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Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files: General Base History

COLLECTION 200.016

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Rosemary Froeliger

Creator/Corporate name: Chanute Air Force Base/Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum

Inclusive Dates: 1917-1992, mostly created in 1940s-1950s and 1980s.

Physical Description: 1 box, .5 linear feet.

Provenance:

The Chanute Air Force Base files were donated to the Champaign County archives after the Octave Chanute Air Museum closed. 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. These files were originally created and maintained by the History Office at the Chanute Air Force Base.

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:

The Chanute Air Force Base was open for an extended period of time, 75 years to be exact. It's long history through several military conflicts and influence as a Technical Training Center made it a well-researched subject. It is unclear at this time if these files were constructed by Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum or by the History Office at the Base. Some of this material were collected for articles as well as the 75 Year Pictorial History by Donald Weckhorst. Other documents appear to be just general descriptions of the Base's History at different points in time.

Scope and Content Note:

This content was determined to be different then the History/Years Files Subject Files and should be kept separate as a General History of the base. There is a wide variety of time covered in these materials. Some of the early documents from the 1920s-1930s relate to the development and purchase of property for the Chanute Base. Most of the correspondence and research occurred in the 1980s while other timelines and descriptions were created in the 1940s to 1950s.

Arrangement: Original Order

Subjects Terms:

United States Air Force
Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)
History
Research



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Folder 1: Chanute Land Acquisition

- Photos of Telegrams
- Table of Purchases
- Description of Lands
- Railroad Agreement
- Once Upon a Prairie: The Christie Story
- Public Law

Folder 2: Chanute AFB History Part 1

- Chanute AFB Historical Trivia
- Timelines
- Taking Paper on the Background Preparation of Chanute's 75-Year Pictorial History Book
- Congressman Ed Madigan Reports
- History Descriptions

Folder 3: Chanute AFB History Part 2

- Base History Description
- Album of Station Information: 1917-1945
- "The Chanute Story" by Dr. Thomas Synder
- Fact Sheet
- Mission of Chanute Technical Training Center
- Post History of Chanute Field Chapters
- "Keep'em Flying: the Story of Chanute" b TSgt Rex H. Miller

Folder 4: Chanute AFB History Part 3

- 1959 Base Information Request
- Early History of Technical Training Chanute Field 1921-1938
- Exhibit Label
- American Aviation Historical Society Journal Vol 23 No 2 Summer 1978

Folder 5: CAFB Landscape Data Part 1

- Correspondence
 - "United States Air Force Installations: An Analysis of Landscape Evolution and Place Making" by Robert D. Kreger
- 1935 History of Chanute Field
- Chanute Chronology 1917
- Base History Descriptions
- Robert D. Kreger Historical Research Request
- "Air Puffs" Volume 2-Flight 26
- Commander List
- Newspaper Clippings
- Map of Chanute Air Force Base

Folder 6: CAFB Landscape Data Part 2

- "The Making of An Institutional Landscape: Case Studies of Air Force Bases, World War I to the Present" by Robert David Kreger Thesis