



JOINT STATEMENT

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The Nation's Blood Organizations Work Together for the Greater Good

July 23, 2007 – The blood needs of America's fighting forces are met by the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP), whose collection practices are designed to maintain self-sufficiency in blood collection and blood product manufacturing for the purpose of operational security.

Blood donations collected by civilian agencies are provided to the ASBP upon request and as needed, to supply specific blood products. In light of the fact that ASBP is essentially self-sufficient, that need is infrequent.

The blood programs that serve this nation work together to ensure that both the civilian and military populations have immediate access to a safe and adequate blood supply. This can only be accomplished through the generosity of volunteer blood donors.

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About AABB

AABB is an international association dedicated to advancing transfusion and cellular therapies worldwide. Our members include 1800 hospital and community blood centers, transfusion and transplantation services and 8000 individuals involved in activities related to transfusion and transplantation medicine. For over 50 years, AABB has established voluntary standards and inspected and accredited institutions. Our members are responsible for virtually all of the blood collected and more than 80 percent of the blood transfused in this country. AABB's highest priority is to maintain and enhance the safety and availability of the nation's blood supply.

About ABC

Founded in 1962, America's Blood Centers is North America's largest network of community-based blood programs. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response, the federation of 77 blood centers together operates more than 600 collection sites in 45

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U.S. states and Canada, providing half of the U.S., and all of the Canadian volunteer donor blood supply. These blood centers serve an area with more than 180 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 4,200 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. ABC's U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Canadian members are regulated by Health Canada.

About ARC

The American Red Cross, through its 35 Blood Services Regions and five National Testing Laboratories, supplies nearly half of the nation's blood supply. Over 6 million units of whole blood were collected from more than 4 million Red Cross volunteer donors, separated into 12 million components, and supplied to 3,000 hospitals to meet the transfusion needs of patients last year.

About ASBP

The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) plays a key role in providing quality blood products for service members and their families in both peace and war. As a joint operation among the military service (Army, Navy, Air Force), the ASBP has many components working together to collect, process, store, distribute, and transfuse the blood worldwide.