



**Det 6 Commander**  
Col Clif Stargardt

**Superintendent**  
CMSgt Jeannie Norton

## Det 6 Force Development Briefs

Telecom: 813-828-8255 Pin: 808

10 Feb 17—Enlisted Force Development

24 Feb 17—IR Utilization

10 Mar 17—Officer Force Development

24 Mar 17—URC Responsibilities  
(Assignment Process)

7 Apr 17—Joint Officer Qualification

21 Apr 17—Understanding the Orders  
Process

16 Feb 17—Newcomers Briefing —  
Every 3rd Thurs of each month (Short  
Course)

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## RIO Detachment 6— The Pelican Brief



### From the Commander:

#### The Four Habits of Highly Successful IMAs

In my time here at the helm of HQ RIO Detachment 6, I've been able to witness the complete spectrum of IMA participation, IMA effectiveness to the active duty mission, and the value that active duty organizations place on their IMA force. And it is a spectrum, thankfully much more to the positive side than the negative. As such, I'd like to offer some perspective on how you, the IMA, can maximize the participation availability that you have, and influence your effectiveness and value to the active duty even more to the positive side. Simply put, the most successful IMAs tend to have these four habits.

#### 1. They are proactive. Always.

To proactive IMAs, Readiness items are a no-brainer. They stay current (green in ARCNet) on their PHA, dental, immunization, fitness test, and security clearance requirements because an opportunity for duty could show up any time. Overdue Readiness items adversely affect your ability to participate, so stay green and it's never an issue. Proactive IMAs seek additional training opportunities, such as applying for Reserve School Selection Board courses. They lead-turn their orders requests in AROWS 10-15 business days, and proactive IMAs are always working towards their "PhD in IMA."

They're reading the wealth of information on the IMA program that's available on the HQ RIO website, such as the Individual Reservist Guide and IR Travel Companion. There are also many short videos from Col Carolyn Stickell, the HQ RIO/CC, that outline processes and provide guidance on navigating the IR program. Proactive IMAs are continuously learning.

#### 2. They communicate, communicate, communicate.

Successful IMAs are well engaged with their supervisor, Unit Reserve Coordinator, and/or commander, even when they're not on duty. They're checking their email from home on a regular basis (weekly or monthly), preventing inboxes from getting full, and responding once in a while to let their unit know they're still out there. When they have an orders request that entails an unusual circumstance, successful IMAs are communicating what they want/need to do with their detachment at the earliest opportunity. And successful IMAs read the Detachment 6 newsletter (like now) and like our Facebook page. We communicate a lot of information that way, and knowledge is power.

#### 3. They are value-added! Corollary: They make themselves indispensable!

Air Force Reserve Command touts its ability to provide "operational capability with strategic depth and surge capacity." Depending on your participation availability, you can be one or all three of those as an IMA. Each provides value to an organization, but to different degrees at different times. If you're in an organization that has a large MPA budget, and you have availability, you could be day-to-day operational capability. Full-time IMAs are working 24/7 on operations floors as intelligence analysts, joint fires officers, security forces, and special operations instructors. If you can only participate to the minimum requirements, you are strategic depth to your unit, in case of deployments. Successful IMAs add value in those cases by providing continuity and expertise, and are fully engaged in the mission for the times they're on duty.



## RIO Detachment 6— The Pelican Brief



### The Four Habits of Highly Successful IMAs—Cont.

And for IMAs who have additional availability, or focus their duty times around peak demand times (such as major exercises), you are value-added as surge capacity. And in the cases where the active duty leadership tells me, “I can’t do my mission without my IMAs,” (whether in surge or full-time capacity), then you have made yourself indispensable.

#### 4. They teach the active duty.

Successful IMAs try to educate the active component about Air Force Reserve processes. The active duty often assumes IMA processes are a different world. Routing performance reports and Promotion Recommendation Form (PRFs) are handled the same way as the active duty. What are MPA man-days, what are RPA man-days, and how to get orders are things the active duty wouldn’t know about if they’ve never worked with IMAs or the Reserve before. Help them understand. Teach them that, unlike other service Reserve Components, Air Force IMAs are “owned” by the active duty. Teach your leadership to treat you just like an active duty member who is on leave or deployed all the time when you’re not on duty. If you help the active duty learn, the unfamiliar world of the Reserve won’t seem as daunting to them.

The recipe for success in the IMA program is not a secret and it’s not complicated. The most successful ones have strong duty performance and these four habits.

Col Clif Stargardt

### 1 January 2017 Enlisted Promotions:

SMSgt Valerie Rivera (3 IS)                      SMSgt Cecilia Morales (SOCOM)  
MSgt Christie Suydam (755 OSS)      MSgt Farida Burenbeiya (SOCOM)  
MSgt Stephani Colston (SOCOM)      TSgt Anthony Oaks (366 SFS)

### Det 6 Organization Email Boxes:

Just a reminder, we ask that all customers utilize the Det 6 Org Boxes to ensure you receive a quicker response. Below are the three main org boxes used at Det 6—MacDill.

**Force Management** - [Riodet6forcemgmt@us.af.mil](mailto:Riodet6forcemgmt@us.af.mil)

Assignments/Enlisted Promotions/SRP/Reenlistments/UPMR Mgt

**Readiness & Integration** - [Riodet6.readiness@us.af.mil](mailto:Riodet6.readiness@us.af.mil)

Orders/Readiness/Waivers/Formal School

**Resource Management** - [Riodet6@us.af.mil](mailto:Riodet6@us.af.mil)

DTS/All other services

### Connect with RIO Det 6



#### Det 6 (MacDill)

813-828-5035; DSN 968

#### Resource Management

[RIODET6@us.af.mil](mailto:RIODET6@us.af.mil)

#### Force Management

[RIODET6FORCEMGMT@us.af.mil](mailto:RIODET6FORCEMGMT@us.af.mil)

#### Readiness and Integration

[RIODET6.READINESS@us.af.mil](mailto:RIODET6.READINESS@us.af.mil)

#### OL-JBL (Langley)

757-764-5101 DSN 574

[HQRIO.Det6OL-JBL@us.af.mil](mailto:HQRIO.Det6OL-JBL@us.af.mil)

#### OL-HUR (Hurlburt Fld)

850-884-2820; DSN 579

[riodet6olhurlburt@us.af.mil](mailto:riodet6olhurlburt@us.af.mil)

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- [Detachment Directory](#)
- [The Guide for IRs](#)
- [Travel Companion for IRs](#)
- [Wingman Toolkit](#)
- [MyPers](#)
- [AROWS-R](#)
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# RIO Detachment 6— The Pelican Brief



## IR Spotlight

By Lt. Col. Erin Karl—(SOCOM Public Affairs)

Bill Walsh is a familiar face to the people of Charleston, S.C. He’s been the lead weather forecaster for the #1 station there for 30 years. His face is on billboards and his professional Facebook page has 17,000 followers.

Many Charleston residents have come to rely on Bill for his forecasts; some also know about his “side gig.” Bill is also Lt. Col. Bill Walsh, an Air Force Reserve public affairs officer who the last three years has taken on a distinctive position within the IR world; he’s one of two individual mobilization augmentee public affairs officers who support the U.S. Special Operations Command Para-Commandos.



Bill Walsh is the #1 Weatherman in Charleston, S.C., when he’s not on Reserve duty. He is also Lt. Col. Bill Walsh, public affairs officer for the Special Operations Command Para-Commandos parachute demo team.

“It’s the most amazing military job I’ve had so far,” said Lt. Col. Walsh. “You’re part of a team made up of Navy Seals, Army Rangers, Green Berets, and Marine Special Operations members. You better be ready to keep up!”

The Para-Commandos are the U.S. Military’s only joint parachute demonstration team. They are made up of special operators from all services who are assigned to staff jobs at SOCOM headquarters at MacDill AFB, Fla. Their participation on the team is a voluntary additional duty which takes them to airshows and sporting events across the country to demonstrate special operations parachute insertion techniques and call attention to the vast talent and sacrifice of special operations forces stationed around the globe. As a Para-Commando, Bill wears four hats as a trained drop zone safety officer, weather officer, narrator and public affairs officer, bridging his civilian expertise in meteorology with his military role. He was recently selected to be one of the team members chosen to work the National College Football Championship game between Clemson and Alabama where three teammates flew in the flags of each team as well as the American Flag. “What a game!” said Lt. Col. Walsh. “To be a part of it, to be on the field and supporting these guys was a complete thrill. It was also the only time my civilian job has crossed over my military job. Since Clemson was in the game, my station sent reporters to cover it and I was able to arrange great coverage for the Para-Commandos for the station I work for. Go Tigers!”



Lt. Col. Bill Walsh, an Air Force IMA reservist attached to the Special Operations Command Para-Commandos, narrates their jump in an Air Show. He also serves as the public affairs officer, drop zone safety officer and weather officer.

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Lt. Col. Walsh’s position with the Para-Commandos is an example of how IMA reservists can be creatively used to enhance and support active duty missions.

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813-828-5035; DSN 968

### Resource Management

RIODET6@us.af.mil

### Force Management

RIODET6FORCEMGMT@us.af.mil

### Readiness and Integration

RIODET6.READINESS@us.af.mil

### OL-JBL (Langley)

757-764-5101 DSN 574

HQRIO.Det6OL-JBL@us.af.mil

### OL-HUR (Hurlburt Fld)

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## RIO Detachment 6— The Pelican Brief



### IR Spotlight—Continued

Air Force IMAs are most often seen assigned to active duty offices around the Air Force in rather predictable ways. They augment their active duty counterparts in order to plus up the office when in need or provide additional help and expertise. However, sprinkled across the Department of Defense are IMAs who fill a particular niche that enhances the active duty mission in a different way.

"Lt. Col. Walsh's type of reserve job is not the norm," said Col. Clif Stargardt, commander of his Reserve Readiness and Integration Organization detachment, "but that's what so great. There are many creative ways IMAs can be used to provide operational capability, strategic depth, and surge capability. With a reservist like Lt. Col. Walsh in a position like the one he fills with the Para-Commandos, you get all three. It's fantastic."

The Para-Commandos perform two or three weekends a month, and during those times the team needs help with media interaction and scheduling. Instead of detailing an active duty PA from SOCOM headquarters, the two IRs split the duty of providing those on-site PA resources. "Bill Walsh is truly A TREASURE. Actually, that's his nickname on the team, said Mr. Keith Walter, leader of the Para-Commandos. "He has increased our media and press engagement by probably 1000%. That's not hyperbole. Prior to his arrival on the team, we were lucky to interact with the press three or four times a year. Now it's three or four times a weekend."

Lt. Col. Walsh has been nominated both this year and last year for Para-Commando of the Year. He's the only reservist in the history of the team to be nominated for the award. Mr. Walter says that's a testament to what a great asset he is for the team. "He's not just an asset," said Mr. Walter. "He's a treasure!"



Lt. Col. Ken Ates, an Army Green Beret and member of the Special Operations Command Para-Commandos, jumps the American Flag into the College Bowl Championship Series game between Clemson and Alabama. (Photo Courtesy of Yvette Walter)

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