

# **2025 Illinois State of the Bases Report**



**From the Military Economic Development Committee  
Chaired by Illinois Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton**

## **Letter From Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton**

*“May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right.” — Peter Marshall*

As Chair of the Military Economic Development Committee (MEDC) and the daughter of a Navy veteran, I am proud to recognize the enduring sacrifices and tremendous labor of our armed forces. Thanks to the insight of service units, members of this very Council, residents of Illinois’ base communities, and local and state partners, the Pritzker-Stratton administration has remained informed and in touch with current happenings on our bases. Their wisdom continues to guide proposed strategies to better support, assist, and care for members of our armed forces, along with their families.

In addition to the Illinois National Guard, Illinois’ three bases—U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, Scott Air Force Base, and Naval Station Great Lakes—create essential economic hubs and robust centers of community life. Each base provides contracts to local businesses, hosts public events, and works in tandem with surrounding communities to create a cohesive environment.

In 2020, MEDC hosted the first ever State of the Bases event, which was followed by the inaugural State of the Bases Report, to update our state and community leaders on the status of Illinois’ military bases. Now, in 2025, MEDC is releasing an updated State of the Bases Report, including data from each of the three military bases, the National Guard, and some of our state agencies who work with the bases to support our state’s military. Following the release of this report, MEDC will host a State of the Bases event in partnership with base representatives, government officials, and community leaders to discuss the data included in the report. While this report provides the critical background and context for the work and needs of our bases, I believe it is equally important to hear directly from key stakeholders and those living and working on the bases to better understand the impact of the military in Illinois.

Therefore, it is with great respect and appreciation that I share this 2025 State of Bases report. In addition to presenting this report, I would like to share my deepest admiration for all those who serve, veterans, and their families. Our state is better and safer because of you; in Illinois, we will always support our military.

Respectfully,



Juliana Stratton  
Illinois Lieutenant Governor  
Chair, Military Economic Development Committee

## **State of the Bases Overview**

As an extension of the work of the Military Economic Development Committee (MEDC), this report is developed in partnership between the Office of Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton, Scott Airforce Base, U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, Naval Station Great Lakes, the Illinois National Guard, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, and the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

This State of the Bases written report documents the updates given by the commanders. Each base commander or agency director was asked to provide a written analysis about the base or organization that included, but was not limited to:

1. Economic Impact
2. Community Engagement
3. Support Efforts
4. New Projects and Initiatives

The following reflects the information shared by the bases and state agencies.

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## **Naval Station Great Lakes**

Naval Station Great Lakes (NSGL) plays a foundational role as the Navy's primary platform for force generation. The Installation is called the "Quarterdeck of the Navy," because every new Sailor starts their Navy career by passing through our gates. This Installation hosts the Navy's only recruit training complex and is a hub of the enlisted surface warfare center of excellence. In FY24 NSGL enabled the transformation of 42,000 civilians into sailors, and this year will turn 46,000 civilians into Sailors.

The Installation supports technical post-recruit training and other training in several disciplines offered in 80 different courses of instruction. The Learning Sites provide approximately 85 percent of the Navy's initial surface warfare training. Our student-Sailors concentrate on engineering and surface Navy skills. These Sailors repair and maintain our ships and other equipment at sea. The Great Lakes Learning Sites account for the Navy's largest technical training operation, with an annual throughput of approximately 11,000 students and up to 6,000 students on board at any time.

NSGL is the largest training facility in the Navy. It opened in 1911 on land donated by the Merchants Club of Chicago and gained significance during World War I. Within a month of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy announced a \$33-million expansion to increase recruit capacity from 10,000 to 45,000, and ultimately 75,000 by the end of 1942. During the course of World War II, Great Lakes supplied approximately one million men, just over a third of all personnel who served in the U.S. Navy.

The Installation encompasses 1,153 buildings, 39 of which are on the National Register of Historic Places, spanning 1,628 acres and 50 miles of roadway.

The Installation plays host to more than 50 Commands and organizations from the Navy, other Department of Defense services and Federal Government. The five largest of those Commands by population include:

- Recruit Training Command (Staff and Recruits) (MIL 10,378/CIV 89)
- Surface Combat Systems Training Command Great Lakes (MIL 3,672/CIV 77)
- Surface Warfare Engineering School Command Great Lakes (MIL 2,413/CIV 72)
- Navy Medical Training Readiness Center Great Lakes (FHCC) (MIL 1,373/CIV 16)
- Navy Reserve Center (NRC) Great Lakes (MIL 1,026)

### **Economic Impact**

Measured conservatively, the payroll for Military Personnel, Civilian Employees and Contractors that work at the Installation exceed \$1.2 billion, when procurement and other operating expenditures are factored in the direct expenditures are more than \$1.4 billion. This does not

account for Military Construction Projects (MILCON) and Special Project spending that add substantially to that figure. Projects will include:

- Unaccompanied Housing Barracks (P713) estimated to cost \$208 million, in program year 2027 with another, P715 projected for program year 2031;
- Firefighter / Damage Control Wet Trainer (P1084) at RTC projected to cost \$130 million in program year 2027;
- Ongoing construction includes P828 (NSGL Smart Energy) at a cost of \$7.9 million; and
- Water Treatment Clearwell Special Project (RM23-0385) with construction beginning in FY26 at a cost of \$26 million.

In addition to these direct expenditures are impacts that flow from visitors to the Installation. Forty-eight Recruit Graduations are conducted each year and dozens of other events that draw over 200,000 visitors annually. These visitors stay in area hotels and patronize area restaurants, shops and entertainment venues, accounting for approximately 60% of the more than \$1.2 billion tourism revenue generated in Lake County.

Our Family Housing falls within the boundaries of North Chicago Community Unit School District 187 (NCCUSD 187). The district is operating under a construction provision to receive Heavy Impact Aid. Once the construction provision is removed, the district will need to reach 20% military-connected students to continue receiving Heavy Impact Aid. In the 2023-24 school year, the district had 11% military-connected students.

## **Community Engagement**

One of the priorities of Naval Station Great Lakes is community outreach and engagement.

The majority of Family Housing is in surrounding communities. Family Hunt Companies manage Public Private Venture (PPV) housing for Naval Station Great Lakes. Housing inventory is 1,417 units (1,367 active and 50 unused pending demo or disposition) encompassing seven neighborhoods: Mainside Central and Mainside South located on-installation; Forrestal and Nimitz Villages located off-installation in North Chicago; Fort Sheridan Village located off-installation in Highland Park; and Glenview Village located off-installation in Glenview.

Each year, NSGL hosts Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Cadets, NJROTC units, and many other youth groups from around the country. Last year alone, nearly a thousand youth from the aforementioned groups were on board.

Sailors are sent to district schools as tutors and mentors through our Partnership in Education Program. NSGL has partnered with North Chicago Community Partners and the local School District 187. At the Regional SeaPerch Competition, Sailors volunteered to assist 136 students from 40 schools to learn engineering concepts during their underwater robotics completion.

Veterans, retirees and their families are invited to Ship reunions where they enjoy the opportunity to see a recruit graduation ceremony, tour the base and interact with current Sailors.

NGSL has a partnership with the Goodwill Great Lakes operation. Goodwill of Southeastern Wisconsin operates a contract under the federal AbilityOne Program, which uses the purchasing power of the federal government to provide employment for individuals with significant disabilities.

Goodwill employs about 1,000 men and women at about 20 facilities around the base. Nearly 700 of these individuals have significant disabilities. Goodwill provides food service workers, cooks, crew leaders, janitors, stock clerks and appliance technicians. Each year, Goodwill staff serve nearly 9 million meals, handle 2 million pieces of mail, and issue 2 million uniform pieces to Sailors and recruits. Goodwill provides meaningful employment for individuals with significant disabilities. The workers on base have a sense of pride in contributing to our mission, and therefore to the defense of our nation.

### **Support Efforts**

NGSL works closely with municipal, county and state partners on a host of issues, many of which are focused on public safety, including:

- Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS);
- Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS);
- Northwest Illinois Incident Management Assistance Team;
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCSF);
- Use of Lake County EOC as an alternate continuity of operations location;
- McHenry County pre-trial confinement of Navy personnel;
- Lake County Sheriff and the Joint Central Lake County ETSB related to 911 call routing
- Interoperable Communications Council of Lake County;
- IL SHIPO;
- Hunt Military Communities for policing and fire and emergency services.

In addition to these formal agreements, NGSL works very closely with North Chicago and Lake County due to joint jurisdiction. Last year, NSGL provided water to North Chicago for a week after a temporary shutdown.

Most recently the effort to rehabilitate Halsey Village has included efforts on the part of the Navy, Lake County, North Chicago and the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

## New Projects and Initiatives

Over the past two years, NSGL has aggressively pursued new economic development opportunities through the expanded use of Title 10 Authorities of the United State Code and becoming champions of Department of Defense (DoD) grants. These new projects and initiatives speak directly to the heart of MEDC's inquiry: **As a military community, how is NSGL's economic impact, community engagement and support efforts taking shape?**

### Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs)

- **Lake County (2024 completed):** Allows for the purchase of road salt and spoil removal.
- **Lake County (2025 pending):** Allows for building demolition of every derelict housing unit within the 89-acre site of Halsey Village. This may be considered the Navy's largest demolition project involving housing which includes 351 housing units spread between 162 buildings.
- **City of North Chicago (2025 pending):** The blanket IGSA with North Chicago is significant and includes building demolition, environmental remediation, road repair and maintenance, road salt purchase and waste disposal.

### Support of DoD Grants from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)

- **Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI):** Covered 80% of the cost of a new elementary. Forrestal Elementary qualified by residing within the boundaries of NSGL. The new school is currently under construction and is on track to be completed in 2026. This new school will be state-of-the-art, with significant energy efficiencies and replaces the existing school that contains lead pipes. The new school will improve the quality of life for its students and accommodate for additional 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.
- **Second PSMI grant is underway:** In the next year, NSGL will have a second school that will be invited by OLDCC to apply the PSMI grant, Learn 6 Charter School, where North Chicago School District 187 serves as the Lead Education Agency. Preparations are currently underway and community stakeholders have been involved. OLDCC may begin the application process as early as 2027.
- **Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP):** With the full support of NSGL, the City of North Chicago's (NC) application is currently under review. If approved as written, this competitive grant will cover \$14.8 million of \$19.4 million in total cost for the realignment of a public road off of Navy property. Mutually beneficial, this grant allows for better access to Foss Park Beach for community residents, while removing a public egress adjacent to a primary gate. If awarded, the project is estimated to break ground in 2027.
- **Installation Readiness (IR):** The City of North Chicago has engaged OLDCC in this non-competitive grant process that supports engineering and transit studies. NC is



specifically seeking to fund the required engineering study for the DCIP grant and a transit study to support better gate access. This grant includes a 90/10 match, is projected to be awarded in FY26, and the minimum starting amount is \$500,000.

#### Pursuing Lease Opportunities for Navy-owned property through RFIs/RFPs

- NSGL has identified 4 sites for potential lease opportunities to the public for in-kind considerations by taking advantage of Title 10 Authorities. These sites range between 2.5-11.5 acres and have direct access to public roads.
- An RFI of the 11.5 acre site was published on sam.gov in the spring and RFPs for the other 3 sites are in progress in preparation for publication.
- Industry Day will be held in the fall of 2025 where a summary of the four sites will be presented. There will also be opportunity to answer questions in preparation of the RFP publication.

#### Supporting Transportation Options and Safety

NGSL has recently taken on transit related initiatives to support multimodal options and address pedestrian safety for Sailors and members of the community:

- **Navy Graduation Traffic on Buckley Road:** There are over 1,000 out-of-state congested vehicles on Buckley Road on a weekly basis for graduation ceremonies. The base is collaborating with the community to mitigate impact and are hopeful the Illinois Department of Transportation will also provide assistance, ie: wayfinding signs within the IL ROW and capital infrastructure improvements.
- **Patriot Path:** NSGL has been working in support of this 1.5-mile bike path segment (\$6.5mil) with Lake County, that runs parallel to the entire stretch of Buckley Road and runs directly between the property and IL ROW.
  - NSGL is actively engaged with local municipalities on three other bike paths, in addition to Patriot Path, that all require real estate actions for the use of Navy land.
- **PACE Bus Route Expansion:** Bus route 563 now provides additional stops, thanks to PACE, that will support both Sailors and other pedestrians.

## **Rock Island Arsenal Report**

Established in 1862, Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) is the only full-service Army installation in Illinois. The installation supports more than 54,000 Active, Reserve, and Retired military, civilian employees, and family members in a 150-mile radius. RIA is home to more than 50 Department of Defense (DoD) organizations and private companies that have a global impact on our nation's worldwide defense mission.

### **Economic Impact**

The Arsenal provides a local economic impact of \$1.2 billion annually with direct employment to 5,319 civilian employees, not including 421 civilian contractors, 480 Active component Soldiers, and 509 Reserve Component Servicemembers. Fifty-five percent of the civilian workforce lives in Illinois. A significant amount of the workforce is college educated; 10% have an associate degree, 41% have a bachelor's degree, and 19% hold a master's degree. Veterans make up 44% of RIA's workforce. Arsenal employees' average length of service is 14 years, and the average income earned by a civilian employee for the Department of the Army is \$89,288.

### **Community Engagement**

#### **Leader Engagement**

The Senior and Garrison Commanders at Rock Island Arsenal are strong advocates of community collaboration and support. RIA is a visible presence in the community including the Bi-State Regional Commission, Elected Officials, Defense Alliance, and other meetings where our leadership engages with and collaborates with our community leaders and elected officials. These leaders are welcomed on a frequent basis to participate in changes of command, Senior Commander social events, and groundbreaking ceremonies for newly opened facilities.

#### **Community Events and Observances**

The Garrison demonstrates strong support for nearby communities by supporting events including the Quad City Marathon, Armed Forces Day, River Action's Ride the Rock Father's Day event, and the Illowa Scout Council Fall Camporee. These events welcome the community to Rock Island Arsenal and expose them to not only their Army, but also to the amazing historic and recreational opportunities located here.

Senior Army leaders and color guards from all the Commands routinely support community requests at Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances and other events in both Illinois and Iowa. RIA is a strong advocate and supporter of veterans, and the sacrifices and service our citizens have provided to the nation.

### Public and Special Event Access

Rock Island Arsenal welcomes the community to our installation. Approximately 8,200 non-DoD affiliated individuals possess a one-year visitor pass which allows the community to access the installation to visit historic venues, participate in events and services, and enjoy the recreational opportunities offered here.

The Garrison ensures unfettered access for the families of their interred loved ones at the RIA Veterans Administration National Cemetery. The Garrison allows community residents, service members, Arsenal Families, and DoD civilians to participate in the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies, holiday wreath laying, and other special events.

### Rock Island Arsenal Museum

Rock Island Arsenal proudly serves as the home of the U.S. Army's second oldest museum and the only Army Museum dedicated to telling the story of Army manufacturing and the Rock Island Arsenal to the local region and the nation.

Between FY20 and FY23 the museum completed a \$2.5 million renovation to create a modern, engaging experience to inspire and educate Soldiers, Civilians, and the public.

Since its reopening in 2023, the RIA Museum has welcomed more than 43,000 visitors including more than 6,000 K-12 students from Illinois and Iowa. The museum also serves as a hub of Arsenal activity and has hosted and supported more than 100 events including promotion ceremonies, changes of command, retirement ceremonies, evening events, guided tours to mission partners, congressional delegation visits, museum programs, and community events like Bloom on the Rock and Boo on the Rock and Scout Camporees.

## **Support Efforts**

### Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP)

RIA supported and endorsed the City of Moline's successful bid for \$11.5 million dollars in Department of Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program funding. Strong collaboration ensured the city's successful award which allows them to rehabilitate the 16<sup>th</sup> Street overpass from the City of Moline leading to our main gate at Rock Island Arsenal. This effort will continue to reduce congestion on downtown streets while supporting commercial traffic, employee and Servicemember access to RIA, and emergency response to both the Arsenal and our neighboring community partners.

### Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA)

RIA currently participates in six Intergovernmental Support Agreements with neighboring cities in the Quad Cities and a seventh is in development. These agreements allow our neighboring community partners to provide municipal services to the Arsenal and have saved the Army and Department of Defense \$780,000 while ensuring that the jobs and revenue that support these services remain local and benefit our communities.

### Visit Quad Cities Partnership

RIA has partnered with our local regional convention and tourism bureau, Visit Quad Cities to explore collaborative and mutually beneficial initiatives that will open the Arsenal to both the community and visitors to the Quad Cities Area. One highlight of this relationship is the development of Arsenal Tours which will provide visitors with a high-quality experience to better understand the history of RIA and the current role the Arsenal provides in supporting the Nation's defense.

### Emergency Service Response

The RIA Fire Department (FD) conducted 471 fire and emergency medical responses in support of off installation Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) requests for assistance in 2024-2025. The FD conducts monthly training with our regional district of the Illinois MABAS and neighboring communities at the Arsenal's Fire Training Center and at other locations throughout the state. This training includes hazardous materials response, technical rescue, incident command, and live fire exercise training.

### **New Projects and Initiatives**

- **Golf Course:** RIA opened its recently renovated 9-hole golf course in the spring of 2025 to Army patrons as well as the public. The golf course is the oldest in the Quad Cities region and offers spectacular views of both the Mississippi River and eight historic quarters.
- **Quarters One:** RIA has renovated portions of historic Quarters One, the beautiful historic home of the Rock Island Arsenal Commander. Once the second largest residence other than the White House, the long-term vision is to develop Quarters One and the surrounding footprint into a welcoming community event location.
- **Recreational Vehicle Park:** RIA is in the development phase of establishing a 40 pad RV park to serve the needs of our Servicemembers, Civilian Employees, Veterans, and the surrounding community, with an anticipated 2028 opening.

- **Child Development Center and School Age Services Facilities:** Plans are underway to begin the design and building of new Child Development Center. This effort will replace aging facilities, make services more efficient, and provide modern and up to date facilities for the children of Service Members and Civilian employee workforce. The project is anticipated to begin in 2027.
- **Services Available to the General Public:** Rock Island Arsenal has opened services previously unavailable to the community. These include outdoor recreation rentals and programs, leisure travel service to include discounted tickets to local and national recreational venues, even an auto skills shop where an individual can have their vehicle serviced, or they can rent a bay to perform maintenance on their own vehicle.
- **Energy Resiliency and Modernization:** Rock Island Arsenal is moving towards energy resiliency through the modernization of its electrical infrastructure supporting the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center's manufacturing mission in support of the Department of Defense. These efforts are designed to create efficiencies, lower costs, and ensure mission readiness in the event power sourced from external locations is lost for up to 14 days.

## Scott Air Force Base Report

Scott Air Force Base is home to one of the Department of Defense's eleven combatant commands, U.S. Transportation Command, which conducts globally integrated mobility operations, leads the broader Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise, and provides enabling capabilities to project and sustain the Joint Force around the world. Scott is also home to two of the three subordinate commands of U.S. Transportation Command, as both its ground component Military Surface Deployment Distribution Command and its air component Air Mobility Command are located on the base.

In addition to these higher headquarters, there are over 30 other mission partners located at Scott Air Force Base. These include:

- 18th Air Force
- 618th Air Operations Center
- Defense Information Systems Agency Global
- Defense Information Technology Contracting Office
- Cyberspace Capabilities Center
- 635th Supply Chain Operations Wing
- Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing
- Air Force Reserve's 932nd Airlift Wing

Scott Air Force Base has a total workforce of approximately 13,000 personnel, comprising about 7,600 servicemembers (Active Duty, Guardsmen, and Reservists) and more than 5,000 government civilian employees. The Team Scott community also comprises approximately 8,000 military family members and over 40,000 beneficiaries, including military retirees and veterans, who receive support services on base.

Scott Air Force Base is the largest employer in Southwest Illinois and among the top ten employers in the St. Louis region, contributing over \$3 billion to the local economy.

### **375th Air Mobility Wing: Deliver Victory**

The 375th Air Mobility Wing serves as the host unit for the installation. Its primary role is to execute and manage daily operations, providing administrative, logistical, and infrastructure support to the mission partner units located on the base, as well as 140 geographically separated units across several states. The wing's vision and priority are to **Deliver Victory** for the nation. The mission of the 375th Air Mobility Wing is to **Execute Rapid Global Mobility** through three lines of effort: Operate the Flagship, Project Forces Forward, and Seize the Competitive Advantage.

## **Missions: Projects, Partnerships, & Opportunities**

Since its establishment in 1917, Scott Air Force Base has focused on core missions that include pilot training/flying, aeromedical evacuation, and communications. These missions continue today, supported by the 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing and mission partners like 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, the 932<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Defense Information Systems Agency Global, and the Cyberspace Capabilities Center. Scott Air Force Base's proficiency in these core mission areas, along with others, is essential for its effectiveness in deployment and success in combat situations.

### 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron & 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Training Squadron

The 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) Squadron operates under the authority of the 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing and is one of five active-duty AE squadrons in the Air Force. Members of the squadron typically deploy every six months for a duration of 180 days. Additionally, the squadron is on call year-round to respond to urgent, mission critical needs as they arise.

One of the squadron's most recent, visible deployments was the 2021 U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan. Making national headlines, then Capt. Leslie Green, a flight nurse with the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, came to the aid of an Afghan woman on board a C-17 evacuation flight and successfully delivered Baby Reach. For her lifesaving and heroic efforts, Green was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

When the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is not deployed, its members engage in regular training. On the installation, the squadron makes use of both a KC-135 simulation training lab located inside its building and a C-130 fuselage trainer that is permanently parked outside.

The 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing not only oversees the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron but also manages the only aeromedical evacuation training squadron in the Air Force-- the 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Training Squadron (AETS). This training unit is geographically separated from Scott Air Force Base and is located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. All aeromedical evacuation personnel in the Air Force, whether Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve, receive their initial training from the 375<sup>th</sup> AETS.

### Candidate KC-46 Basing

The 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing of the Air National Guard, located at Scott Air Force Base, has been chosen as a candidate for a future operational base for the KC-46, the newest tanker platform of the Air Force.

The KC-46 is equipped with a refueling boom driven by a fly-by-wire control system and is capable of fuel offload rates required for large aircraft. Its hose and drogue system adds additional mission capability that is independently operable from the refueling boom system. The KC-46 is also equipped with several self-protection, defensive and communication features making it more survivable in a contested environment. At full operational capability, the KC-46 will be able to refuel most fixed-wing, receiver-capable aircraft.

There are six other National Guard candidate bases in addition to the 126th Air Refueling Wing. A formal announcement of the selected base is expected in 2027 with the first of eight aircraft scheduled to arrive at the selected location in 2031.

### Joint Use Airfield

Scott AFB and Mid-America St. Louis Airport located in Mascoutah, Illinois, are home to one of only 21 active Joint Use Airfields within the Department of Defense. The 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing and MidAmerica Airport work closely together to ensure that runways are available to support both military missions and commercial activities. These military-civilian joint use partnership agreements allow for the completion of critical airfield infrastructure projects without compromising operational capability. Additionally, a key advantage of the partnership with Mid-America Airport is its 10,000-foot runway, which offers the 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing a longer distance for takeoffs and landings during its KC-135 refueling missions.

### Consolidated Communication Facility/Data Center

On August 5, 2024, renovations to the Consolidated Communications Facility, which serves as the base's Data Center, were completed. The \$32 million project, managed by River City Construction, transformed the 50,965 square foot facility by upgrading its communication, electrical, HVAC, and structural infrastructure. A new 23,702 square-foot administrative space was also added, bringing the total size of the facility to over 70,000 square feet.

This renovated, state-of-the-art facility will continue to enhance the United States' global military mission capabilities by providing critical and secure communications connectivity to more than 200 Defense agencies, military installations, and the Defense Department's eleven combatant commands. It is now the second largest Data Center in the Air Force.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Air Task Force

On September 4, 2024, a new unit was activated at Scott Air Force Base – the 12<sup>th</sup> Air Task Force.

The Air Task Force construct is a fundamental change to the way the Air Force deploys where servicemembers from the same unit now prepare together, train together, and deploy together.



ATFs, like the 12<sup>th</sup> ATF at Scott, allow the Air Force to provide a definable unit of action and establish a sustainable pace for posturing forces.

Since its activation, the 12<sup>th</sup> ATF has already conducted two combat training exercises. The first was held in November 2024 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, with more than 300 Airmen from three bases across Air Mobility Command coming together for a series of classroom, hands-on, and scenario-based training. The second combat training exercise was conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas, and at Camp McGregor, New Mexico, in January 2025. It provided servicemembers an opportunity to practice essential combat skills needed for operations in austere environments. This January 2025 training exercise also included support from the Army's 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 363<sup>rd</sup> Training Support Battalion, known as Task Force Black Scorpion. The partnership enhanced the realism of the training as Task Force Black Scorpion instructors simulated a variety of enemy tactics, including drone strikes and indirect fire, while also acting as opposing forces during combat exercises.

As it continues to prepare for its deployment in the fall of 2025, the 12th Air Task Force will participate in additional advanced training in the summer of 2025 under the Air Force's Operation Bamboo Eagle exercise.

## **Infrastructure: Projects, Partnerships, & Opportunities**

Scott Air Force Base is five times larger than when it was first established in 1917. The base covers 3,589 acres of land, which includes 59 miles of roadway and 1,589 housing units. Scott Air Force maintains several buildings on the Historic Register, as well as newer facilities built within the last 50 years.

### Construction Updates

There are two major construction projects currently underway on Scott Air Force Base.

At an estimated cost of \$101 million, contract awardee Zodiac-Poettker HBZ, Joint Venture III of St. Louis, Missouri, is completing the construction of the Joint Operations Mission Planning Center. This two-story, state-of-the art, approximately 172,000 square-foot new headquarters facility will bring together personnel from U.S. Transportation Command's TC-J3 Force Flow, Air Mobility Command, and the 618<sup>th</sup> Air Operations Center into one collaborative workspace to better synchronize efforts in coordinating and managing global mission requirements. The JOMPC is expected to be fully mission capable in 2026.

The other major construction project is the renovation of Air Mobility Command Headquarters, which manages military operations worldwide through airlift, aerial refueling, aeromedical evacuation and air mobility support capabilities. Air Mobility Command also responds to global humanitarian crises. The headquarters facility has been taken down to its studs to bring it up to

today's current seismic building codes and anti-terrorism force protection measures. All its major systems, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and communications will be replaced.

The renovation of the approximate 315,000 square-foot, three-story headquarters facility began in 2022 and is expected to be complete in 2028 at estimate cost of \$147 million. The project was awarded to Korte-River City Joint Venture.

### Storm Water Management & Flood Mitigation

Due to the base's topography and heavy precipitation events, Scott Air Force Base continues to be impacted by 25 to 100-year flood events that now regularly occur.

In 2020, 5.9 inches of rain fell in six hours. Eighteen inches of water pooled in an aircraft hangar damaging several C-21 aircraft. In total, the 2020 base flood resulted in \$3.1 million in damages. In 2022, 8 inches of rain fell in twelve hours, resulting in \$1.3 million in facility damages. During this 2022 flood event, approximately 14 inches of water flooded the hangar and adjacent parking ramp causing significant aircraft damage. In 2024, 5 inches of rain fell in six hours causing \$637,000 in damages.

These recent flood events emphasize the importance of the base's storm water management efforts and the ongoing mitigation of its flood risk.

In 2023, the 375<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing awarded a \$746,000 contract to remove log jams along the base's eastern perimeter surrounding the flightline. The removal of these log jams not only helped to drain standing surface water but also to reduce wildlife attracted to the water source, which is critical to preventing potential bird strikes against military aircraft.

In 2024, the base storm water management team in partnership with St. Clair County, local municipal leaders, federal agencies, and Heartlands Conservancy also began the process to establish an Intergovernmental Support Agreement to develop a regional, comprehensive storm water model to accurately monitor and measure rainfall, water flow, and the effectiveness of current mitigation efforts. There may be future opportunities for the state of Illinois to collaborate with the base and these organizations in the development of this IGSA, as well as the continued implementation of the storm water model.

Since recent flood events, the base has also added detention basins near Hangar 3 and installed sensors to provide advanced warnings about rising water levels to give facility managers the opportunity to take immediate actions to move aircraft and prevent damage.

Additionally, Scott Air Force Base has partnered with St. Clair County to incorporate new detention basins into their MetroLink expansion project.

More recently, in April 2025, St. Clair County formally requested a \$8 million grant through U.S. Rep. Mike Bost's office to design four water detention basins north of Scott Air Force Base

to reduce stormwater overflow and backups from Ash and Silver Creeks. The base is awaiting word from the Congressman's office on whether this \$8 million grant will be awarded.

Scott Air Force Base appreciates the state's, St. Clair County's, and the local communities' support and continued partnership in addressing this critical issue.

### Kaskaskia Fuel Pipeline Feasibility Study

In September 2023, the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) approved funds to partially cover the cost of a feasibility study for a fuel pipeline from the Kaskaskia River near Fayetteville, to Scott Air Force Base. The OLDCC provided \$315,000 of the total \$350,000 cost for the study, with the remainder covered by St. Clair County.

Under the proposed project, the Kaskaskia Port District's Fayetteville terminal would receive the fuel from barges and ship it roughly 16 miles north to Scott Air Force Base. The pipeline potentially could provide the base an alternate fuel receipt capability, enhancing its operational resiliency, while lessening both commercial fuel truck traffic on base and the risks of spills.

The feasibility study analyzed the practicality of the project, estimate costs, and environmental impacts. With its completion, St. Clair County and the Kaskaskia Port District are currently assessing the results and identifying the next steps to move the project forward.

### **Quality Of Life: Projects, Partnerships, & Opportunities**

Scott Air Force Base is its own miniature city supporting not only military and civilian personnel but also their families, as well as military retirees and veterans living in the greater St. Louis region. The base amenities include a medical clinic with pharmacies, a department store, grocery store, gas station, a non-denominational chapel, a U.S. post office, and several recreational facilities i.e.: bowling alley, golf course, and community pool.

### Child Development Center

On April 21, 2025, Scott Air Force Base broke ground on a new Child Development Center in the Patriot's Landing housing area. This new facility will be the third child development center on base. Located next door to the base's Youth Center and across the street from Scott Elementary School, this new center will include 12 childcare classrooms and will expand the base's childcare capacity by accommodating 152 children.

Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Louisville District, the \$19.8 million construction project was awarded to Zodiac-Poettker HBZ Joint Venture III, LLC. Construction is scheduled to be finished by December 2026 with the center ready for use by June 2027.

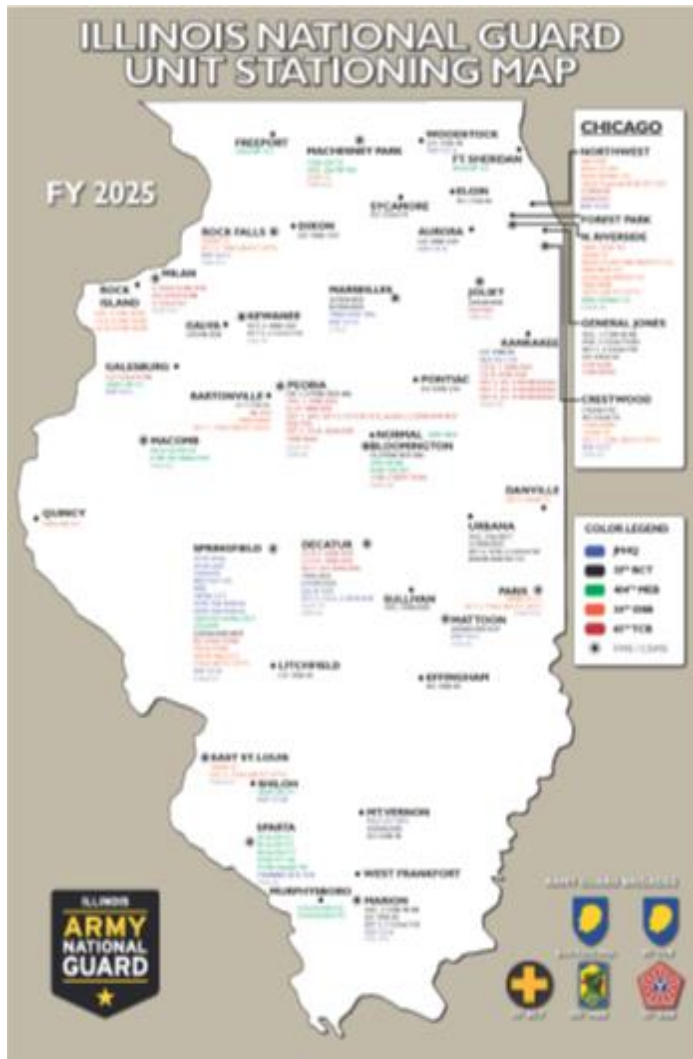
## **Conclusion**

As we look back on over a century of service, Scott Air Force Base remains a critical element of our national defense and an essential economic driver for southwestern Illinois and the greater St. Louis metropolitan region.

For decades, federal, state, and local government entities, along with nearby communities and civic organizations in the metro east region, have played a pivotal role in supporting Scott Air Force Base. They have fostered robust public-private partnerships and championed initiatives that benefit both the base and the surrounding area. This collaboration has been key in shaping Scott's legacy and ensuring its ongoing success.

## Illinois Army National Guard Report

### Illinois Army National Guard Facilities



The Illinois Army National Guard (ILARNG) has a presence in 44 communities and 228 buildings across Illinois which facilitates the readiness for over 10,000 Soldiers across the state. The total replacement value of these facilities is \$2,775,811,861 and is comprised of over 3 million square feet of space and 5,193 training site acres.

We are currently executing 41 projects including New Military Construction (MILCON), Unspecified Minor Military Construction (UMMC), or Sustainment Restoration or Modernization (SRM) bringing millions of dollars in projects to local Illinois vendors and laborers. Some examples include:

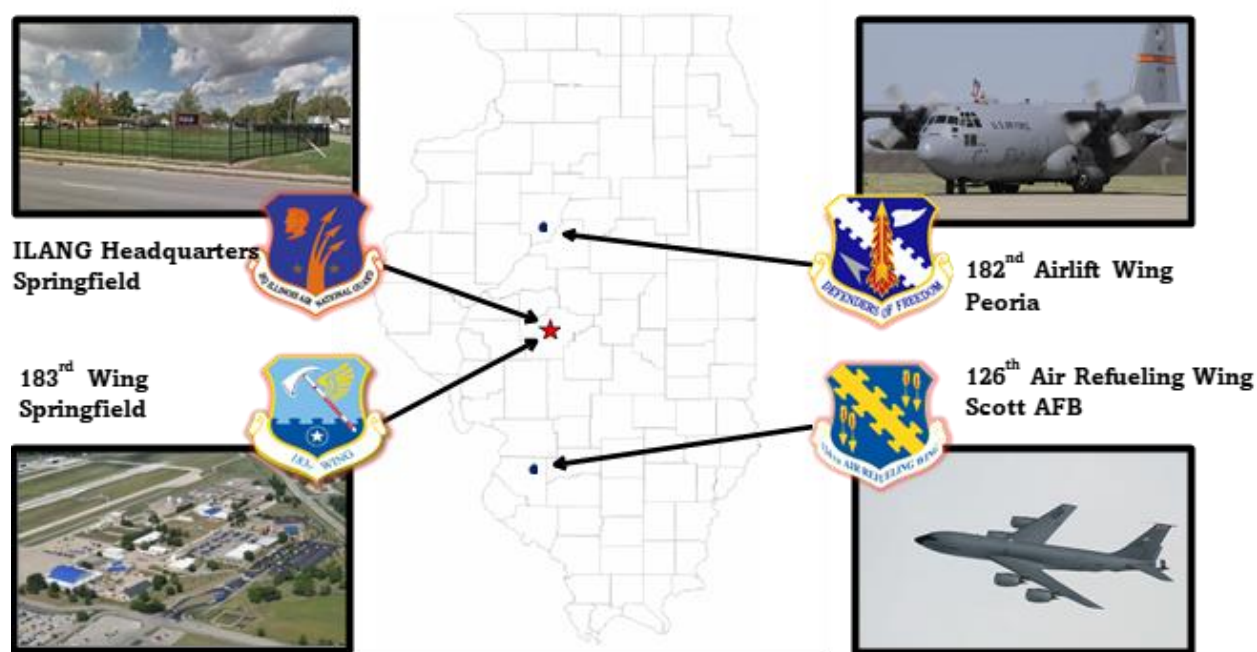
- Sustainment Restoration and Modernization (SRM): \$23 million used throughout ILARNG Facilities FY25 projects
- North Riverside Vehicle Maintenance Shop: \$24 million-dollar FY25 project
- Bloomington Vehicle Maintenance: \$18 million-dollar FY22 project
- North Riverside Access Control Point: \$3.5 million-dollar FY26 project

The ILARNG functions in various categories of buildings and bases: Readiness Centers, Reserve Centers, Combined Support Maintenance Shops, Vehicle Maintenance Shops, Army Aviation Service Facilities, Training Sites, Joint Forces Headquarters, Illinois Military Academy, Illinois State Military Museum, Lincoln's Challenge Youth Academy.

The Joint Force Headquarters in Springfield, is the largest base, employing over 600 fulltime Military, Civilian, and Support personnel.

We operate recruiting activities in many communities, including 10 storefront offices providing opportunities for thousands of Illinoisans from diverse backgrounds across the entire state.

Lincoln's Challenge Academy in Rantoul provides educational opportunities for at-risk youth from across Illinois.



### **Illinois Air National Guard Facilities**

The Illinois Air National Guard (ILANG) occupies 76 buildings at three separate facilities in Illinois in order to support over 3,000 airmen across the state. Total replacement value of these facilities is \$636,350,560, with over 1,170,723 square feet of space.

We are currently executing 32 projects including New Military Construction (MILCON), or Sustainment Restoration or Modernization (SRM) bringing millions of dollars of projects to local Illinois vendors and laborers. Some examples include:

- Peoria ANG, Repair Mx Hangar B734, Relocate Fall Restraints (\$430K SRM)
- Peoria ANG, Repair Airfield Pavements (Awaiting Est./SRM)
- Peoria ANG, Repair B632, Fire Suppression & Hangar Door (\$1.4M SRM)
- Scott ANG, Construct Aircraft Hangar (\$79M MILCON/Design)
- Scott ANG, Construct MX Shops (\$41M MILCON/Design)
- Scott ANG, Repair, Comm Facility (\$2M SRM/Construction)
- Springfield ANG, Base Civil Engineer Complex (\$13.4M MILCON)
- Springfield ANG, Demolish Buildings 12 & 13 (Awaiting Est./SRM)
- Springfield ANG, Repair Lighting Basewide – Energy Awaiting Est./SRM)

The ILANG functions in various categories of buildings: Aircraft maintenance facilities (Hangar, Fuel Cell, Maintenance Shops), Support Facilities (HQ, Security, Logistics, Engineering, Communications), Operations Buildings for KC-135 & C-130 operations, Combat Communications, Communications Engineering and Installations, Contingency Response, Air Operations Group including two Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities, and Engine Test Facilities.

The ILANG employs 764 full-time and 1920 part-time personnel.

## **State Agencies Reports**

### **Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)**

The Regional Economic Development (RED) team works closely with local and regional economic development organizations to connect communities with state resources, grants, and incentives. Helping businesses expand or relocate in areas near military bases creates jobs and economic stability, which directly benefit military families and surrounding communities.

DCEO continues to support efforts that promote growth in communities across the state, including those near military installations. DCEO is committed to offering support that aligns with local needs.

### **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)**

Staff from IDES' Veterans program participate in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) at both Scott Air Force Base and Naval Station Great Lakes. TAP provides information about employment and other services available through IDES and workforce partners in local American Job Centers. In addition, IDES assists with hiring events and job fairs.

### **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)**

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation effectively manages a tailored licensure method specifically for service members and their spouses stationed in Illinois. In alignment with Section 19 of the federal Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (H.R. 7939), the Military Portability method significantly streamlines the licensure process by reducing application requirements for military applicants.

IDFPR has a recorded total of 732 Military Service Member and Military Spouse Licenses in Illinois in 2024. Twenty-four of these licenses are at Naval Station Great Lakes, three are at Rock Island Arsenal, 49 are at Scott Air Force Base, and for the remaining 656, the base information was not provided.

### **Illinois Military Family Relief Fund (IMFRF)**

The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund provides grants to families of Illinois service members on active duty during an emergency declared by the President or Congress. Since its establishment in 2003, the IMFRF has granted \$20.6 million and supported 30,019 service members. The 2025 Fiscal Year saw 1,894 applications approved, with a total of \$956,000 in support for families of deployed service members.



## **Acknowledgments**

The Office of Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton served in an administrative capacity to support all works of the Military Economic Development Committee (MEDC). MEDC is comprised of appointed and ex-officio members who contribute their time, talent, and ideas to the work and the development of this report. The Committee is grateful to the governmental bodies, military leaders, non-profit organizations, and companies that gave their time and support, and is looking forward to future collaborations.