

DIVISION CHIEF MESSAGE

Hello team! Since our last newsletter, there has been no shortage of challenges, however, I have also seen no shortage of commitment across the ASBP to our vital mission. Budget reductions, continuing resolutions, delayed FAD outs, and the loss of the majority of our Attainx team have placed even further stress on the already difficult job we perform every day. In spite of these added stressors, I am amazed to see the unwavering commitment to our mission and the ingenuity that each of you have demonstrated. Its that commitment that ensures our service members, their families, and all of our beneficiaries will receive blood when and where they need it.

In April, MAJ Martinez and the ASBBC PNW team successfully executed a blood drive at the Military Health System Conference in Portland where top leaders from across the DoD came out to donate and support our program. Also in April, COL Evans led a successful blood drive at West Point continuing that great tradition and providing much needed blood supply that the DoD has come to rely on for several decades now. Other successes include the many blood product innovations, operational blood management system developments, and several advancements in contingency readiness. There are too many great things happening across the ASBP to mention them all in the short space I have here, but please know, the staff and I in the office are extremely grateful for your efforts. Your unfettered efforts during these challenging times make the importance of the ASBP and its mission increasingly clear to DoD leadership and we thank you all for your hard work each and every day.



HIGHLIGHTS

1. LCDR Ramirez highlighted for Women's History Month
2. Big Drives, Save Livings: Great showing at ASBBC-PNW and our donors during the 2024 MHS Conference Blood and the West Point Blood Drive 16-18 April 2024
3. ASBP Support Group A Whole Blood Project
4. Blood Bank Fellowship Class of 2024 Graduation
5. USINDOPACOM ASBBC: FIRST Navy site to collect and distribute cold stored platelets to MTF



Please contact **Dr. Mary Ann Spott** (mary.a.spott.civ@health.mil) for any questions.

DIVISION UPDATES

DHA CPI Project

The ASBP is working alongside our J5 partners, Mr. Mark Shawky and Mr. Wayne Johnson to do a deep dive on ASBP activities and determine mitigation strategies to assist us during the fiscal crisis. This initiative will also assist us in better presenting our issues to DHA leadership.

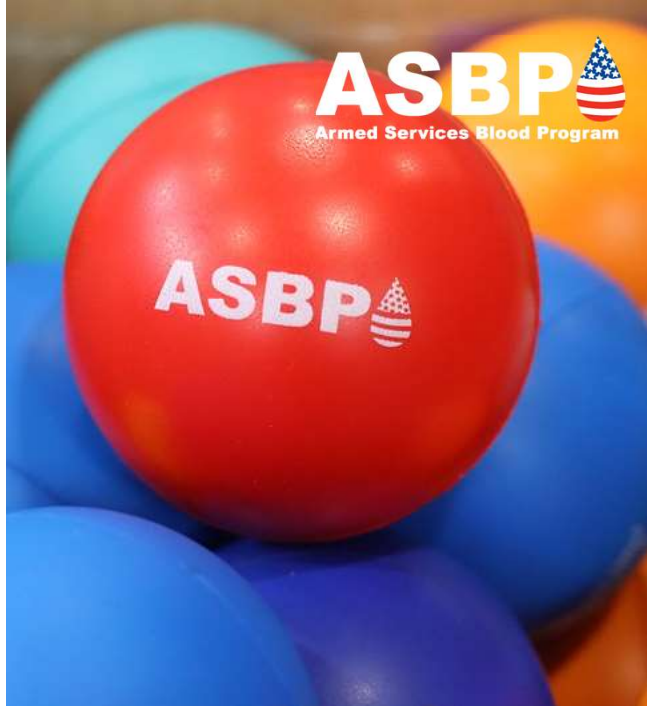
Additionally, the Defense Health Agency has been working on their Ready Reliable Care (RRC) program and the above mentioned CPI project will be featured to their leadership this summer.

Staffing Plan Project

The Attainx team completed the staffing project and has presented the findings to ASBP leadership. Those findings are being turned into a journal article with the assistance of our SBPOs and outside SMEs. The article will be ready for submission by this June. Some highlights include:

Across the seven BDCs studied, the SMEs mapped a total of 49 processes and collected hands-on time estimates for each step. The key findings are summarized below:

- The average process time for whole blood collection ranged from 1:11 to 2:27 (hrs:min) per unit, with mobile collection being slightly slower than in-house collection.
- Component processing times varied widely by product, from 0:21 for leukoreduced whole blood to 14:17 for platelets.
- Beyond direct production activities, BDCs spend an estimated 98.69 hours per week on essential support functions such as equipment maintenance, staff training, and donor recruitment. This equates to roughly 2.5 full-time equivalents (FTEs).



EVENTS for MILITARY BLOOD

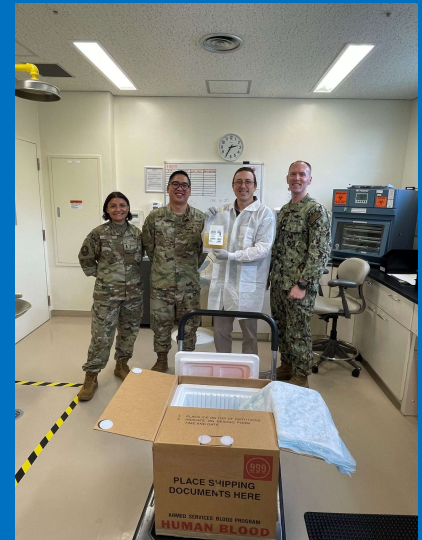
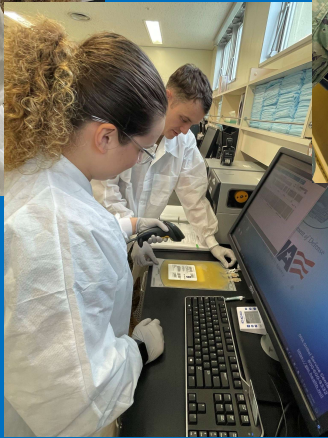
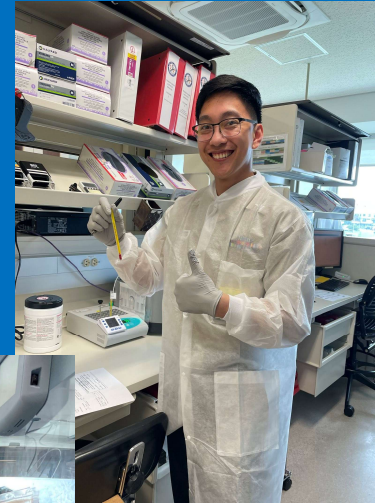
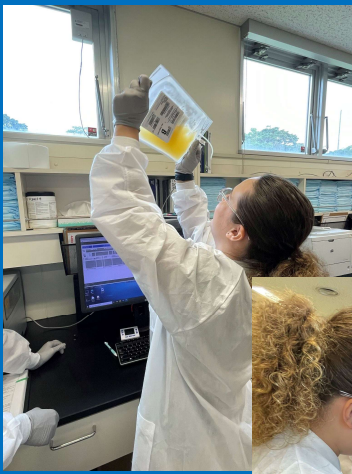
- 38th International ISBT Congress in Barcelona, Spain, from June 23-27, 2024
- Bleeding Disorders Conference 2024, September 12-14, 2024 in Atlanta
- International Conference on Hematology and Blood Disorders, Paris, France, or Virtually from your home or workplace on September 19-20, 2024
- AABB Annual Conference, Houston, TX, October 19-22, 2024
- THOR/CCCRP Emergency transfusion in Females with Childbearing Potential, Nov 19-20, Bethesda, MD
- 3rd European Congress on Hematology and Blood Disorders, October 28-29, 2024, Rome, Italy
- American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition, December 7-10, 2024 in San Diego, California



Our West Point Blood Drive Team



USINDOPACOM ASBBC :



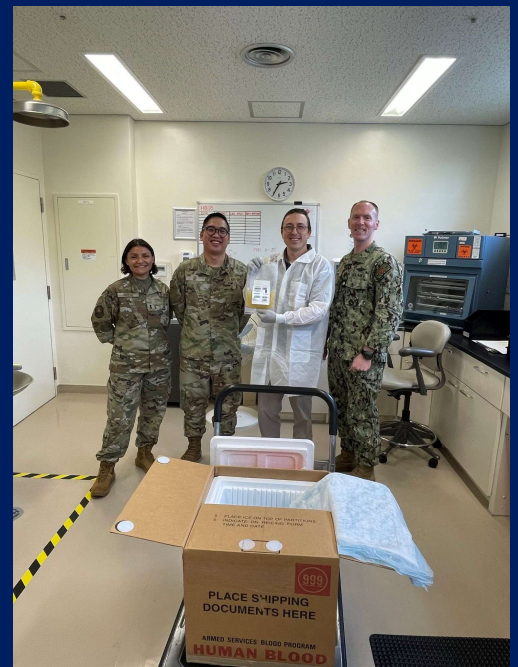
12 APR 2024 USINDOPACOM ASBBC – Okinawa, Japan.

FIRST Navy site to collect and distribute cold stored platelets to US Naval Hospital – Okinawa for use in trauma or actively bleeding patients.

The ASBBC Okinawa team spent the past 10 months working to establish this critical blood product.

The team worked tirelessly to create and validate SOPs and processes to make this happen.

This product is targeted specifically for trauma use will ensure that the extremely valuable platelet products are available when needed. These CSP have an extended expiration day to 14 days. The plans for these products will be to distribute to the INDOPACOM region where there is limited or no access to platelet products.



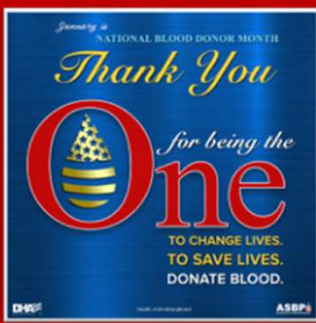
West Point Drive:



"West Point Cadets Donate Over 500 Units at Armed Services Blood Program Drive."

The United States Military Academy at West Point hosted a successful Armed Services Blood Program drive from April 16-18, 2024. West Point cadets and military personnel generously donated over 500 units of blood, underlining their dedication to saving lives. These donations will substantially strengthen the blood supply for Combatant Commands by and military hospitals. We commend the Armed Services Blood Program staff and the selfless West Point donors for their life-saving efforts.

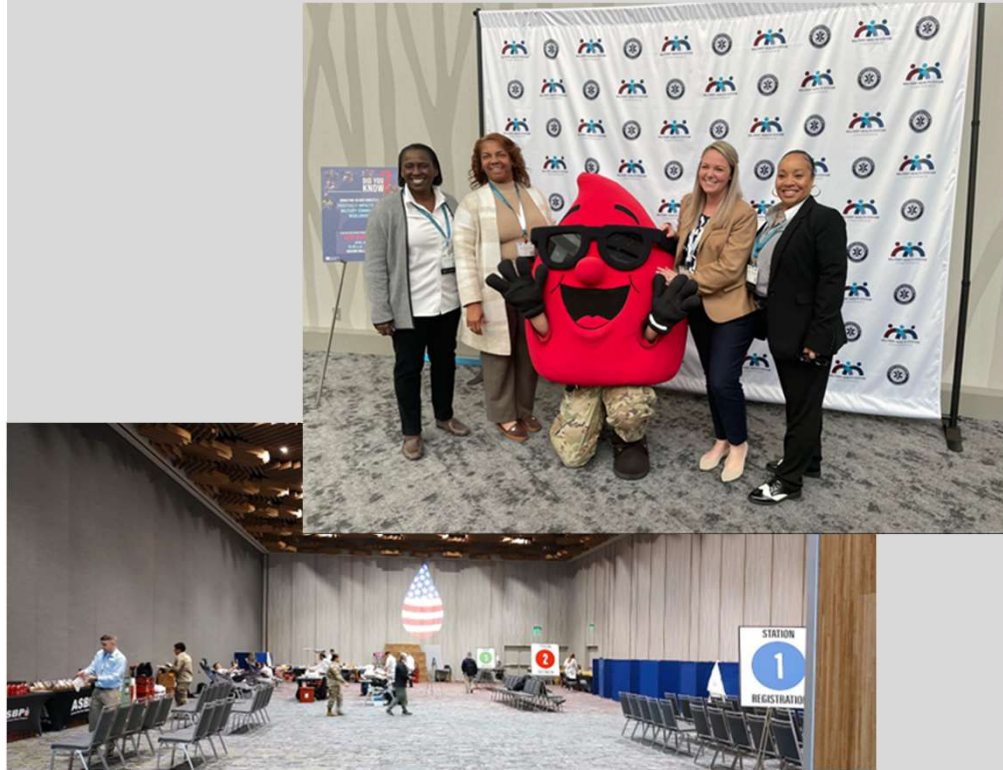




Significant Decrease in Attainx Contract

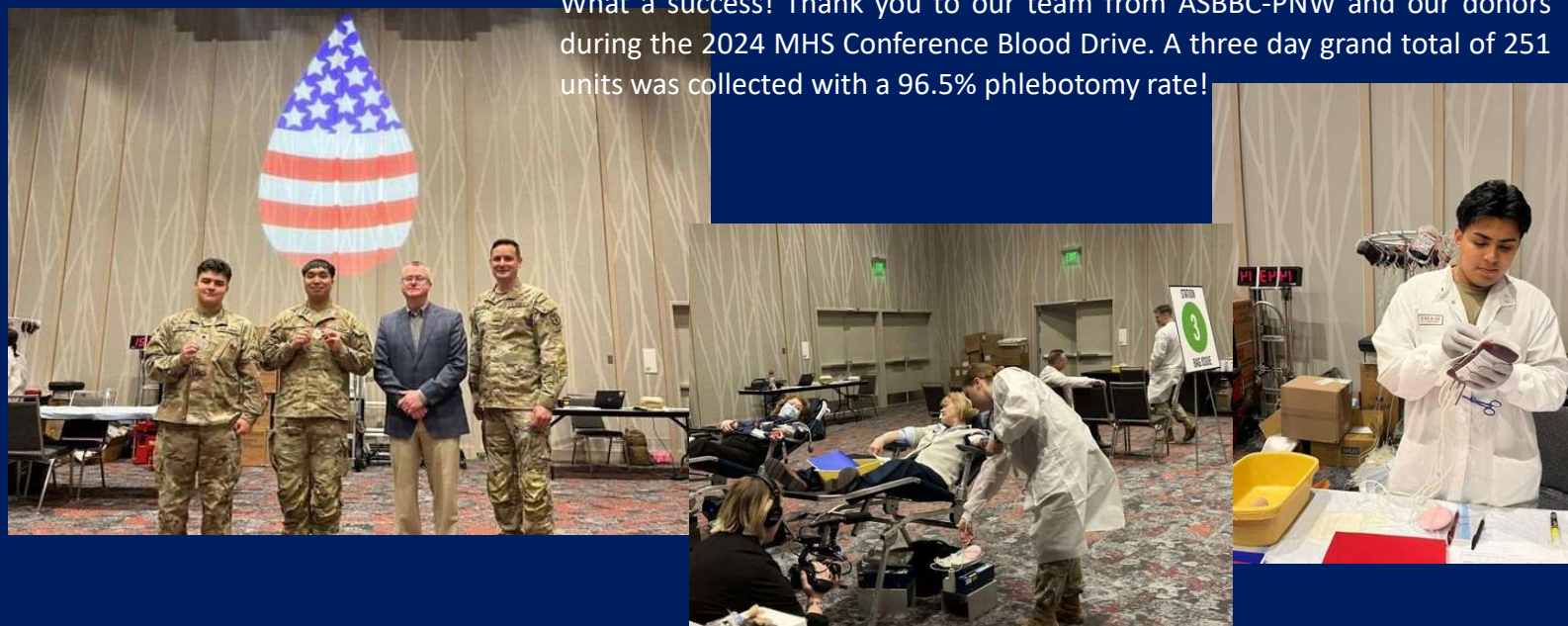
Due to circumstances beyond ASBP control, the Attainx contract that provided substantial business support to the ASBP, has been reduced from 12 team members down to two. Mr. Kevin Omores and Ms. Lena Sapp are the remaining Attainx staff that will keep on the pilot light. There will be a loss of marketing and communications support, diminished data requests performed. Please work with CAPT Riggs, CAPT Cliatt and Dr. Spott for any issues.

MHS Conference Blood Drive



MHS Blood Drive

What a success! Thank you to our team from ASBBC-PNW and our donors during the 2024 MHS Conference Blood Drive. A three day grand total of 251 units was collected with a 96.5% phlebotomy rate!



Women's History Month

NAVY MEDICINE **WOMEN'S HISTORY SPOTLIGHT**

Lt. Cmdr Fae Ramirez

Head, US Navy Blood Program (NBP)

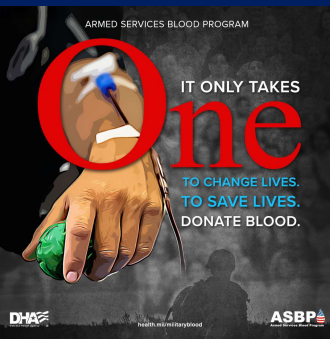
- Native of New Bedford, Mass.
- Commissioned in 2013
- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Specialist in Bloodbanking (SBB)
- Served as Director of US INDOPACOM Armed Services Blood Donor Center (2020-2023)
- Responsible for all NBP matters including operational, research, training, and quality assurance issues



Lt. Cmdr. Fae Ramirez serves as the Head of the US Navy's Blood Program, based at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) in Falls Church, Virginia. In this role, Ramirez acts as the Navy representative to the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP), oversees policies to ensure compliance with regulations and provide technical oversight and policy guidance to ASBP blood establishments to ensure compliance with blood regulatory or accrediting agencies and higher HQ policies and directives.

The full article can be found at:

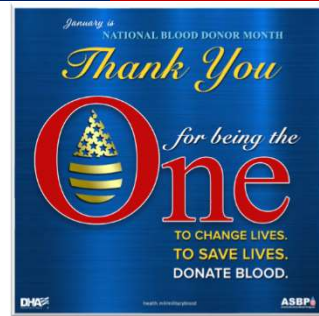
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/466783/womens-history-month-spotlight-lt-cmdr-fae-ramirez-head-navys-blood-program>



FY24 Campaign:

It Only Takes One to Change Lives. Save Lives.

Look for our message throughout the year of how it only takes one to make a big difference; one donation at a time; one drive at time. Be the one to change lives and save lives. Take the time to donate!



Policy Update

A memo is being staff regarding the Enterprise Blood Management System Transfusion Decommissioning. The Enterprise Blood Management System for Transfusion (EBMS-T) also known as HCLL, was deactivated effective 3/30/24. EBMS-T is now a legacy system. Each transfusion service at the Military Treatment Facilities shall use MHS Genesis PathNet BBT as their system of record for transfusion service functionality. The Armed Services Blood Program Division is issuing this Blood Program Letter (BPL) to provide procedural guidance for accessing and navigating the Health Information Archive (HIA), also known as DataArk.

The Enterprise Blood Management System for Donor (EBMS-D) also known as Wellsky Blood Centers® 2019, will be transitioning server data storage from Military Enterprise Services Operations Center (MESOC) to the DHA Private Cloud. Each Blood Donor Center and Armed Services Whole Blood Processing Laboratory must perform functionality validation and data verification after the transition is complete to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The Armed Services Blood Program Division is issuing this Blood Program Letter (BPL) to provide compliance guidance and site activity timelines.

EBMS-D will be unavailable to end users' effective 03 May 2024 at 2200 until such time that the EBMS Project Office notifies that the system is back online.

Group A Whole Blood Project

The Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) recognizes the need to increase whole blood production to meet increased demand across the Combatant Commands. Additionally, ASBP understands that Low Titer O Whole Blood (LTOWB) alone will not meet the DoD's blood requirement during large-scale contingency operations. To that end, every possible avenue to solve the blood problem-set must be explored.

Group O accounts for approximately 45% whereas Group A accounts for approximately 40% of the population. Theoretically, producing group A whole blood may nearly double the DoD's whole blood inventory while decreasing reliance on LTOWB for group A recipients.

On 15 March 2024, under the guidance and direction of the ASBP, the Army Blood Program (specifically the Armed Services Blood Bank Center – Pacific Northwest) initiated a Group A Whole Blood Pilot and manufactured the first unit of group A whole blood. This pilot program will aid in determining feasibility for introducing group A whole blood as part of ASBP's production line.

Currently, the ASBP is working with the Joint Trauma System, USCENTCOM, MED CDID and other stakeholders to develop a Clinical Practice Guideline on type specific whole blood transfusion and Role 3 MTF Blood Bank SOP prior to implementation of group A whole blood to USCENTCOM.