



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

September 2011

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LtCol, USAF, Ret

1st Vice President
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Capt, USN, Ret

2nd Vice President
Wally Schlauder
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John Hunt
Col, USA, Ret

Ed Dodd
LtCol, USA, Ret

Past President
Tom Kelley
Capt, USN, Ret

Fall kick-off

It's September and we're starting another year of Lewis and Clark Chapter meetings. We will meet on Tuesday, September 20, at the Tri City County Club. In our previous meetings here the attendees have enjoyed both the food and the location.

Our speaker will be Carl Adrian, president of the Tri-City Development Council since 2003. He came to the Tri-Cities from the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area of Iowa where he had spent nine years as the president of the Cedar Valley Economic Development Corporation. Since taking the helm at TRIDEC, Adrian has developed key relationships with local ports, city and state governments, the Department of Energy, and Hanford contractors as TRIDEC strives to nurture local economic development. Carl's subjects will focus on the Hanford layoffs and Hanford land use, both important to the local economy and our quality of life. If time allows he will address other current topics.

Reservations by Saturday night, September 17, to Bob Allen.

Elections

We ran into difficulty at the end of last season trying to find a nominee for president. Luckily, Pat Kenny, a new member, stepped up and agreed to run for the office. We will start the September meeting with an election of officers. Nominees are

Pat Kenny, President
Ernie Bitten, 1st Vice Pres.
Wally Schlauder, 2nd Vice Pres.
Bob Allen, Secretary
Paul Seipt, Treasurer

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Hq MOAA reports . . . Debt Deal: What You Need to Know

Congress agreed to a last minute debt reduction deal and raised the debt ceiling. But the compromise is remarkably short on details and relies largely on the budget cutting recommendations of a soon to be formed Congressional "Super Committee." Here are key points about the deal:

- Cuts include \$350 billion in savings from the base defense budget already agreed upon earlier this year
- Establishes a Congressional bipartisan Joint Committee, often referred to as the "Super Committee," tasked with identifying an additional \$1.5 trillion in debt reduction, including discretionary (e.g., pay raises, procurement, etc.) and direct (e.g., Social Security, TFL) spending; the Committee will also consider tax revenue measures
- Requires \$1.2 trillion in cuts if the "Super Committee" fails to reach an agreement, or Congress fails to pass the committee's recommendations by December 23
- Cuts would be divided between defense and non-defense defense spending

The Super Committee is authorized to look at both discretionary and direct (mandatory) spending meaning that military retirement, TRICARE, Social Security, etc., are on the table for cutting.

However, if the Committee cannot reach an agreement on how

to cut an additional \$1.5 trillion from the debt or if their recommended cuts fail to be adopted by Congress, an enforcement mechanism, sequestration, will trigger automatic, draconian spending reductions starting in 2013.

If sequestration is employed Social Security, Medicare beneficiaries (but not providers), and military retirement are exempt from mandatory cuts.

MOAA is especially concerned about the prospect of sequestration. Although military retired pay, Social Security, and Medicare beneficiaries are protected from these cuts it

could leave TRICARE and Medicare providers extremely vulnerable.

And this is only the beginning of several years of successive budget reductions. Both the right and the left are looking to reduce defense spending and the quickest way there is cutting manpower and compensation.

In this environment, it will be essential for the military and veterans community to stay alert and actively involved to protect against abrogation of long-standing com

mitments. If you think Congress and defense leaders wouldn't do that, you need only look at the hard experience of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s, when the military regularly RIFed large numbers, capped pay raises most years, cut retirement, kicked older retirees out of military health care, and much, much more.

The competition for limited dollars will activate massive lobbying and campaign donations programs that mean jobs in home districts.

This would be a good time to write to your congressman and senators.

Lewis and Clark Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
106 Hills West Way
Richland WA 99352-9446

Tri City Country Club
314 Underwood
Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30
Dinner at 7:00
\$27.50 per person

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid.*

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 20

Reservations by

Saturday, September 17

Bob Allen
627-6226
moaa.tricity@charter.net

Menu

Herb crusted pork loin
Pan seared salmon with brandy
butter cream sauce
Tossed green and Caesar salads
Vegetable medley
Assorted mousses
All non-alcoholic beverages