



# Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



September 2024

## Chapter Officers

President

Aaron Pickett  
Cdr, USN

Vice President

George Stotz  
Capt, USA, Ret

Secretary

Bob Allen  
Maj, USAF, Ret

Treasurer

Paul Seipt  
LTCOL, USMC, Ret

## Directors

Richard Ciccone  
LTC, USA, Ret

Matt Boehnke  
LTC, USA, Ret

Past President  
Ron Weed

LtCol, USAF, Ret

## Extra Duties

High School ROTC  
Ron Weed

Legislative Liaison  
Matt Boehnke

Auxiliary Liaison  
Richard Misener

## Chapter email

moaa.tricities@charter.net

## US military air power First use

Our speaker at the September meeting will be Chapter member and former president Ron Weed. His topic is the first use of US air power in a military operation.



**Pancho Villa (not Ron Weed)**

Pancho Villa started his revolutionary activities around 1910, supporting effort to overthrow Mexican President Porfirio Diaz. Over the next several years, Villa engaged in revolutionary activities, often changing which other revolutionary he supported. Eventually, his army was defeated and his forces were reduced to guerillas operating in the state of Chihuahua. Although previously looked upon with favor by the US government, support fell, supplies were cut off, and support shifted to the Mexican government. Villa decided to retaliate and perhaps provoke the US to attack the shaky Mexican

government. Villa's band conducted a raid on Columbus, New Mexico, in March 1916. The raid was not strictly to punish the US; military equipment and supplies were seized. They attacked a detachment of the 13th Cavalry Regiment, burned the town, and seized 100 horses and mules and other military supplies. Eighteen Americans and about 80 Villistas were killed. This was the most remembered attack of the Mexican Border War, although three other attacks were attributed to Villa but never confirmed: Glen Springs, San Ygnacio, and Fort Hancock, all in Texas.

President Woodrow Wilson ordered 5,000 US Army soldiers to pursue Villa in a Punitive Expedition. The declared purpose of the expedition, led by newly promoted General John Pershing, was the capture of Pancho Villa and his gang. Villa knew the territory of Chihuahua; he was a bandit but a successful leader of the Mexican Revolution in North Mexico.



**Gen. John Pershing**

Despite prejudice against Blacks, Pershing (then called "Black Jack") led his experienced mounted Black Buffalo Soldiers deep into the dry harsh Chihuahua State with little water and great distances to cover. This was a first attempt by the Army to fly the still untried biplane ("Jenny" or JN 3-4) in the first use of American air power.

Could Pershing with 6,700 troops locate Villa before he was able to escape? Could they view from above the movement of the main body of Villa's command and punish those who were responsible for the Columbus raid? Don't miss Ron's talk for the answers.

**In memory . . .**

Wally Schlauder, Commander, USN, a long time chapter member, passed away Friday, August 30. Wally's funeral will be held at Christ the King church on Saturday, September 14th. Rosary 10:30; Mass 11:00; Inurnment 2:00. Reception after mass at the church.

**Don't count on a big COLA**

Military retiree pensions (and Social Security) get a cost of living boost every January. It's based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, calculate in September and announced in mid-October. Current estimates are around a 2.6%

increase, the lowest since 2020's 1.3%. Keep in mind, this isn't supposed to provide a richer life, it's just to catch up the purchasing power of your check with inflation.

**Air Force reinstitutes warrant officer ranks**

The Air Force selected a crop of recruits to take part in a program that will train the service's first warrant officers in 66 years. The Warrant Officer Training School will enroll 78 airmen, according to an Air Force

press release, and classes will begin in October at Maxwell AFB.

The Air Force stopped enlisting warrant officers in 1958 after creating the E-8 and E-9 ranks.

"These airmen are poised to assume critical roles as technical experts, functional leaders, and advisors within their specialized domains," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Allvin said in the release. The school will train cyber and information technology warrant officers.

**New Masthead**

The chapter newsletter, website and Facebook page have a new masthead. The old one featured emblems of the services; it turns out those are trademarked and we'd need written permission from each service to use them. Instead, I redid it using an image of Lewis and Clark. I couldn't find an image I liked that wasn't copyrighted, so I asked an AI app to make one. Here's the old and new mastheads.



Red Lion Pasco  
Bin 20 Meeting Room  
2525 N. 20th Ave  
Pasco

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

*A reservation made  
is a reservation paid*

**September Meeting**

Tuesday, Sept 17

Reservations by  
**Thursday, Sept 12** to  
Bob Allen  
Text: (509) 554-6992  
moaa.tricities@charter.net

**Menu**

Sliced Prime Rib in Chaffer  
Tossed salad w/ toppings  
Steamed vegetable medley  
Garlic mashed potatoes  
Warm rolls with butter  
Chef choice dessert  
Coffee, water, iced tea