

What my training and participation in JROTC has meant to me.
By C/TSgt Meg Harris UT-20171

Being in JROTC has been such an incredible and enjoyable experience and it has meant so much to me. One important thing I have learned is how to lead others as well as follow. My senior cadets have helped me to lead others (I was a Flight Commander and am currently our Academic Bowl Commander) and have confidence in myself to do so. It can be hard to lead your friends, but I am getting better. I have also learned that I am more capable than I think I am. I love being able to present the Colors to my entire school on a football field but it can make me nervous. I always know I'll get through it though because JROTC has made me more confident. Being a good leader will help me so much, not just in JROTC, but in my other classes and jobs in the future. This skill will carry through when it is needed to take charge and have confidence to do so. I might not know what I want to do later in life, but at least I will have these good skills for when I do know.


The reason I first joined JROTC was for college. I was looking ahead for classes that would look great on a college application. I have always been a bit of a worrier about my future. I felt I needed to accomplish certain things to make sure I am on the right path and that I am happy with what I am doing. But I think I am starting to realize that maybe another reason I joined was because it was familiar to me. I grew up in a military household, since both my parents were Air Force officers. We moved every 2-3 years and I have many family friends who were also military. So, I think joining Air Force JROTC was also slightly comforting for me.

JROTC has given me a community of people to turn to, lean on, and have fun with. I have met some great friends that have given me so many fond memories. I probably would have never met some of these friends if I hadn't taken this class. Having these people in my life means the world to me. I understand now what my parents meant about how the military is a family and they will always be there for you. Yes, technically I am not in the military, but I am a part of group of people who are there for me. They make me laugh and feel like I belong. JROTC has given me a sense of family and purpose.

It has also made me reconsider what I want to do for my future. I grew up thinking I will never be in the military and that this class is just to look good on paper. Yet, I still find myself thinking about the possibilities of joining the military and being an officer. I have learned a lot about the opportunities I could have, and I have actually started considering going a military route because of what AFJROTC has taught me.

This class has been a meaningful impact on my life. From making friends and having a place to belong; to making me think about what I truly want to do after high school and considering what will make "future me" happy. I know how to lead with confidence and follow others and be part of a team. JROTC has helped me become more responsible as well. Air Force JROTC means a lot to me and I love having people and skills that will help carry me through life, no matter what I end of doing.

C/TSgt Meg Harris

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.