II, Chanute continued to serve as a training installation for aerospace and weapon system support personnel under a variety of organizational titles. The installation was designated in 1959 as the Chanute Technical Training Center, which was later designated the 3330th Technical Training Wing. In July 1971, military flight operations were terminated at Chanute, and it became a non-flying training Base, until September of 1993 when all military operations ceased and the facility became available for other civilian and commercial uses.

Scope and Content Note:

Though the bulk of this collection's materials range from the 1940s-1980s, the collection as a whole spans nearly the entire history of CAFB as an active military institution from 1917-1993. The collection contains materials related to teaching and studying at Chanute and is organized according to the topic and intended audience of the material. There are six series in this collection.

Arrangement:



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Files are arranged into six series. Within series, alphabetically, with numerical squadrons going before alphabetical names. Most materials contained within folders are organized with information on broader histories preceding historical snapshots from news, interviews, and correspondence. Following that are materials used in classroom settings and other ephemera.

Series 1: Administration

Dedicated to Administration and administrative materials that illustrate the history of technical training at Chanute as well as the base's technical training accreditation and reorganization. The series is comprised of reports, correspondence, newspaper clippings, insignia, historical timelines, and more. Records for Central Technical Training Command are also included. General educational files that are associated with the technical training are also included in the administration series.

Series 2: Groups and Organizations

Dedicated to student Technical Training Student Groups and Organizations at Chanute. Materials consist of student group histories and fact sheets, workflows, correspondence, graphics, insignia, and awards.

Series 3: Orientation Materials

This collection contains promotional materials for different technical training pathways. Contents include: pamphlets, photographs, course brochures, curriculum examples, and student guides for technical training.

Series 4: Instructor Resources

Dedicated to Instructor Resources for technical training. The collection consists of learning materials from the Technical Instructor Course, which educates future instructors in curriculum and instruction. Contents include: syllabi, training projects, study guides, worksheets, handouts, and instructor manuals. It also includes general educational texts for instructors that were found in the Chanute collection but not published for the class, including instructor manuals and other educational texts. There are also personal papers, materials collected by specific individuals who either took or taught the Technical Instructor Course. Including instructor appraisals, newspaper clippings, photographs, pamphlets, and course catalogs.

Series 5: Student Resources

Contains student resources in technical training and general materials related to specific courses. This series is the bulk of the Technical Training collection. Contents span a number of classes and include: syllabi, course histories, course catalogs, calendars, reports, handouts, class notes, manuals and classroom texts, transcribed interviews, correspondence, newspaper articles and clippings, external publications and journal articles, photographs, and more.

Series 6: Bound Reports and Publications

These include training materials and anniversary celebrations of technical training on the base. These are either specifically labeled as "Technical Training," are linked to a specific squadron/group, or cover parts of the technical training curriculum.

Subject Terms:



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Chanute
Chanute Air Force Base
United States Air Force
Military History
Air Force History
Military schools
Military training
Education, Military
Occupational training, Military

Container List:

Box 1:

Series 1: Administration

Folder 1: 8 Hour Training Day, 1977-1983

Talking Papers
Presentation Slides
Correspondence
Reports
Memos

Folder 2: Accreditation and Reaffirmation of Training, 1972-1974

Accreditation Report
Course Catalog, April 1972
Catalog supplement
Correspondence
Accreditation Dinner program
Base Briefing
Newspaper Clipping

Folder 3: Central Technical Training Command, 1943 - 1966

Report: Administrative Practices
Coats of Arms and Badges
Correspondence

Folder 4: Community College of the Air Force

Newspaper Clippings
Faculty Handbook
Transcript Request
Correspondence
Course Catalog

Folder 5: Field Training Management, 1970-1971

Field Training Study
Correspondence
Reorganization Plan

Folder 6: Plato Program, 1972-1978

Correspondence
Reports



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- Operational Implementation Plan
- Newspaper Clippings
- Plato Background

Folder 7: Training Wing Reorganization History, 1973-1993

- Correspondence
- Mission statements
- Notes on reorganization
- Recommendations report
- Proposals
- Slides and presentation notes
- Workflows

Folder 8: Technical Training Schools Timeline, 1917-1943

- Chronological timeline

Folder 9: Technical Training Squadron Organizations, 1939-1944

Summary of Activation, Change of Station, Designation Changes, and Disbandment for the following organizations:

- School Squadrons
- Academic Squadrons
- Mess Squadrons
- Technical School Groups
- Band
- Aviation Squadron
- WAAC Post
- Guards Squadron
- Finances
- Medical
- Quartermaster
- Veterinary

Folder 10: Word Processing Service, 1984-1989

- Magazine Article
- Correspondence

Series 2: Groups and Organizations

Folder 11: 3330 Technical Training Wing, 1980-1991

- Group History
- Technical Training Fact Sheets
- Workflow
- Base Correspondence
- Correspondence
- Newspaper Clippings
- Photograph
- Graphics and logos
- Awards and certificates
- Electronic Principles Training

Folder 12: 3335 Technical Training Student Group, 1984-1992



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- Base Correspondence
- Graphics and logos
- Folder 13: 3340 Technical Training Group, 1988-1999
 - Correspondence
 - Graphics and logos
 - Awards and certificates
- Folder 14: 3345 Civil Engineering Squadron, 1983-1984
 - Certificates
- Folder 15: 3345 Comptroller Squadron, 1986
 - Roster List
- Folder 16: 3345 Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, 1983-1988
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Deactivation Ceremony Planning Materials
 - Brief History
 - Timeline
- Folder 17: 3345 Services Squadron, 1984-1985
 - Special Order
 - Historical Report
- Folder 18: 3345 Supply Squadron, 1978-1992
 - Change of Command Program
 - Activation Ceremony Program
 - Correspondence
 - Certificates
 - Training Booklets
- Folder 19: 3345 Technical Training Air Base Group, 1962-1987
 - Group History
 - Workflow
 - Base Correspondence
 - Graphics and logos
 - Awards and certificates
- Folder 20: 3350 Technical Training Group, 1980-1989
 - Base Correspondence
 - Graphics and logos
 - Awards and Certificates
 - Chanute's Talented Warriors Materials
- Folder 21: 3360 Technical Training Group, 1980-1991
 - Group History
 - Base Correspondence
 - Correspondence
 - Newspaper Clipping
 - Graphics and logos
 - Awards and certificates
- Folder 22: 3370 Technical Training Group, 1978-1999
 - Group History
 - Graphics and logos



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Awards and certificates

Folder 23: Air Training Command (1/3), 1953-1983

History

Correspondence

Folder 24: Air Training Command (2/3), 1976

Official Review Report

Folder 25: Air Training Command (3/3), 1981-1993

Poster

Pamphlets

Ephemera

Box 2

Series 2: Groups and Organizations, ctd.

Folder 1: Civil Air Patrol (1/2), 1948-1991

Newspaper Clippings

Certificates

Annual Reports

Pamphlets

Introduction to Civil Air Patrol

Folder 2: Civil Air Patrol (2/2), 1956-1975

General Inspection Guide

Booklets

National Geographic Publication

Folder 3: Strategic Air Command, undated

History

Series 3: Orientation Materials

Folder 4: Air Force Recruiting, undated

Pamphlet

Folder 5: Course Brochures, 1955, undated

Brochures

Curriculums

Folder 6: Student Guides (1 of 2), 1937-1949, undated

Technical Training Introduction Guidebooks 1937, 1949, undated

Safety Training for All Units, 1947

Folder 7: Student Guides (2 of 2), 1976-1985

Technical Training, 1976-1985

Series 4: Instructor Resources

Folder 8: Aircraft Pneudralic Repairmen Lesson Coursework (1/3), 1956-1970s

Lesson Plans

Folder 9: Aircraft Pneudralic Repairmen Lesson Coursework (2/3), 1956-1970s

Lesson Plans

Procedures

Folder 10: Aircraft Pneudralic Repairmen Lesson Coursework (3/3), 1956-1970s

Lesson Plans

Folder 11: General Instructor Training Materials, 1939-1983



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- Pamphlets
- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- Course catalog
- Folder 12: Instructor History (1/2), 1918-1986
 - Code of Ethics
 - Newsletter
 - Correspondence
 - Class Handout
- Folder 13: Instructor History (2/2), 1953-2001
 - Articles
 - Newspaper Clippings
 - Bio
 - Correspondence
- Folder 14: Instructor Manuals (1 of 2), 1949-1988
 - Chanute Training Evaluation Program, 1966, 1969
 - "How to Instruct", 1952
 - "How to Make Paper and Pencil Tests", 1949
 - "Test Wiseness", 1988
- Folder 15: Instructor Manuals (2 of 2), undated
 - "Operation Maintenance", undated
 - "Training Aid Manual: Hydraulic Brake System", undated
- Folder 16: Mission Application Seminar, 1976
 - MAS Program Plan Guidance
 - Evaluation
 - Correspondence
 - MAS History
 - Questionnaire
 - Communist Goals (Congressional Record)
- Folder 17: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of "Jerry", undated
 - Instructor Manual: "See the Light Before You Write"
 - Notes
- Folder 18: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of Scheffler, ?, ca 1950's
 - Calendar of Events
 - Syllabus
- Folder 19: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of Stanford Fornof, 1959, ca 1960's
 - Syllabus
 - Lesson Plans
 - Instructor Appraisals
 - Handouts
- Folder 20: Technical Instructor Course Deliverables, 1963
 - Worksheets
 - Handouts
- Folder 21: Technical Instructor Course Introductory Materials, 1950-1954



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Syllabi
Training Projects
Study Guides

Folder 22: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1950-1956
Texts
Study Guides

Box 3

Series 4: Instructor Resources, ctd.

Folder 1: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1959-1961
Texts
Study Guides

Folder 2: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1962-1963
Texts
Study Guides

Series 5: Student Resources

Folder 3: Aerospace Ground Equipment, 1950-1995
Memo, Donald Weckhorst
Museum Display Label
Correspondence
Instructional Materials

Folder 4: Air Maintenance, 1974
Programmed Texts

Folder 5: Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course (AMOC), 1941 – 1990
Museum Display Label
History of AMOC from 1941 to 1944
Conference Report
Questionnaire
Course Orientation Student Guides
Syllabus
List or “Wings” articles about Squadron Aviation Officers
Newspaper Articles and Clippings
Photographs
Programmed Texts

Folder 6: Airplane Construction, 1987
History of Airplane Construction from 1918, 1987

Folder 7: Airplane Power Plant Mechanics Course, 1947-1948
Training Project Outlines

Folder 8: Armament Training, undated
Department Outline

Folder 9: Automotive (1 of 3), 1960-1961
Workbooks

Folder 10: Automotive (2 of 3), 1960-1961
Workbooks
News articles



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- Folder 11: Automotive (3 of 3), 1997, undated
 - Memo to Weckhorst
 - Handouts
 - Notes
 - Base Correspondence
 - Contact information
 - Labels
- Folder 12: Automotive Instruction, 1961
 - Syllabus
 - Workbooks
 - Handouts
 - Notes
- Folder 13: Autopilot/Compass Systems, 1957-1959
 - Workflow
 - Worksheets
 - Student Texts
- Folder 14: Avionic Instruments, 1969-1970s
 - Programmed Texts
- Folder 15: Electrical Training (1 of 2), 1939-1966
 - Photograph
 - Study Guide
 - Instructional Texts
- Folder 16: Electrical Training (2 of 2), 1963, 1991
 - Training Plans
 - Study Guide
- Folder 17: Electronic Instruments (1 of 3), 1955-1959
 - Handout
 - Modules
- Folder 18: Electronic Instruments (2 of 3), 1973-1977
 - Handbook with loose leaf notes in between pages
 - Workbook with loose leaf notes in between pages
- Folder 19: Electronic Instruments (3 of 3), 1975-1977
 - Workbook
 - Modules
- Folder 20: Fire Protection Training (1 of 3), 1965-2002
 - History of Fire Protection Training
 - Course information, data, and recommendations
 - Newspaper Articles and clippings
 - Handwritten Course listings
 - Orientation
 - Study Guide
 - Fire Truck Information Label
 - Chanute First History Label information on index card
- Folder 21: Fire Protection Training (2 of 3), 1966-1991
 - Insignia information and decal



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Photographs

Contract for development of Smoke Abatement System

Folder 22: Fire Protection Training (3 of 3), 1976-1991

Transcribed interviews

Correspondence

Base Correspondence

Box 4

Series 5: Student Resources, ctd.

Folder 1: Fire Truck Operational Course, 1973

Booklet

Folder 2: Flight Engineer Training, 1945-2002, undated

Course information

Correspondence

Publication excerpt

Copy of News Clippings

Folder 3: Flight Simulator Courses, 1966-1988

Newspaper articles

Course report

Correspondence

Folder 4: Fuels, ca 1920's-1991

Newspaper clipping

Correspondence

Course reports

Copies of photographs

Folder 5: Helicopter Training, 1945-1984

History of Helicopter engineering at Chanute

Personal Narrative History

Training Project Outlines

Notes

Correspondence

Newspaper Clipping

Photographs

Folder 6: Hydraulic/Pneudralic Systems (1/3), 1974-1975

Reports

Folder 7: Hydraulic/Pneudralic Systems (2/3), 1975

Reports

Folder 8: Hydraulic/Pneudralic Systems (3/3), 1989, undated

History

Folder 9: Liquid Oxygen Systems, 1959, undated

Student Notebook

Worksheets

Folder 10: Mechanical Accessory Course, 1934, 1961, 1966, undated

Letter to Weckhorst



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- Textbook
- Worksheet
- Folder 11: Missile Program (1 of 6), 1958-2002
 - History
 - Newspaper article
 - Newsletters
- Folder 12: Missile Program (2 of 6), 1963
 - Training Plan for Glam-77 missile
- Folder 13: Missile Program (3 of 6), 1964, undated
 - Pamphlet
 - Textbooks
- Folder 14: Missile Program (4 of 6), 1966, 1993
 - Study Guides
 - Technical Manual
- Folder 15: Missile Program (5 of 6), 1969-1983
 - Notes
 - Memo
 - Maintenance Records
 - Photographs
 - Photographic Calendar
- Folder 16: Missile Program (6 of 6), 1973-1983
 - Training Plan for Short Range Attack Missiles (SRAM)
 - Management Plan for Ground Launched Cruise Missile System (GLCM)
 - Factsheet on Polaris Missile
 - Factsheet on Jupiter Missile
- Folder 17: Mobile Training, 1995-1999
 - Correspondence
 - Mobileer Alumni Newsletter
 - The Stratojet Newsletter
 - Background Development of Mobile Training, 1917-1955
- Folder 18: Parachute Rigging, 1954, 2002, undated
 - History
 - Correspondence
 - Photographs
 - Copies of Awards
- Folder 19: Parachuting and Life Support, 1922-1987, undated
 - History
 - Notes
 - Correspondence
 - Newspaper Articles and clippings
 - Newsletter
 - Photographs
 - Awards
- Folder 20: Space Shuttle Training, 1984
 - Correspondence



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Memos
Orbiter Mockup
Photograph Copies

Folder 21: Student Training Advisor Program, 1978-2000

Newspaper Clippings
STA History
Honors Ceremonies
Talking Papers
Enrollment List
Conference Papers
Correspondence

Folder 22: Weather, 1985-2009

Program Action Directive
Newspaper articles

Box 5

Series 6: Bound Reports and Publications

- Folder 1: Aircraft Pneudralic Repairman (1/2), 1970
- Folder 2: Aircraft Pneudralic Repairman (2/2), 1973
- Folder 3: Basic Institutional Data Forms, USAF School, 1972
- Folder 4: Chanute AFB 31 Years of Technical Training, 1952
- Folder 5: Chanute AFB 33 Years of Technical Training, 1954
- Folder 6: Chanute AFB 40 Years of Technical Training, ca. 1957
- Folder 7: Fire Fighting/Prevention Training History, 1993
History 1920-1993
- Folder 8: Fire Protection Training History, 1977
History 1964-1976
- Folder 9: Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1935
- Folder 10: Historical Report, 1963rd Communication Squadron (1/2), 1990
1 August-31 December 1989
- Folder 11: Historical Report, 1963rd Communication Squadron (2/2), 1990
1 January-30 June 1990
- Folder 12: Institutional Self-Study Report, 1978
- Folder 13: Jet Mechanic Training, 1993
Compilation 1920-1993
- Folder 14: Life Support History, 1993
Compilation 1917-1992
- Folder 15: Self Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, 1977
- Folder 16: Self-Study Report 3345th Technical School, 1972
- Folder 17: William Lackey Hand-Written Technical Training Notes, 1941-1942