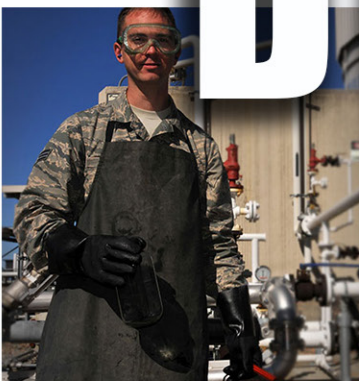
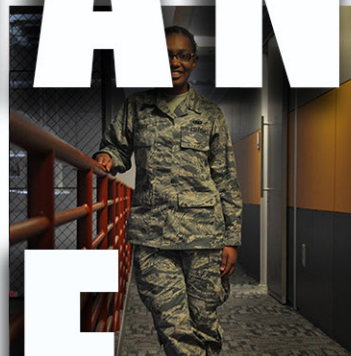
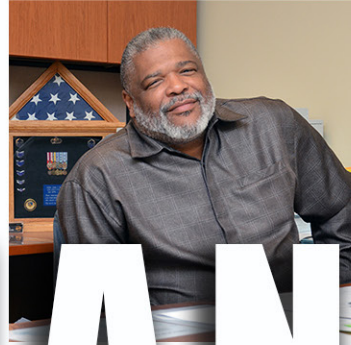


SPECIAL EDITION

# HERCULES Journal

Official magazine of the 94th Airlift Wing



HUMANS  
OF  
DOBBINS

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## MESSAGE FROM **THE STAFF**

### ***A fresh look and feel for springtime***

You may have noticed our quarterly publication has been rebranded. What was the “Falcon Flyer” is now the “Hercules Journal.” The changes are not in the name alone. We wanted to take a fresh approach to telling the story of Team Dobbins, so the look and feel is also new. We hope you like our new direction.

For this quarter, we feature our “Humans of Dobbins” stories. These tell you something interesting about our team members. If you have something to say, please let us know - we want to tell your story!

## ON THE **COVER**

Members of Team Dobbins who are featured in our “Humans of Dobbins” edition of the Hercules Journal are seen on this month’s cover.

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This funded, Air Force magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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**“My sister and I come from Colombia. My mother left us there when she went to the U.S. with the plan of coming back to get us in six months.”**



“Four years passed and we finally made it to the U.S., so my sister ended up playing the role of mom. We are very close. She has a PhD in music and I want to live up to her. We came from a very poor neighborhood. Everyone always assumes that since I’m from Colombia I either smoke marijuana or sniff cocaine. Even though I was poor, I never did. I think it was because of my education and my sister was very into school and I wanted to be like her. I still want to be like her. She is my role model. A lot of people say they look at their mothers, I look at my sister.”

- Senior Airman Dianna Estrada





**“I’ve refueled  
Air Force One  
twice.”**

I really like my job. I get to see the President from a distance. I can see him when he comes off the plane, just like you can on television except I see him in person, right there in front of me. I get to park right underneath the plane and go halfway up the steps to take my picture with the Air Force One emblem behind me. It’s a cool experience. Cleanest plane ever.”

- Senior Airman Ryan Fickle



"I don't really come from a family with military experience.

## **Both of my parents have significant disabilities, as they are legally blind.**

Right now my dad is running for disability caucus, he is trying to be the speaker for them. There were definitely hardships, but we have been really lucky. We haven't ever wanted for anything, and we never had to worry about being kicked out of our house, but it definitely hasn't been easy for them, but I think I came out pretty well. When I grew up, I was in a smaller area, and one of my best friends spent his time in a wheelchair. I don't really know if having him as my best friend would change if my parents were not in the situation that they were in, but I know that it was a significant part of how I thought."

- Senior Airman Vincent Olsziewski



**"You have to get outside your norm and live as the Romans do."**

"I have been to the whole east coast, and also the United Kingdom, Italy, Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Puerto Rico. I love to see different places, different cultures, taste different foods. I always try to tour the country I go to...I want to see where the people are, how they live, what they do. When I went to Jamaica, I didn't stay on the main beach or the main strip, I went into town. You see the houses that look like they are abandoned, but they actually have 4 or 5 families living in them, and goats roam the streets like cats and dogs do here. You really get to see the culture. Some people are so close minded, that they think that the only way of living is how we do here, and that's not the case."

- Tech. Sgt. Jasmine Turk





## **“I was a teacher for four years.**

When I was in college, I was going to school for chiropractic medicine and had a couple family deaths that caused some life reevaluating. I had started doing some tutoring for adult literacy and math and realized I loved it. So, then I changed my major to math education.”

- Master Sgt.  
Charmone Newell



“I’m about two years out from retirement and I’m going to do everything I can to spend more time with my kids. They mean the world to me.”

- Staff Sgt. James Sutherland



"My family and I recently transferred from a rural area in Ohio.

# The pace is so different here.

I was hesitant at first, but I love the diversity. It's been enjoyable. We've learned a lot about ourselves. My daughter is into equestrian jumping. It takes up a lot of our time. She got into it during a class she took at a camp. She loves it and is very good at it. She wins all of her competitions. It's been a great confidence boost for her."

- Master Sgt. Amy Sims



"When I was a student at Coastal Carolina University I wrote for the college paper. We had a dude there named Yaw Adome (I believe he was from Ghana), who had a WWE wrestling belt, and when he graduated he left it. So I told our editor, 'I'm the champ now, right? I get to be the champion?' And she's like,

**'Do you want to fight me for it?'**

I said, 'No, I'm just going to take it.'"

- Senior Airman Kyle Drapeau



**“My family  
is my world.  
I work hard  
for them.”**

They are the foundation to why I have so much drive. I want them to see that you have to push yourself. You have to have dreams and goals. That is the source to being happy. We tried for over a year before we had our first one. It was harder than we expected. You don't know what to expect with your first one. I was scared and nervous. But, that first time I held him, all of that went away. Everything else in the room faded away. I don't have words for what it's like to be a mom."

- Staff Sgt. Jamie Link



**“My favorite holidays  
are Thanksgiving and  
Christmas. I grew up  
in a family with  
six siblings.”**

We have family gatherings with 32 nieces and nephews. It can get a bit crazy, but it's enjoyable! Every holiday is a family reunion."

- Master Sgt. Alexes Abrams



**“I came home from school one day and mom had bought mini-sharks.”**

I didn't know you could own exotic animals. It got me thinking and eventually led to me pursuing a degree in fisheries and wildlife. I would love to get a job that allows me to travel and see exotic animals.”

- Airman 1st Class Kendra Jenkins



“I was born in Montgomery, Alabama. I always wanted to live in Georgia. I love the people and all the different social things going on. I love going to art museums and learning about the area. I love to sing and I dabble in poetry.

**I love Maya Angelou.  
I was inspired by her.”**

- Tech. Sgt. Dionne Wilson







“The night before we smoke the Boston butts, we go and pick them up from different places like restaurants and depots and then we put them in a cooler with ice on the bottom and ice on top. Pre-roast, we put salt on them and then brine them out to get as much blood out of them as possible. The next day, we bring them in and take them out of the brine and put them on a tray and use what we call a butt rub (with my wife’s secret ingredients). Then we put them on. It usually takes about eight hours.

## **The key is getting the fire going.**

It’s hard to do when it rains so much like it did yesterday. About eight hours later we start taking the temperature. Once they’re cooked, we take them off and wrap them, put them on a lower part of the grill, and wait for them to rise in temperature from 160 degrees to 170 degrees inside the tin foil. Then we take them off and put them aside, and people come to pick them up.”

- Jerry Van Patten





**“I do not fear  
the future, for  
me and my  
accomplishments  
are the future’**

is a quote I put in my high school yearbook. It is something that has stuck with me since I can remember. That was who I was, I felt that I was the future. I always had high expectations for myself. I graduated early, was in honor society, was in JROTC and was a cheerleader. In January of my senior year, I was hospitalized for a week and had my gall bladder removed, and I missed almost a month of school. It was a major drawback, since it was near the end of my senior year. I missed a lot of work. But, I had some great, cooperative teachers, and I was able to get through it all.”

- Airman Alicia Clark

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Humans  
— *of* —  
Dobbins