

Major General Richard M. Scott distinguished himself in a military career that spanned more than 49 years as Air Force officer, Pennsylvania guardsman, and patriot. General Scott was appointed the Adjutant General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the first and only Air National Guardsman to receive this distinction. His tenure saw unprecedented growth in the Air National Guard role in performance of Air Force missions throughout the United States and overseas.

General Scott graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. After graduation from the Army Air Corps Flying School, General Scott was initially assigned as a fighter pilot to the 329th Fighter Group, at Salinas, California. In January 1944, he was based in the United Kingdom, where he participated in the air campaign against Germany. While flying his thirteenth combat mission, General Scott's aircraft was shot down over the Dutch countryside. He spent the next four months evading German forces in occupied areas of Holland, Belgium and France, before being captured and imprisoned at Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany. After two unsuccessful escape attempts, he persevered, finally making it back to the Allied lines in April 1945.

His expertise was utilized from wing to staff level and took him from fighter test pilot and engineering officer with the Fighter Test Section, Air Proving Ground at Eglin Air Force base, Florida, to Chief of the Nuclear Plans Section for the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe in Belgium. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1967. After retirement from active duty, and service as mayor of the city of Lancaster, General Scott was appointed as Pennsylvania's 47th Adjutant General and throughout General Scott's tenure as Adjutant General, all of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard units attained unmatched levels of combat readiness and an unprecedented influx of modern equipment. National Guard contributions to Total Force missions reached unparalleled levels as General Scott skillfully directed the endless organizational challenges required to make the Guard an unfailing, modern component used daily in the nation's defense. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Major General Richard M. Scott reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and truly warrant his induction in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.