

How do you know your blood is going to the troops? Give to the red, white and blue.

What is the Armed Services Blood Program?

- Official blood collection, manufacturing and transfusion program for the U.S. military
- Is the provider of blood and blood products to the U.S. armed forces
- Provides blood to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families worldwide
- One of 4 organizations that ensure the U.S. has a safe, potent blood supply
- Blood cannot be donated directly to the military through a civilian organization
- Works with civilian counterparts in times of need

WHO WE ARE

History of the ASBP

- Stood up in 1952 by President Truman
- Tri-service organization representing all 3 branches of service – Army, Navy, Air Force
- Since 1962, Fully-operational, distinct blood program organized much the way it is today
- After the Korean War, took over collection, processing and transporting blood products for the military from the American Red Cross

Safety and quality of ASBP blood

- Governed by FDA guidelines to maintain safety and quality of our blood and blood products

We are not the same organization as the American Red Cross

- But we do work closely in times of need, as we do with all civilian blood agencies: America's Blood Centers, Blood Centers of America and other local hospital organizations.
- Blood cannot be donated to the ASBP through a civilian organization
- When civilian agencies collect blood on a military installation, an agreement is made to ensure that for every certain number of units collected, a certain number of credits are set aside to be used upon request by the ASBP
- Many service members who are treated in civilian hospitals receive blood from civilian agencies
- Sharing donors is part of how we all work together to save lives
- The ASBP also provides blood to civilian agencies when needed
- Remember, anywhere and anytime you donate, you save lives

WHERE WE ARE

Blood for the battlefield is transported by the ASBP

- Anyone receiving blood or blood products in a combat area will receive blood through the ASBP
- More than 150,000 units of blood transfused on the battlefield in the last 12 years
- Since program's inception, more than 1.5 million units of blood have been transfused for battlefield illness and injury

More than 20 ASBP blood donor centers worldwide

- Centers in the U.S., Germany, Guam and Japan
- 11 Army blood donor centers
- 8 Navy blood donor centers
- 3 Air Force blood donor centers
- Many blood donor centers conduct mobile blood drives
 - ◊ If interested in hosting a blood drive, contact your local recruiter

WHY WE EXIST

We support them all: active duty, retirees and military families

- Blood and blood products are used for patients of all ages, for many reasons
- Blood is used to treat cancer patients, surgical patients, battlefield injuries
- Each unit is critical when you consider:
 - ◊ 40 or more units of blood may be needed for a single trauma victim

- * Army Lt. Nicholas Vogt
 - » 1st Lt. Nicholas Vogt received more than 500 units of blood
 - » More than any other survivor in combat history
 - » He received 404 units in Kandahar alone
 - » More than 300 service members in Afghanistan lined up to donate blood after hearing about his injuries and need for blood
- * Marine Cpl. Mark Fidler
 - » Marine Cpl. Mark Fidler received 120 units in one day
 - » He received 68 units the day after
 - » The hospital prepared 20 units of blood for him every time he went into surgery (multiple surgeries during his initial recovery period)
- ◇ 8 units of platelets may be required daily by leukemia patients undergoing treatment
- ◇ 1 pint can sustain a premature infant's life for 2 weeks
- The ASBP supports the needs of military personnel and their families during war and peace
- Blood must be available to military hospitals for scheduled and emergency procedures

ASBP recipients are not just active duty service members in the line of duty

- Provides blood for service members and their families back home
- Provides blood for service members in military treatment facilities around the globe
- Recipient base extends beyond military community to natural disasters or other catastrophes
- ASBP is called upon to serve civilians in need, at home and globally during humanitarian missions
- Examples:
 - ◇ Haiti earthquake (2010)
 - ◇ Continuing Promise missions (humanitarian and civic assistance mission to Latin America and the Caribbean)
 - ◇ Pacific Partnership missions
 - ◇ DOD PEPFAR (U.S. President's Emergency Plan for HIV Relief) missions

More wounded warriors survive today due to battlefield-tested advances in blood science

- Mortality rates for OIF, OEF and Operation New Dawn are lowest in any conflict
- Largely due to battlefield advances in the science of blood banking and transfusion
- Only 10% of battlefield injuries from OIF/OEF result in death
 - ◇ 16.1% during Vietnam
 - ◇ 50% during WWII

Blood is a matter of national security

- Blood is a critical battlefield requirement
- Can be a tactical maneuvering component
 - ◇ In Operation Desert Storm, Gen. Schwarzkopf sent pallets of blood to locations to trick the enemy into falsely predicting troop movements
- Information about production, transportation and storage of blood products is a matter of national security
- Secrecy and security of military blood supply end-to-end is essential for readiness needs of the combat troops

We owe blood to our fighters

- Safe, potent blood products must be ensured for the men and women who put themselves in harm's way for the security of our nation
- Blood supplies are critical for preparedness and battlefield success
- Blood product capability to meet military medical staff and war fighter needs must remain within the military community to honor the pact between service members and their leadership
- Only a military-centric program can guarantee unequivocal service to our military community

How do you know your blood is going to the troops?

1. **The only way to know your donation will definitely go to the ASBP, directly supporting service members on the battlefield, is to look for the flag blood drop when you donate.**
2. **Give to the red, white and blue.**
3. **Look for the U.S. flag blood drop. Donate.**
4. **Remember, anywhere you donate, you save lives.**