

## AIR FORCE CADETS GIVE TO THE ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM!

26 September 2007

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The United States Air Force Academy's mission is: "To educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character, motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation," and that is exactly what the cadets did September 18-20 when the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) completed its third blood drive with the United States Air Force Academy (USFA). Cadets not only donated blood, they volunteered at the blood drive as well.

"The cadets are encouraged to support the blood drive with incentive packages approved by the student body" explained Ms. Carmen Dietrich-Williams, ASBP blood donor recruiter at Fort Bliss, TX. This friendly competition brought out about 25-30 cadets to help staff throughout the three-day blood drive.

The goal for blood collections was met, with most of the donations coming from cadets. "A total of 1800 donors supported the drive," says LTC Frederick Nebiker, Officer in Charge of the Fort Bliss Blood Donor Center who headed up the tri-service effort with nine other Army blood donor centers and Wright-Patterson, an Air Force blood donor center.

LTC Nebiker added that part of the success came from donors who pre-registered to donate using the new online appointment tool, which allows donors to schedule an appointment to come in and donate. Through this process, volunteers are able to prepare for donors ahead of time and manage the flow of appointments. LTC Nebiker said: "The ASBP online appointment system is being used by more and more donors as they become familiar with its features...It is a very good tool that helps us gauge how many people come through *and* it benefits those who schedule appointments- it's a definite perk!"

Ms. Dietrich-Williams and LTC Nebiker both give credit to USAFA for reaching out to donors so well. Through their efforts the ASBP was able to reach its blood collection goal, but most importantly says LTC Nebiker: "This academy gave real support to Service members. That's always the main goal. It is not about us."

In support of this worthy mission, another blood drive is planned to take place next March.

To sign up for a blood drive near you or to learn more about the ASBP, please visit us online at: [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil). **Click on the gold blood drop button to schedule a donation appointment online.**

For those who are interested in the next USAFA-ASBP blood drive, please visit [www.usafa.af.mil](http://www.usafa.af.mil) or [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil)