



Leadership Council
Southwestern Illinois
40 years of uniting the region for growth

Leaders & Legacies

Scott Air Force Base: A cornerstone of economic prosperity in Southwestern Illinois

In the heart of Southwestern Illinois lies Scott Air Force Base, a crucial military installation that not only serves as a pillar of national defense but also contributes significantly to the economic growth and quality of life in the surrounding communities. Southwestern Illinois prides itself in fostering a vibrant and supportive environment for those stationed at Scott, which is why many service members choose to retire here and continue living and working in our region. These retirees bring a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience, enriching the local workforce and enhancing the overall quality of life.

Economically, Scott Air Force Base has been an indispensable catalyst for the prosperity of Southwestern Illinois. The base's presence brings an infusion of jobs, contracts, and business opportunities, acting as a top economic engine for the region. The direct employment opportunities generated by the base are substantial, providing jobs for thousands of civilians and military personnel alike. The ripple effect extends to various sectors, including retail, housing, healthcare, and education, as the base's employees and their families contribute to the local economy.

Scott's impact reaches far beyond the immediate area as well, as it serves as a hub for the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) and the Air Mobility Command (AMC). These commands play a vital role in supporting military missions around the world. This has attracted defense contractors, aviation-related industries, and other businesses that leverage the base's capabilities, fostering further economic growth and innovation.

The Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois has and will continue

"Halfway through the 40th year of advocating for Southwestern Illinois, the Leadership Council continues to work with local businesses and leaders to grow our region's economic ecosystem. The Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois looks forward to continuing to be a uniting force as we work on ensuring our region is ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow, like maintaining a talented workforce for our area's diverse jobs, advocating for continued infrastructure investment to keep our presence as a national logistics leader, and of course continuing to work with the men and women at Scott Air Force Base to ensure it remains one of the premier bases in the United States."

-Kyle Anderson, Executive Director, Leadership Council

to advocate and assist local leaders in safeguarding Scott Air Force Base's presence in the region. The Leadership Council was formed in 1983, and one of its first actions was creating its Military Affairs Committee in 1984 with a mission to preserve, advocate for, and enhance SAFB through education of the general public and interface with elected officials, military leaders, and surrounding communities to identify core needs and develop mutually beneficial strategies. This dedicated advocacy has garnered recognition, as the Leadership Council and Scott Air Force Base have been honored three times with the prestigious Abilene Award for Air Mobility Command bases.

Scott Air Force Base stands as a cornerstone of economic prosperity in Southwestern Illinois, driving growth, job creation, and fostering a high quality of life for its residents. The base's



impact extends far beyond its immediate vicinity, serving as a hub for vital military commands. Retiring military personnel are drawn to the area, contributing to the region's workforce and community fabric. The Leadership Council and its Military Affairs Committee, through its unwavering support and advocacy, continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring the base's longevity and securing its needs. Together, Scott Air Force Base and the Leader-



ship Council exemplify a thriving public-private partnership that has garnered well-deserved nationwide recognition, underscoring their invaluable contributions to the nation's defense and the prosperity of Southwestern Illinois.

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