Compiled by: Thomas Kuipers  
**Creator/Corporate name:** Chanute Air Force Base  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1959-2008 (Bulk 1983-1993)  
**Physical Description:** 2 boxes, (1.5 linear feet)  

**Provenance:**  
The Chanute Air Force Base Subject files were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives from the defunct Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum upon their closure in 2015. 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:**  
Historiography is the history of historical research, historical writing, and history itself. As such, the Chanute Historiography Collection contains the records of the Chanute Air Force Base History office from 1959-2008, with the bulk of the materials from the final decade the base was active. The records predominantly deal with the creation of the *75 Year Pictorial History* book created by Donald Weckhorst and his staff, which was the largest project undertaken by the Chanute history office in its final years. These records were discovered in original order and best efforts were put forth to maintain this provenance. It should also be noted that records after 1993 come from or are related to the Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum.  

**Scope and Content Note:**  
This collection spans the later years of Chanute’s history, with the majority of records from 1983-1993. The records are predominantly correspondence, particularly the first three series. This includes considerable correspondence with former Chanute personnel whom donated photographs and other records for the pictorial history book. Also included are reviews and evaluations of the history program, and extensive correspondence with the Vice Commander (CV) and Command Center (CTTC) concerning the progress of the book. Also included are some personal records exchanged between Weckhorst and Bret Whitmore. The other series contain records produced and obtained through the daily activities of the history office.  

**Arrangement:**  
This collection is arranged into seven different series. The first two series offer the records of the base historian from 1983-2004(?), Donald Weckhorst, and his assistant from 1989-1993, Bret S. Whitmore. These records are arranged chronologically, with some years combined in single folders. Series 3-7 are general history office records. These records are also arranged chronologically. Much of the...
correspondence throughout the collection was kept in original order, with the exception of a few records that were organized out of date by the previous record handler and reorganized in the correct order.

Subject Terms:

Historiography
Donald Weckhorst
Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.)
Chanute Air Force Base (Ill.) – History
Chanute Field (Ill.) – History
Air bases – Rantoul – History
Rantoul (Ill.)
Military Air Pilots
Airplanes, Military
United States. Air Force—Airmen
Military History
Military History, Modern—20th Century

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Donald Weckhorst

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1983-1985
Folder 2: Correspondence, 1986-1987
Folder 3: Correspondence, 1988-1989
Folder 4: Correspondence, 1990
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1991
Folder 6: Correspondence, 1992
Folder 7: Correspondence, 1993
Folder 9: ATC Historians’ Conference Packet, 1983

Series 2: Bret S. Whitmore

Folder 10: Correspondence, 1989-1991
Folder 11: Correspondence, 1992-1994
Folder 12: Correspondence, 1995, 2000, 2002
Folder 13: Employment History
   Performance Reviews, 1991-1993
   Personal Data, 1989-1990, 1993
   Assigned Duties
Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:

Historiography

Job Descriptions, 1986

Folder 14: Awards
Folder 15: Photographs
Folder 16: Newspaper Clippings
Folder 17: Miscellaneous

USAF Guide to the Airman and NCO Performance Feedback System
Official USAF Suggestion Form, 1991
Invitation—Renewal of Wedding Vows, 1992
Invitation—Daughter’s High School Graduation
Handwritten Ephemera, 1992? (found with correspondence)

Series 3: History Office Correspondence

Folder 18: Correspondence, 1978-1979
Folder 19: Correspondence, 1981-1985
Folder 20: Correspondence, 1987, 1989-1994
Folder 21: Reviews/Evaluations, 1983-1986
Folder 22: Reviews/Evaluations, 1987-1993
Folder 23: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1983
Folder 24: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1984
Folder 25: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1985
Folder 26: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1986
Folder 27: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1987
Folder 28: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1988
Folder 29: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1989
Folder 30: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1990
Folder 31: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1991
Folder 32: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1992
Folder 33: CTTC/CV Briefs/Meetings/Reports, 1993

Series 4: Administrative

Folder 34: Semiannual Query Reports, 1989-1992
Folder 35: Directories, 1983-1992
Folder 36: Directories, 1994-2002
Folder 37: Miscellaneous

Octave Chanute Aerospace Heritage Foundation Strategic Plan, 2008
Bibliography, Aerial Warfare and Aviation Books
Publications in Military History Pamphlet
Historian Inspection Checklist
Midwest Aviation Photographers Association Meeting Invitation, 1988

Series 5: Programs/Events
Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:  

**Historiography**

**Folder 38: Flyers**
- Vickie Jordahl Roast and Toast, 1992
- Chanute Open House, 1992
- Chanute Open House Schedule of Events, 1994
- The Don Weckhorst Library Proclamation, 1994
- Octave Chanute Aerospace Museum Grand Opening 1994

**Folder 39: Pamphlets**
- “The Airpower Historian”, 1959
- “USAF Historical Research Center: Information for Researchers”
- “A Guide for Unit Historians”, Chanute Technical Training Center

**Folder 40: Speech**
- Time Management Speech by Sgt. Robert C. Williford (Military Historian), UNDATED

**Series 6: Publications**

**Folder 41: Official USAF Publications**
- *USAF History Program: Summary of Activities*, 1986
- *USAF History Program: Summary of Activities*, 1987
- *TIG Brief: The Inspector General*, No. 4, Vol. 36, March 5, 1984
- “Historian Channel: Messages from the Chief, Office of Air Force History HQ USAF/CHO, 1992

**Folder 42: Newsletters**
- “The Federalist”, 1980-81 (Incomplete)
- “air historian”, 1984-1990 (Incomplete)

**Folder 43: Miscellaneous**
- “Reporting Historical Property” by Jack B. Hillard
- “Wing Historians of SAC” by Vanessa Allen

**Series 7: Miscellaneous**

**Folder 44: Ephemera**
- Don Weckhorst Curator-Historian Badge
- Handwritten Note
- $15 Donation to Donald Weckhorst
- Requisition and Invoice/Shipping Document, 1993
- CTC Closure Cadre
- “The Coventry Standard”

**Folder 45: Newspaper Clippings, 1972-2003**