



# JOINT STATEMENT

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## A JOINT STATEMENT BY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY BLOOD PROGRAMS

**October 16, 2007** – The blood needs of America's fighting forces are met by the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP), whose practices are designed to maintain self-sufficiency in blood collection and blood product manufacturing for the purpose of operational security.

On October 9, 2007, a Department of Defense (DoD) Policy was signed, allowing civilians to donate blood on military installations and at federal sites during a state of war or catastrophic event. 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 an adequate blood supply. This can only be accomplished through the generosity of volunteer blood donors.

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### **About AABB**

Established in 1947, AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) is an international, not-for-profit association dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine and related biological therapies. The association is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programs and services to optimize patient and donor care and safety. AABB membership consists of approximately 1,800 institutions and 8,000 individuals, including physicians, scientists, administrators, medical technologists, nurses, researchers, blood donor recruiters and public relations personnel. Members are located in all 50 states and 80 countries. AABB administers the National Blood Exchange, a resource-sharing program that assists facilities throughout the United States by coordinating the movement of surplus blood and blood products to areas in need.

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### **About America's Blood Centers**

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 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 the American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest U.S. supplier of blood and blood products. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.

### **About the Armed Services Blood Program**

Formally established as the Military Blood Program in 1952 by Presidential Order as part of the National Blood Program, today's Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) consists of approximately 81 blood banks and blood donor centers worldwide, including 21 Food and Drug Administration licensed blood donor centers.

The Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) is a joint health agency chartered to monitor the implementation of blood program policies established by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) [ASD(HA)] and to coordinate the blood programs of the military Services (Army, Air Force, and Navy) and the unified commands. The U.S. Army Surgeon General, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, serves as the Executive Agent for the ASBPO for administrative support and staff supervision. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), by Memorandum of Understanding, are responsible for the review and provision of guidance in all matters regarding blood support in joint operational planning. The ASD(HA) provides policy guidance to the ASBPO. All of the ASBP components function together to successfully operate the military blood program.