

Statement of General Leia Organa

My name is Leia Organa. I am a General in the Resistance, a military organization I founded when it became clear that the First Order's violations of the Galactic Concordance posed an existential threat to the galaxy.

Poe Dameron has been a pilot for the Resistance since its early days. Throughout his service, Dameron repeatedly volunteered for high risk assignments, including the mission to Jakku to find Lor San Tekka and Operation: Sabre Strike, among many others. Both of Poe's parents served in the Rebellion. His mother helped us save Naboo from Operation: Cinder. One of my first interactions with her was while I wrote condolence letters to the families of those lost at the Battle of Endor. After her untimely death, I wrote the Damerons a condolence letter that as the stars shine, Shara Bey will be remembered.

I had many letters to write after Poe's actions at D'Qar.

When I recruited Poe for the Resistance, his passion, skills as a pilot, and dedication to doing what is right reminded me of my brother. I also knew he could be rash and foolish. But foolishness and passion are often confused, and in Dameron's case, I knew he would be a brave and loyal officer.

When the Resistance had to evacuate its base on D'Qar, I was the ranking officer, and commanded the fleet from the cruiser *Raddus*. At that time, Dameron held the rank of Wing Commander. During the evacuation, he disobeyed my direct order to disengage from his assault on a Dreadnought. We lost our entire bomber squadron in the attack. When Dameron returned to the *Raddus*, I demoted him to Captain. I needed him to learn there are things you can't solve by jumping in an X-wing and blowing up ships, and I told him so. "Dead heroes," I retorted when he protested. "No leaders."

We had little time to reflect on our losses. Soon after we dropped out of hyperspace, Snoke's ship and more than two dozen Star Destroyers appeared on our holographic displays. A torpedo destroyed the main bridge of the *Raddus*, hurling me into the vacuum. I was able to use the Force to feel my way back through the wreckage to the air lock, but it took all of my strength. The last thing I remember before waking up in the medical suite was Dameron, Finn, and Lt. Connix running to meet me at the inner door.

Vice Admiral Amilyn Holdo took over command after I was injured. I first met Holdo in pathfinding class in the Apprentice Legislature, many years ago. I wasn't sure what to make of the odd girl from Gatalenta at first, but I soon grew to trust her implicitly. As I learned when I awoke after the attack on the *Raddus*, Dameron did not.

My team had to break through the doors to get to the temporary bridge, because Dameron had ordered them sealed after taking control of the ship. When he saw me, he lowered his blaster. I stunned him, and then had him loaded onto one of the transports.

When Dameron came to, I explained that the First Order was tracking our cruiser, not monitoring for smaller transports. Resistance techs had installed bafflers on the transports,

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reducing their already low energy outputs to the point where First Order sensors would most likely miss them. Dameron finally understood Holdo's plan, and recognized her heroism for what it was. When Lt. Connix accused Holdo of running away from the Star Destroyers, Dameron knew better. "No, she's not," he said, and she wasn't. He was starting to grasp what I needed him to learn when I demoted him. That's why I told the others to follow him on Crait. I still hold out hope he can become the kind of leader that the last of the Resistance so desperately needs.