Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta was originally called Rickenbacker Field in honor of World War I flying ace Captain Eddie Rickenbacker. It was used mainly for training purposes during World War I and came to be known as the Marietta Army Airfield. Then it became known as the Marietta Air Force Base.

During World War II, the runway was used by the famous B-29 Super Fortresses that were built in Marietta at the Bell Aircraft plant. On February 6, 1950, the name of the base was officially changed in honor of Captain Charles M. Dobbins of Marietta. Captain Dobbins was killed when his C-47 carrying paratroopers was shot down over the Mediterranean. Neither Captain Dobbins nor his plane were ever recovered.

Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta adjoins Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems. Dobbins Air Reserve Base is the largest multi-service reserve training base in the world. Owned by the Air Force Reserve, Dobbins supports more than 10,000 guardsmen and reservists from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. It is home to nearly 50 aircraft assigned to different flying units and boasts more than 7,000 take-offs and landings each month. Among the aircraft based at Dobbins are the C-130 Hercules, DC-9 Sky Train, C-12 Beachcraft Kingair, C-560 Cessna Citation, FA-18 Hornet, E-2 Hawkeye, AH-1 Cobra, UH-1 Huey and UH-60 Blackhawk.

A number of C-130, C-141, and C-5 transports may be seen at the Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems Company. The base provides the runway, control tower, weather and rescue services to all tenants. In addition, Dobbins accommodates a large number of aircraft from other bases that frequently can be seen on the flightline, including Air Force One.