

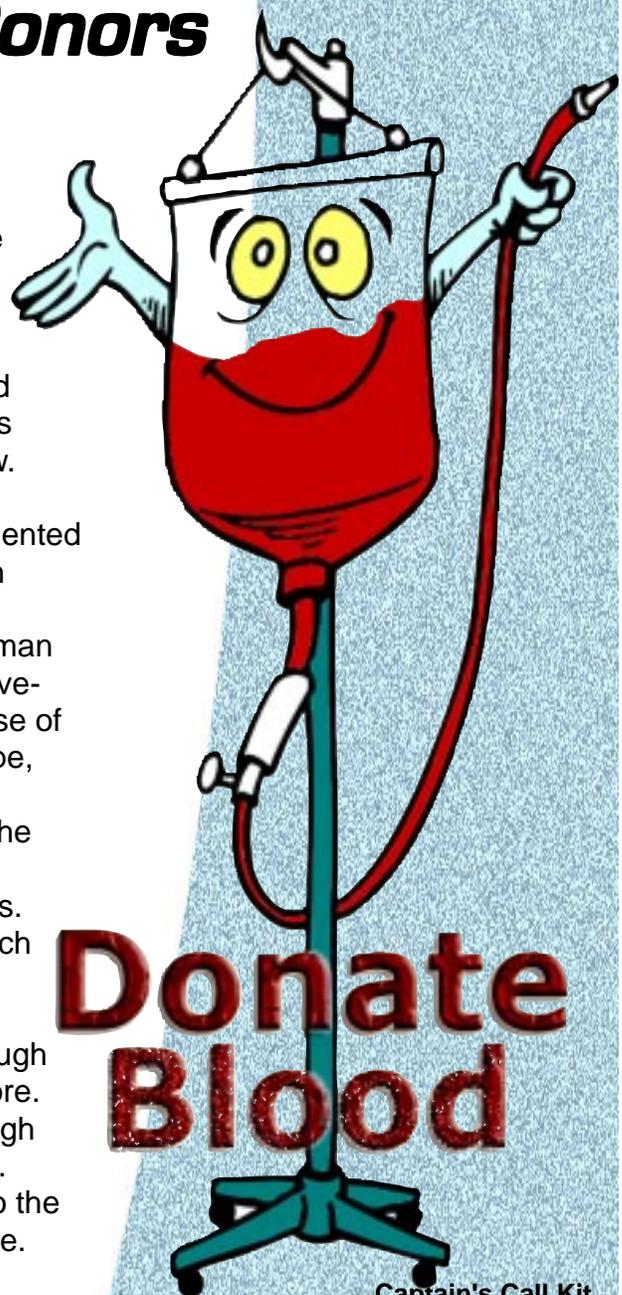
DOD Asks Eligible Donors to Give Blood Now

Department of Defense blood donor centers are asking sailors and Marines to donate this summer in hopes of keeping up DOD blood supplies while assisting civilian blood collection agencies. Unlike civilian agencies, the ASBP, which provides blood products for military hospitals and military readiness purposes, is not experiencing a blood shortage now.

However, a large number of DOD donors are deferred from giving blood under standards implemented last fall by the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates blood products in the United States, as a precautionary measure against exposure to the human form of mad cow disease. About 18 percent of active-duty military personnel cannot donate blood because of duty assignments in the United Kingdom and Europe, according to Sparks. Because of concerns about exposure to the human form of mad cow disease, the FDA restricted donations from people who lived or traveled in these places during specified timeframes. DOD issued a policy based on that of the FDA, which defers military personnel and family members who meet any of the following criteria:

- Traveled or resided in the U.K. from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of three months or more.
- Traveled or resided in Europe from 1980 through 1996 for a cumulative period of six months or more.
- Traveled or resided in the Europe from 1980 to the present for a cumulative period of five years or more.
- Received a blood transfusion in the U.K. since 1980.
- Received a bovine insulin product produced in the U.K. since 1980. The deferral policy also affects military retirees and their family members who meet any of the above criteria.

For more information on the Armed Services Blood Program, visit their web site at HYPERLINK "<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/asbpo>"



Donate Blood

Captain's Call Kit
Naval Media Center, Bldg. 168
2713 Mitscher Rd., SW
Anacostia Annex, DC 20373-5819
E-mail: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil
DSN 288- or (202) 433-4380
Fax: (202) 433-4747

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