

THE ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM SPIRIT REACHES OVER THE HIGH SEAS

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SPC Robert Goosey heard about the Armed Services Blood Program's (ASBP) mission to provide quality blood products, blood substitutes, and services for all worldwide customers in peace and war, and decided to honor it in a unique way- thousands of miles away from home. In his medical laboratory in Iraq, he painted the ASBP logo across an entire wall to show his support for this mission. SPC Goosey devoted seven days, incredible artistic ability, and great precision to complete his project.



SPC Goosey in front of the finished painting in his laboratory in Iraq.

When SPC Goosey first contacted the ASBP for logo templates to start this project, he came across something very personal instead. At the time of his request, SPC Goosey came across a feature story on the ASBP website in July 2007. The story entitled *In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes; A Minnesota Blood Drive* was about a fallen soldier named SGT Michael Carlson. The significance of this story to SPC Goosey is rather bittersweet - SGT Carlson served with SPC Goosey in Iraq and became a close friend

during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, where they shared many memories. Though it was shocking to find out about his buddy's passing, he found closure in sharing special memories with the soldier's mother, Merilee Carlson.

As a joint operation among the military services (Army, Navy, Air Force), the ASBP has many components working together to collect, process, store, distribute, and transfuse blood. The most important components however, are the people who donate blood and the people who work to ensure that blood is always available when it is needed most. SPC Goosey was part of the force that educates people about the ASBP and its ultimate mission to help those in need. By proudly displaying the ASBP logo on the wall of his laboratory, he made sure that all who visit as well as work in the laboratory know about ASBP's efforts and know that there are people working hard to support our troops.

As more people are taking on the mission to provide support for our military members, we hope that the spirit will reach you as it has reached SPC Goosey, even thousands of miles away from home.

Read SGT Michael Carlson's story, schedule your blood donation appointment, and help us spread the word about the Armed Services Blood Program by visiting ASBP website www.militaryblood.dod.mil for more information.