



Lewis & Clark Chapter

TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON



October 2024

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Operation Allied Force

Our October 15 meeting at Zintel Creek will feature Kevin Smith, Colonel USAF retired. He will talk about his experience as the 49th Operations Group Commander and Deployed Commander for two expeditionary F-117 “Stealth Fighter” Squadrons to Operation Allied Force in 1999, more commonly known as the Kosovo Conflict.



Kevin Smith

In 1989 the imposition of Serbian authority in the predominantly Muslim province of Kosovo led to years of tension and violence between Serbs and Kosovar Albanians in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. President Milosovic’s policy of ethnic cleansing produced flows of refugees and displaced people. International negotiators had proposed autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, guaranteed by the presence of a NATO-led peacekeeping force. By March 1999, they failed to convince the Serbians to

change course and diplomatic avenues were deemed exhausted. Serbia started an effort to push the Muslim Kosovar population out of Kosovo by burning houses, raping women, murdering civilians, and committing a wide range of other atrocities. Those atrocities continued throughout the conflict, including when Serbian Forces executed nearly 400 Kosovo Albanian civilians (men, women, and children) during the Meja massacre on April 27th.

Serbia was given a 60-day deadline to withdraw from Kosovo. They failed to meet the deadline, and on March 24 NATO and US air forces commenced offensive combat operations. The NATO air campaign was designated Operation Allied Force with the objective of “halting the humanitarian catastrophe.” Coalition forces started first by targeting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia’s air defenses and gradually escalated the campaign using the most advanced, precision-guided systems and avoiding civilian casualties to the greatest extent possible. After nearly ten weeks of steadily intensifying air attacks, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted NATO’s terms; offensive operations ceased on June 10th.

The air campaign was the first war against a sovereign nation in NATO’s history and the first combat operation conducted for humanitarian objectives against a state committing atrocities within its own borders. When Yugoslavian troops started to withdraw, the Kosovar Albanians

started returning to their homes once NATO forces established a security presence. The Alliance of NATO and French forces held together during 78 days of air strikes in which more than 38,000 sorties with over 10,000 of the missions flown being combat strike or ground attack sorties. The Operation Allied Force mission was successfully completed without a single Allied Force fatality.

Col. Smith will talk about his experience as the 49th Operations Group Commander and Deployed Commander for two expeditionary F-117 "Stealth Fighter" Squadrons to Operation Allied Force, the 8th Fighter Squadron "Black Sheep" deployed to Aviano Italy and the 9th Fighter Squadron "Knights" that was deployed to Spangdahlem Germany. Colonel Smith dropped the first bomb in the Operation Allied Force conflict. He also flew the highest risk F-117 combat missions throughout the campaign and was awarded several combat awards including a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star. At the MOAA dinner meeting, he will speak on the Stealth Fighter's role in Operation Allied Force including the tactical plan that caught the Serbian Air Forces by complete surprise. In addition, he will share the story about being within 100' of an F-15C when it shot two missiles at a Mig-29 that blew up into a fireball in front of them.

Kevin Smith has held a number of senior leadership positions with both the Department of Energy and

Department of Defense. His last two positions with the Department of Energy were as the Manager of the Office of River Protection and Manager of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Site Office. He also served 29 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. Some of his assignments include Air Combat Command's Chief of Safety, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (DJ3) for U.S. Forces Korea, Commander of the 49th Operations Group at Holloman Air Force Base, and Commander of the 311th and 308th Fighter Squadrons at Luke Air Force Base. Kevin was an instructor pilot in the F-4, F-16, and the F-117 Stealth Fighter. He is a graduate of the U.S. Fighter Weapons School, Air Command & Staff College and Air War College.

Kevin is from Olympia, Washington. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy with a bachelor's degree in physics and also completed a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in management from Troy State University. He and his wife, Dorothy, reside in Richland, Washington.

**HqMOAA sends . . .
TRICARE Medical
Equipment Coverage**

When facing illness or injury, you might need to rely on equipment that can help you as you deal with your medical condition, whether it's temporary or long term. You might need something small, such as a blood sugar meter, or a larger item,

perhaps a wheelchair.

Both Medicare and TRICARE can help cover the costs of durable medical equipment (DME). DME are items prescribed by a physician that can withstand repeated use and are primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose and generally are not useful to a person in the absence of an illness or injury.

Medicare and TRICARE both cover DME that:

- Must improve, restore, or maintain the function of a malformed, diseased, or injured body part or can otherwise minimize or prevent the deterioration of the patient's function or condition.
- Maximizes the patient's function consistent with their physiological or medical needs.
- Provides the medically appropriate level of performance and quality for the current medical condition.
- Is not otherwise excluded by regulation and policy.

For Medicare and TRICARE For Life (TFL), as long as the DME supplier is enrolled in Medicare, Part B pays 80% and TFL pays the remaining 20%.

According to Medicare.gov, if the supplier isn't a Medicare participant, then do not accept the assignment because there is no limit on the amount they can charge you.

Zintel Creek
314 N Underwood St
Kennewick

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

*A reservation made
is a reservation paid*

October Meeting
Tuesday, October 15

Reservations by
Thursday, Oct 10 to
Bob Allen
Text: (509) 554-6992
moaa.tricitie@charter.net

Menu

Tuscan Stuffed Chicken Breast
Breaded chicken stuffed
with fresh basil,
mozzarella cheese,
roasted red peppers.
Alfredo Pasta
Steamed Vegetables
Spinach Salad
Assorted Rolls
Dessert Pumpkin Mousse
Coffee, water, iced tea