



Chanute Air Force Base: Technical Training

COLLECTION 200.008

Champaign County Historical Archives

Technical Training Collection

Compiled By: Leslie Straus

Creator/Corporate Name: Chanute Air Force Base

Inclusive Dates: 1917-1992; bulk 1940s-1980s

Physical Description: 3 full-size boxes 1 half-size box; 3.5 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 five series in this collection.



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Series 1: 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.

Series 2: Dedicated to student Technical Training Student Groups and Organizations at Chanute. Materials consist of group histories and fact sheets, workflows, correspondence, graphics, insignia, and awards.

Series 3: Dedicated to 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: Dedicated to Instructor Resources for technical training. Contents are further divided according to the topic of resource. The first subseries 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. The second subseries contains general educational texts for instructors that were found in the Chanute collection but not published for the class. This subseries consists of Instructor manuals and other educational texts. The final subseries is comprised of additional materials collected by specific individuals who either took or taught the Technical Instructor Course. Contents include: Instructor Appraisals, Newspaper clippings, photographs, pamphlets, and course catalogs.

Series 5: Dedicated to 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.

Arrangement:

Files are arranged alphabetically, except for series 4, which contains three subseries and is arranged according type and then chronologically. 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.

Subject Terms:

- Chanute
- Chanute Air Force Base650
- United States Air Force
- Military History
- Air Force History
- Military schools
- Military training
- Education, Military



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Occupational training, Military

Container List:

Box 1:

Series 1: Administration

Folder 1: Accreditation and Reaffirmation of Training, 1972-1974

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

Folder 2: Central Technical Training Command, 1943 - 1966

- Report: Administrative Practices
- Coats of Arms and Badges
- Correspondence

Folder 3: Technical Training Schools Timeline, 1917-1943

- Chronological timeline

Folder 4: 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 5: Training Wing Reorganization History, 1973-1993

- Correspondence
- Mission statements
- Notes on reorganization
- Recommendations report



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Proposals
Slides and presentation notes
Workflows

Series 2: Groups and Organizations

Folder 1: 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

Folder 2: 3335 Technical Training Student Group, 1984-1992

Base Correspondence
Graphics and logos

Folder 3: 3340 Technical Training Group, 1988-1999

Correspondence
Graphics and logos
Awards and certificates

Folder 4: 3345 Technical Training Air Base Group, 1962-1987

Group History
Workflow
Base Correspondence
Graphics and logos
Awards and certificates

Folder 5: 3350 Technical Training Group, 1980-1989

Base Correspondence
Graphics and logos
Awards and Certificates

Folder 6: 3360 Technical Training Group, 1980-1991

Group History
Base Correspondence
Correspondence
Newspaper Clipping
Graphics and logos
Awards and certificates



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Folder 7: 3370 Technical Training Group, 1978-1999

- Group History
- Graphics and logos
- Awards and certificates

Box 2

Series 3: Orientation Materials

Folder 1: Air Force Recruiting, undated

- Pamphlet
- Photographs

Folder 2: Course Brochures, 1955, undated

- Brochures
- Curriculums

Folder 3: Student Guides (1 of 2)

- Technical Training Introduction Guidebooks 1937, 1949, undated
- Safety Training for All Units, 1947

Folder 4: Student Guides (2 of 2)

- Technical Training, 1976-1985

Series 4: Instructor Resources

Folder 1: Technical Instructor Course Introductory Materials, 1950-1954

- Syllabi
- Training Projects
- Study Guides

Folder 2: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1950-1956

- Texts
- Study Guides

Folder 3: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1959-1961

- Texts
- Study Guides

Folder 4: Technical Instructor Course Required Readings, 1962-1963

- Texts
- Study Guides

Folder 5: Technical Instructor Course Deliverables, 1963



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Worksheets
Handouts

Folder 6: Instructor Manuals (1 of 2)

Chanute Training Evaluation Program, 1966, 1969
"How to Instruct", 1952
"How to Make Paper and Pencil Tests", 1949
"Test Wiseness", 1988

Folder 7: Instructor Manuals (2 of 2)

"Operation Maintenance", undated
"Training Aid Manual: Hydraulic Brake System", undated

Folder 8: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of "Jerry", undated

Instructor Manual: "See the Light Before You Write"
Notes

Folder 9: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of Stanford Fornof, 1959, ca 1960's

Syllabus
Lesson Plans
Instructor Appraisals
Handouts

Folder 10: Personal Papers: Technical Training Instructor Course Materials of Scheffler, ?, ca 1950's

Calendar of Events
Syllabus

Folder 11: General Instructor Training Materials, 1939-1983

Pamphlets
Newspaper clippings
Photographs
Course catalog

Box 3:

Series 5: Student Resources

Folder 1: Aerospace Ground Equipment, 1950-1995

Memo, Donald Weckhorst
Museum Display Label
Correspondence
Instructional Materials

Folder 2: Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course (AMOC), 1941 – 1990



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- 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 3: Air Maintenance, 1974
Programmed Texts

Folder 4: Airplane Construction, 1987
History of Airplane Construction from 1918, 1987

Folder 5: Armament Training, undated
Department Outline

Folder 6: Automotive (1 of 3), 1997, undated
Memo to Weckhorst
Handouts
Notes
Base Correspondence
Contact information
Labels
News articles

Folder 7: Automotive (2 of 3), 1960, 1961
Workbooks

Folder 8: Automotive (3 of 3), 1960, 1961
Workbooks

Folder 9: Automotive Instruction. 1961
Syllabus
Workbooks
Handouts
Notes

Folder 10: Autopilot/Compass Systems, 1957-1959
Workflow
Worksheets
Student Texts



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Folder 11: Avionic Instruments, 1969, ca. 1970s
Programmed Texts

Folder 12: Electrical Training (1 of 2), 1961-1966
Photograph
Study Guide
Instructional Texts

Folder 13: Electrical Training (2 of 2), 1963, 1991
Training Plans
Study Guide

Folder 14: Electronic Instruments (1 of 3), ca 1950
Handout
Modules

Folder 15: Electronic Instruments (2 of 3), 1973-1975
Handbook with loose leaf notes in between pages
Workbook with loose leaf notes in between pages

Folder 16: Electronic Instruments (3 of 3), 1975-1979
Workbook
Modules

Folder 17: Flight Engineer Training, 1945-2002, undated
Course information
Correspondence
Publication excerpt
Copy of News Clippings

Folder 18: Fire protection Training (1 of 3), 1965-1991
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 19: Fire Protection Training (2 of 3), 1978-1991
Transcribed interviews
Correspondence
Base Correspondence



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Folder 20: Fire Protection Training (3 of 3), 1965-1991

Insignia information and decal
Photographs
Contract for development of Smoke Abatement System

Box 4:

Folder 21: Flight Simulator Courses, 1966-1988

Newspaper articles
Course report
Correspondence

Folder 22: Fuels, ca 1920's-1991

Newspaper clipping
Correspondence
Course reports
Copies of photographs

Folder 23: Helicopter Training, 1945-1984

History of Helicopter engineering at Chanute
Personal Narrative History
Training Project Outlines
Notes
Correspondence
Newspaper Clipping
Photographs

Folder 24: Liquid Oxygen Systems, 1959, undated

Student Notebook
Worksheets

Folder 25: Mechanical Accessory Course, 1934, 1961, 1966, undated

Letter to Weckhorst
Textbook
Worksheet

Folder 26: Missile Program (1 of 6), 1958-2002

History
Newspaper article
Newsletters

Folder 27: Missile Program (2 of 6), 1969-1983

Notes
Memo



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- Maintenance Records
- Photographs
- Photographic Calendar

Folder 28: Missile Program (3 of 6), 1964, undated

- Pamphlet
- Textbooks

Folder 29: Missile Program (4 of 6), 1966, 1993

- Study Guides
- Technical Manual

Folder 30: Missile Program (5 of 6), 1963

- Training Plan for Glam-77 missile

Folder 31: Missile Program (6 of 6), 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 32: Parachute Rigging, 1954, 2002, undated

- History
- Correspondence
- Photographs
- Copies of Awards

Folder 33: Parachuting and Life Support, 1922-1987, undated

- History
- Notes
- Correspondence
- Newspaper Articles and clippings
- Newsletter
- Photographs
- Awards

Folder 34: Power Plant Mechanics, 1947-1948

- Training Project Outlines

Folder 35: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1989, undated (1 Of 6)

- History
- Student Notes

Folder 36: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1965-1970 (2 of 6)

- Lesson Plans



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Programmed Texts

Folder 37: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1965-1970 (3 of 6)

Lesson Plans

Programmed Texts

Folder 38: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1965-1970 (4 of 6)

Lesson Plans

Programmed Texts

Folder 39: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1971-1975 (5 of 6)

Lesson Plans

Programmed Texts

Folder 40: Pneudralic Repairmen, 1971-1975 (6 of 6)

Lesson Plans

Programmed Texts

Folder 41: Weather

Program Action Directive

Newspaper articles