



LEWIS AND CLARK CHAPTER  
TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



# COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

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**December 2023**

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## Extra Duties

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## Holiday Meeting Russian Cyber Threat

Our holiday meeting will be at the Zintel Creek restaurant; the staff has come with an outstanding menu. Our speaker will be Karl Scheuerman, many of you met him at our October meeting. He began his career as a U.S. Air Force intelligence officer. After six years on active duty, he has continued to serve part-time in the Air National Guard and is currently assigned to the 252nd Cyber Operations Group at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. His military assignments have included deployments to Turkey and Afghanistan, as well as command of a cyber threat intelligence squadron. In his civilian career, Karl has worked primarily in cyber security. His current role is directing the threat hunting team for Dragos, a cybersecurity vendor focused on securing industrial control system networks. Karl holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Maryland - College Park, and a Master's degree from the Eisenhower School at National Defense University. He currently lives in Richland, WA with his wife and three young daughters.

Karl will call on his expertise in his presentation. In the context of strategic competition, Russia has

increasingly attempted to undermine U.S. interests over the past several years at levels below the threshold of armed conflict. Many of these actions, such as election interference and cyber attacks against key infrastructure, have disrupted America domestically. Another tactic the Kremlin could pursue in the future is targeting American food security. Russia has quietly become a global food superpower, with demonstrated expertise in manipulating global food systems. This presentation will evaluate the potential threat of Moscow specifically disrupting the U.S. wheat industry. Of all grains the U.S. produces, Americans consume more wheat than any other, making it the country's most essential food staple. Significant impacts to America's ability to produce and transport wheat could have far reaching global security and economic impacts.

Please note, this month reservations go to Paul Seipt, not Bob Allen.

## Dues

It's time renew memberships. Dues are \$25, unchanged since 2014, what a deal! Send your dues to

Paul Seipt  
381 Clovernook St  
Richland WA 99352

Make your check out to "L&C Chapter." Better yet, bring it to the December meeting.

## HqMOAA sends . . .

### Pharmacy Copays: Protecting against excessive increases

A top priority for MOAA in the second half of the 118th Congress is protecting TRICARE beneficiaries from excessive pharmacy copay increases.

With the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress gave DoD the authority, starting in 2028, to set prescription drug copays to reflect changes in pharmacy program costs. MOAA is concerned the Defense Health Agency might use this authority to implement excessive copay increases.

Initial TRICARE pharmacy copays, established by DoD, followed legislative intent and were aligned with commercial plan benchmarks. Since then, Congress has legislated pharmacy copay increases.

Most recently, Congress included a table in the FY 2018 NDAA with biennial pharmacy copay increases through 2027. Those increases have aligned TRICARE copay levels with those in other employer-sponsored plans.

MOAA appreciates the TRICARE pharmacy program does not have a separate, more expensive tier for specialty drugs but is concerned about the future of TRICARE pharmacy copays.

### Service Academy Cadets with Children Allowed to Stay

The Pentagon has published its policy allowing cadets and Midshipmen to continue their education at the nation's service academies if they have children while enrolled, instead of having to leave school. Under the prior policy, cadets who admitted to either procreating or giving birth to children were kicked out, and might have been on the hook to pay back the cost of their education.

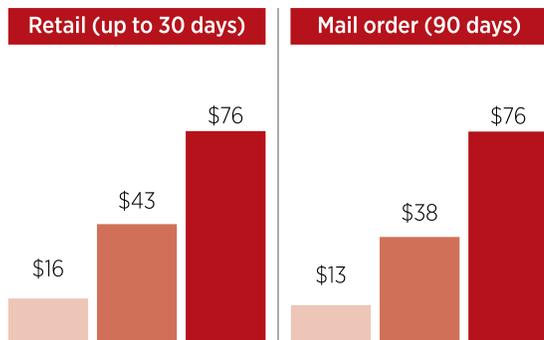
The policy now recognizes temporary guardianship plans that direct who will care for their child while they finish their education -- a practice already put in place by the academies in lieu of Pentagon guidance. The child can't live at the service academy. Those who give birth will be granted one year to two years of leave and will be temporarily waived from physical fitness requirements through pregnancy.

The child will be able to take advantage of Tricare health coverage as well as other benefits, but cadets and Midshipmen will not "receive additional benefits, pay, or allowances as a result of their gaining a dependent until commissioned into active-duty service," according to the instruction.

### TRICARE PHARMACY COSTS FOR 2024

As of Jan. 1, TRICARE copays for prescription drugs will increase for both retail network pharmacies and pharmacy home delivery.

Generic  
Brand  
Nonformulary



SOURCE: FY 2018 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT, SECTION 702

GRAPHIC: JOHN HARMAN/STAFF

Zintel Creek Golf Club  
314 N. Underwood  
Kennewick

Social hour: 6:30  
Dinner: 7:00  
\$34 per person

*A reservation made  
is a reservation paid*

## December Meeting

Tuesday, December 19

Reservations by  
**Thursday** Dec 14 to  
Paul Seipt  
(509) 521-3478  
pama227@charter.net

## Menu

Marinated Tri Tip  
Lemon Garlic Cod  
Cinnamon Roasted  
Butternut Squash  
Honey Balsamic  
Brussels Sprouts,  
Garden Salad  
Sweet Potato Gratin  
Beverages  
Dessert