LOCATION GUIDE

Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

Housing, BAH, schools, gates, contacts and Metro-East know-how for the home of Air Mobility Command and USTRANSCOM.

SERIES
CONUS
PCS

FROM	TO	GUIDE
Your current duty station	Scott AFB, IL	Location
BRANCH	**BAH AREA**	**MAIN GATE**
Air Force	Scott AFB, IL	Shiloh Gate

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Quick facts and getting here
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WELCOME

Scott AFB at a glance

Scott sits in the Metro-East region of southern Illinois, about 25 miles east of downtown St. Louis. It's a headquarters base with a big-city backyard and a moderate cost of living.

FACT	DETAIL
Location	St. Clair County, IL, between Belleville, O'Fallon, Shiloh and Mascoutah
Nearest city	St. Louis, MO (about 30 minutes)
Major commands	U.S. Transportation Command, Air Mobility Command, 618th Air Operations Center and the 375th Air Mobility Wing
Size	About 12,000 military and civilian personnel; 50+ mission partner units
Founded	1917
BAH housing area	Scott AFB, IL
On-base housing	Scott Family Housing (Hunt Military Communities)
Health care	375th Medical Group clinic; TRICARE network hospitals in the Metro-East and St. Louis

Getting here

OPTION	DETAIL
St. Louis Lambert (STL)	About 40 miles; I-70 to I-64 east, Exit 19A, to the Shiloh Gate
MidAmerica St. Louis (BLV)	About 8 miles, next to base; limited flights
MetroLink	The Shiloh-Scott light-rail station connects base to St. Louis and the airport

Two states, one commute

Many families live in Illinois, but some choose St. Louis-area Missouri. The state you live in changes your schools, taxes and car rules.

COUNTDOWN

Before you arrive

Scott has a lot of senior and joint staff, so summer turnover is heavy. Apply for housing and request child care the week you get orders.

As soon as you have orders 90+ DAYS OUT

- [ ] Apply for on-base housing with Scott Family Housing
- [ ] Call the School Liaison about districts
- [ ] Look up your BAH for Scott AFB, IL
- [ ] Join the M&FRC monthly Pre-Arrival Q&A on Zoom
- [ ] Request a sponsor from your gaining unit
- [ ] In EFMP? Contact the EFMP-Family Support coordinator now
- [ ] Request child care on MilitaryChildCare.com
- [ ] Decide: Illinois or Missouri side

Book the move 60 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Schedule household goods or plan your PPM
- [ ] Start the off-base rental or home search
- [ ] Check pet rules for on-base housing
- [ ] Reserve the Scott Inn — book early in summer
- [ ] Gather school, shot and IEP/504 records

Final prep 30 DAYS OUT

- [ ] Print copies of orders and family records
- [ ] Book a DEERS/ID card appointment if needed
- [ ] Confirm arrival date with your sponsor
- [ ] Set up utilities and internet at the new address

Severe weather

Southern Illinois gets spring tornadoes, summer storms and winter ice. Learn the siren tests and pick a shelter spot in your first week.

DAY ONE

Arrival and in-processing

Report to your unit the next duty day after you arrive. Your unit will send you to the 375th Force Support Squadron for in-processing. Joint and USTRANSCOM members check in through their own staff office.

1

Your unit first

Unit orderly room, commander's support staff, or J1 for USTRANSCOM. Finance forms and an in-processing video are on the Scott Finance Office site.

2

Newcomers orientation

Held for in-processing members; spouses are encouraged to attend. M&FRC: (618) 256-8668.

Bring with you

- Orders and any amendments, with copies
- Marriage and birth certificates for dependents
- Travel receipts and PPM weight tickets
- Your CAC and dependents' IDs
- Recent LES and leave form
- Lease or mortgage papers, if you have them

Gates to know

GATE	NOTES
Shiloh Gate (main)	Seibert Road; open 24/7
Belleville Gate	Off Route 161; early morning to late evening
Mid-America (Cardinal Creek) Gate	Rush hours only
Visitor Control Center	10 Seibert Road; (618) 256-2008

Hours change

Gate and office hours change often. Check the Scott AFB site or call the Straight Talk Line at (618) 256-7232 before you go.

WHERE TO LIVE

On-base and off-base housing

Hunt Military Communities runs Scott Family Housing: about 1,600 homes in six neighborhoods. Off base, most families live within 20 minutes in the Illinois suburbs.

On base SCOTT FAMILY HOUSING

- Homes are assigned by rank and family size
- Two community centers with indoor pools and trails
- Waitlists form in summer, especially for larger homes
- Housing office: (618) 746-4911

Off base PICK BY COMMUTE

TOWN	COMMUTE	NOTES
O'Fallon	10–15 min	Most popular; strong schools; 3BR about $1,350–$1,800
Shiloh	5–10 min	Right outside the main gate; newer homes
Mascoutah	5–10 min	Small town; the district for on-base kids
Belleville	About 20 min	Older homes, lower prices, historic downtown
Lebanon / Swansea	15–25 min	Quieter, more space
St. Louis area, MO	30–45 min	City life; different state rules

Let the housing office review your lease

The Military Housing Office can review a lease before you sign and help with off-base landlord problems.

THE NUMBERS

2026 BAH and rent vs. buy

Scott BAH is set by the Scott AFB, IL housing area. Monthly rates below.

GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT	GRADE	WITH DEPS	WITHOUT
E-1 to E-4	$1,536	$1,233	W-5	$2,562	$2,094
E-5	$1,542	$1,422	O-1	$1,602	$1,527
E-6	$1,998	$1,530	O-2	$1,995	$1,560
E-7	$2,076	$1,557	O-3	$2,208	$1,830
E-8	$2,157	$1,638	O-4	$2,625	$2,073
E-9	$2,325	$1,770	O-5	$2,928	$2,196
W-1	$2,019	$1,551	O-6	$2,952	$2,214
W-2	$2,109	$1,635	O-1E	$2,088	$1,566
W-3	$2,211	$1,788	O-2E	$2,193	$1,740
W-4	$2,367	$2,013	O-3E	$2,397	$1,992

Source: DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc

Double-check your rate before you budget — BAH changes every January: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/Basic-Allowance-for-Housing/BAH-Rate-Lookup/

Some high-cost areas also pay CONUS COLA: travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/

Rent or buy?

- Metro-East home prices are moderate — many families buy
- Illinois property taxes are among the highest in the country; check the tax bill on any home
- A 3+ year tour can make buying worth it; short joint tours often fit renting
- Budget for heating in winter and cooling in summer

Ask about the property tax bill

In Illinois, property tax can add hundreds a month to a mortgage. Get the real number before you make an offer.

KIDS

Schools and child care

There are no DoDEA schools at Scott. On-base families go to Mascoutah schools. Off base, your address decides the district — the Metro-East has 30+ districts.

DISTRICT OR SCHOOL	SERVES
Mascoutah CUSD 19	On-base families; Scott Elementary is next to base housing
O'Fallon District 90 and O'Fallon Township HS	O'Fallon and Shiloh
Belleville districts and Belleville Township HS 201	Belleville
Other options	Private, parochial and Missouri districts if you live in Missouri

School Liaison

Call (618) 256-9595 for district maps, enrollment help and IEP or 504 transitions.

Military Interstate Compact

Illinois and Missouri are members — it helps with placement and graduation rules.

Colleges nearby

Southwestern Illinois College, McKendree University and SIU Edwardsville.

Child care

- Request Child Development Center care on MilitaryChildCare.com as soon as you have orders
- Youth programs run before and after school and in summer
- Family Child Care homes on base fill gaps
- Fee assistance can help with off-base care

FAMILY LIFE

Spouse, family and Illinois & Missouri rules

Spouse support

- The M&FRC helps with job searches, resumes and federal applications
- Illinois and Missouri offer licensing help for military spouses
- St. Louis has a large job market in health care, logistics and defense
- MyCAA can fund certificates for eligible spouses

Family programs

- M&FRC: (618) 256-8668
- Monthly Pre-Arrival Q&A on Zoom
- EFMP-Family Support through the M&FRC
- Financial counseling: (618) 256-1851

Illinois & Missouri rules for military families

TOPIC	WHAT TO KNOW
State income tax	Nonresident service members aren't taxed by Illinois on military pay; Illinois also exempts military pay and retirement for residents
Spouse income	Spouses who keep another legal residence may be exempt under MSRRA
Driver's license	Service members and dependents with a valid home-state license can keep it
Vehicle registration	Nonresident service members can keep home-state registration
Living in Missouri	Different schools, car rules and taxes — check with the state before you sign

OFF DUTY

Living here

You'll want a car, though MetroLink makes St. Louis easy. I-64 runs right past the base.

Climate

Hot, humid summers, cold winters with ice and snow, and stormy springs.

Shopping

BX and commissary on base. St. Clair Square and Fairview Heights have the main retail.

On base

Fitness centers, bowling, golf and Force Support Squadron events.

Day trips

DESTINATION	DRIVE	WHY GO
Gateway Arch	~30 min	Ride to the top; museum below
Forest Park	~35 min	Free zoo, art and science museums
City Museum	~30 min	A one-of-a-kind climbing playground
Cahokia Mounds	~25 min	Ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage Site
Grafton and Alton	~1 hr	River towns, bluffs and eagle watching
Missouri wine country	~1.5 hr	Hermann and Augusta
Shawnee National Forest	~2 hr	Garden of the Gods hiking
Chicago	~4.5 hr	Big-city weekend

KEEP THIS HANDY

Key contacts

Phone numbers change — call ahead to confirm hours before you drive over.

OFFICE	PHONE
Military & Family Readiness Center	(618) 256-8668
Scott Family Housing	(618) 746-4911
School Liaison	(618) 256-9595
Visitor Control Center	(618) 256-2008
Straight Talk Line	(618) 256-7232

OFFICE	PHONE
Scott Inn	(618) 256-1844
Personal Property (TMO)	(618) 256-1201
Legal office	(618) 256-3542
TRICARE East	(800) 444-5445
Nurse advice line	1-800-874-2273

Add your own

CLINIC APPOINTMENTS

ID CARD OFFICE

SECURITY FORCES

SPONSOR

Links

Scott AFB home page · Scott AFB Housing · Scott M&FRC · BAH Rate Lookup · Plan My Move

Sources: PCS Pay It Forward Scott AFB guide; MyBaseGuide Scott AFB welcome center; DoD 2026 BAH rates via FedRateCalc.

READY FOR THE FULL PLAYBOOK?

Go step by step with the kits.

Worksheets, trackers and a complete binder setup for every stage of your move.

pcslikeapro.org

hello@pcslikeapro.org

WORKSHEET

Plan your landing

My housing budget

ITEM	AMOUNT
My monthly BAH	$
Rent or mortgage	$
Utilities (estimate)	$
Renter's or homeowner's insurance	$
Left over (BAH minus costs)	$

Neighborhood comparison

AREA / ADDRESS	RENT OR PRICE	COMMUTE TO GATE	SCHOOL DISTRICT	NOTES

First-week checklist

- [ ] Report to your unit
- [ ] Update DEERS; get dependent IDs
- [ ] Turn in travel and moving paperwork
- [ ] Register with Child and Youth Programs
- [ ] Attend newcomers orientation
- [ ] Enroll in TRICARE
- [ ] Enroll kids in school
- [ ] Pick your storm shelter spot