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Chanute Air Force Base Subject Files:  
Historiography

COLLECTION 200.006

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**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



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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—20<sup>th</sup> 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 8: Correspondence, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2006  
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



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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

Office of Air Force History Publications, 1989

Publications in Military History Pamphlet

Historian Inspection Checklist

Midwest Aviation Photographers Association Meeting Invitation, 1988

**Series 5: Programs/Events**



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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 Historical Studies Editorial Style Guide*, 1970
- USAF History Program: Summary of Activities*, 1986
- USAF History Program: Summary of Activities*, 1987
- A Practical Guide to Base Closure for USAF Historians* by Charles L. Starr, 1993
- 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