



In her own words..... Carey Gavilanes

What does this Raider team mean to me? That question seems almost impossible to answer. I've been on the team for all 4 years and I can honestly say it was one of the best and most rewarding experiences of life. I learned how to become a leader, not through JROTC, but through Raiders. My first 3 years on the team, the female leaders were Kelly Smith and Kayla Wiles. They were so motivating and inspirational. I looked up to them so much and just about idolized them. Well, this year Tara, Sarah and I took their places on the team. I didn't think I would be able to motivate the team the way they did but as time went on, I did a good job and realized how much I learned over the past 3 years on Raiders.

I've grown so attached to my team mates, especially this year. Tara, Sarah, Sam, Faith, Kylie, and cutie pies Carrie and Chantal. Those six girls have made my year. Each of them brought something great and different to our team and I can honestly say I love them all and will always remember them.

There there's CSM Mike. He put so much into this team, it still amazes me. Throughout the years I've grown attached to that old man. He feels almost like a father to me. I'll never forget all of his 'words of wisdom' "If you're gonna be dumb, ya gotta be tough" ... "Life is like a corndog" "Everyday in Africa..."

Words can't express how much I will miss Raiders next year. It just doesn't feel right thinking that this was my last year on Raiders.

I am so immensely grateful to my six teammates and CSM Mike for everything. I wish the best of luck to both the female and male teams next year. My teammates (and CSM Mike) will forever be in my heart.

-Carey Gavilanes