



ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM

A LIFELINE FOR MILITARY MEDICINE



- The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) ensures a steady supply of blood for our service members around the world during the holiday season and throughout the year.
- ASBP is a joint operation that collects, tests, stores, transports and distributes blood products.
- The Navy is a key member of ASBP with the Army and Air Force. Navy blood donor centers collect and ship nearly 18,000 blood products annually in direct support of our warfighters, retirees, and their families worldwide.
- ASBP operates 20 Blood Donor Centers across 6 regions across the globe!



- DYK**
- 40 or more units of blood may be needed for a single trauma victim
 - Apheresis platelets may be required daily for leukemia patients undergoing treatment
 - 1 pint of blood can sustain a premature infant's life for two weeks



- ASBP, in partnership with civilian blood agencies, guarantees a reliable and uninterrupted supply of critical blood components to our nation's heroes, both at home and abroad.
- The use of Low Titer O Whole Blood (LTOWB) collected by the ASBP is currently being utilized in military treatment facilities (MTFs) as well as on the battlefield. These whole blood units are crucial for traumatic injury where there is massive blood loss.
- With the use of blood components—red blood cells, apheresis platelets, and plasma—ASBP optimizes resource allocation. This targeted approach allows for precise medical treatments, maximizing the impact of each donation.

NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*

NAVY MEDICINE AND PENN MEDICINE RENEW PARTNERSHIP

- In **Sept. 2021**, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) **established a military-civilian partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS)** to provide embedded clinicians a platform for training and skills sustainment in a level I trauma center.
- On **Nov. 19, 2024** UPHS and BUMED signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewal to **last until October 2030**.
- This renewed partnership will evolve into supporting a **structure to train and sustain the skills of Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) and En-Route Care System (ERCS) teams**.



Rear Adm. Rick Freedman, Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy, and Mr. Kevin Mahoney, Chief Executive Officer, University of Pennsylvania following the MOU signing, Nov. 19, 2024



USS SOLACE AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS AFTER THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR



USS Solace had been anchored off of battleship row at Pearl Harbor during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941. Although the ship escaped damage, its medical complement were among the first responders.

- Prior to Dec. 7, 1941, the crew of the hospital ship USS Solace planned to hold a Christmas party, but fate intervened. For weeks after the attack, **Solace's medical personnel worked around the clock tending to survivors**. The party became an afterthought, but the crew all agreed on how important it was to move ahead with this plan.
- Corpsmen collected cedar trees to serve as the ship's Christmas trees. And the **crew managed to collect enough tinsel, holly, decorations, knick knacks and candy so that every patient aboard would receive a gift**.
- On Christmas Eve night, after all the patients were all fed, a yeoman dressed as Santa Claus arrived on deck with a bulging bag on his back. He then led a small **procession that included an accordion playing corpsman and six Sailors singing carols**. As they bestowed gifts to the patients they were joined by the ship's officers and crew...all along the way the volume of voices singing carols grew louder as they moved from ward to ward.
- One Navy nurse who took part in these festivities later remarked it was the **"biggest, most important Christmas Eve"** she had ever known.