

Character Doctrine – Farida Dad

Transcript

Appearing

In order of appearance:

1. CMDR Phillip Smith
2. SCDT Farida Dad

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Transcript details

- CMDR Phillip Smith Good afternoon, Farida. Thank you for coming out to the Australian Defence College today, to support the Centre for Leadership, Defence and Ethics in telling us your story about the vignette that you contributed to the philosophical doctrine. I'll get you to tell me a little bit about yourself, and then tell us the story that you contributed. So over to you.
- SCDT Farida Dad Thank you very much. My name is Farida Dad 29 years old. I was born in Afghanistan, during the Taliban regime. I became a refugee to Pakistan, which contributed to my language skills. I speak four languages: Farsi, my mother tongue, English, Urdu, and a bit of Pashto. From Pakistan, I came to Australia in 2006.
- SCDT Farida Dad I finished my high school from Sydney and did my bachelor's degree from University of Canberra. We then as a family moved to Melbourne, which I call home now. In 2018 I made the decision to join Army. I graduated from Kapooka as a clerk. My first posting was in the School of Army as an admin clerk,
- SCDT Farida Dad and then I became a corporal in 2021. And my second posting was Headquarter 1D Joint Operation Group. I did only one year of posting in Headquarter 1D, and from there I decided to go commission, to become an officer. Currently I am in RMC third class, conducting my training.
- CMDR Phillip Smith Excellent. could you tell me about, your story? And the story, you know, focusing on the landscape, the people and the challenges and how that knitted into your contribution to the character doctrine.
- SCDT Farida Dad When I was in Kapooka in 2018, I was part of the Delta Company. Amazing time. Tough time, of course. Very stressful. Learning a lot of new stuff, challenging your comfort zone, and specifically getting your hands onto weapons.



- SCDT Farida Dad which was my weakness. I failed LF6 several times, which was the reason that I got back-squadded to Echo Company. In Echo company, everyone was new. The friends, the peers, that I made was in Delta Company. Getting back-squadded to Echo Company further... it stressed me out. I was frustrated. Stressful moments. I had to do the whole four weeks that I had done in Delta Company again in Echo Company.
- SCDT Farida Dad Basically, all these stressful times, made me decide that I wanted to leave the Army. I wanted to put my paperwork in, discharge, and go home, but then there were characters in the Army during that time that played a very important role, on my decision of staying. Basically, gave me the purpose that the purpose of staying is a stronger than the purpose of quitting.
- SCDT Farida Dad When I was in Delta Company, the marksmanship. He was an amazing character who always advised me to respect and love weapon before shooting. Don't just come with a stressful mind that, 'Oh, I have an LF6 to shoot and I have to pass it'. It's not about failing or passing, it's more about what you are doing and love to do it and have the respect to do it.
- SCDT Farida Dad He helped me to firm my position. He helped me with my decision to head from: hate weapon, to: love the weapon. Because I clearly remember when I first shot live rounds, the smoke just hit me, and I decided to leave the weapon and set it aside. I said, I'm not shooting again. No, no, it just reflects your past memories of not having good memories about weapons.
- SCDT Farida Dad Which he played an important role to make me understand the weapon system. Why you are shooting. If you are shooting. Love to shoot. Not just come up saying 'Oh, I have to pass it'. Still. I got back-squadded. I was on the process of learning, liking the weapon. But I got back-squadded because, of course, I was way behind than others.
- SCDT Farida Dad I came to Echo company, I was crying, no, I had to make new friends. New seccos, but then it's still my decision became even more firm that I want to leave. I want to discharge because I don't want to make new friends. I don't want to go to a new section command is teaching me how to shoot.
- SCDT Farida Dad But then I said, let's give it a week. Let's give it another week, let's give it another week. And my dad, I think, played a very big role in that too, because he keeps telling me, don't quit, keep going. Another week, another week, another week. And I did not realize how those four weeks passed so quick. When I, when we went to the range for LF6, I made the decision of not shooting.
- SCDT Farida Dad I said, 'I'm putting discharge paper to go anyway', but then I see another character. He just told me to 'Come and shoot with me'. I said, 'I'm not shooting'. He said, 'Nah, you're shooting. Come. You can't go from here.' He gave me live rounds. I went to shoot with him. He, after ten rounds, he commented only one, one sentence.
- SCDT Farida Dad 'You shoot just fine'. 'You shoot just fine,' for him was a sentence. For me. That was a big statement. That statement made me to believe in myself



- that, 'Oh, I'm not a best shooter. I just need to work a little bit to get from "fine" to "better"'. That's it. And he gave me dot points. What to work on. Work on your breathing, your trigger control.
- SCDT Farida Dad Get your firm position. So, he gave me four dot points to work on it. I said OK, only do four dot points. I can do that. He went one step further and gave me a printed A4 paper with a circle with a dot in it, and he was just telling me to. He put it in my room and he said 'Each time, close your eyes, take a deep breath and make sure you focus on that dot.
- SCDT Farida Dad That's all you need to do'. I said, 'Okay', and that paper was in front of me when I was ironing my uniform. When I was even, sometimes when I had to go to take a shower, the paper I used to take with me. I said, 'I can still work on it. I have five minutes in the shower. I can work on it.'
- SCDT Farida Dad So I did work and he could, for all his stubbornness, it was not only me, but everyone. He was helping everyone. He had that character that he was caring for everyone. He was having this empathy for everyone. I did work on that trigger, a dry fire, everything. So, once I ticked off all those four boxes, I had this confidence I want to go with him again.
- SCDT Farida Dad I want to shoot, and I want to show him that whatever elements you asked me to do, I have done it. LF6, final day of scoring. I went to him and I was shooting. All he was saying 'Maintain. Maintain'. So back then I did not know exactly what 'maintain' mean, but I said, 'Okay'. He says, 'Maintain.' Let's maintain, let's maintain, and maybe I'm a little bit further, but I will get there.
- SCDT Farida Dad And then it was on the last series, which was moving target. He said, 'Dad, if you get this five shot, you will be passing first class'. First class was between 200 and 235. And I was like, am I such a good shooter? Getting from back class to the first class, it gave me more confidence. I said, 'Yep, I'm getting that five shots.'
- SCDT Farida Dad I shot all five of them down and passed LF6, with first class, which my school was 205 from 235, I think I was second or third best shooter of that class.
- SCDT Farida Dad That trust he had in me make me feel confident in myself that nothing is impossible. All you need to do is practice, practice and again, practice. Practice makes you perfect. I think he deliberately did not mean to help, but it was his character. He was caring for us, whether it was LF6, whether it was PT session, whether it was BFA or even PESA.
- SCDT Farida Dad He was doing it with us, supporting us, helping us. And he was going that beyond his boundaries to assist us. Sometimes in the evening he was supposed to be home, but he was coming to us, talking to us, helping us. What element is really challenging you? Do you need any further help in it?



- SCDT Farida Dad Both characters that played a very, very essential role. They both went one step further. They wanted to develop that potential in their subordinates to keep going and also just have fun. I know Kapooka is stressful. No one wants to be there more than 90 days. Trust me, I was there more than 90 days and I loved my time there.
- SCDT Farida Dad I know it was stressful. It was training, environment, but I learned a lot from there and that decided that I'm in the involvement of training once again. And I love my time. I love being in the Army, and that is my lifetime decision to stay in the Army.
- CMDR Phillip Smith Okay. Thank you Farida for sharing your story with us. it's a great story, and it's a testament to the character of some of the people in, in our organization. So thank you.
- SCDT Farida Dad Thank you. Sir. One last, thing I want to say to both characters, Sergeant Marc Plant and also CPL Matthew Wielozynski. I no longer shoot 'fine', I shoot 'great'. Thanks to you guys.

