

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

J.B. Gaskins
Vice President of Donor Systems
Office: (727) 568-2146
Cellular: (727) 656-8441



AB BLOOD PLASMA IN DEMAND

US Military asks Florida Blood Services to provide additional shipments

(St. Petersburg, FL: May 25, 2007): Florida Blood Services (FBS), as a hub site for America's Blood Centers (ABC), has been asked by the US military to again ship plasma donated by Type AB blood donors to the Armed Services Blood Program on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at 10:00 am.

"The Armed Services Blood Program is utilizing Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP) for initial treatment and response to injured soldiers," said J.B. Gaskins, FBS Vice President of Donor Systems. "The AB blood type serves as the universal donor for the Fresh Frozen Plasma product. Only four out of every 100 people have Type AB blood and therefore the red blood cell demand for use by Type AB patients is rare. However, the need for Type AB plasma for use by patients with any blood type is great. The best way for Type AB donors to help patients is to donate their universal plasma."

FBS has experienced increased local demand for Type AB plasma donors due to the advancement of medical care in the Tampa Bay area. Newborn babies, burn victims, trauma patients, and organ transplant patients often require plasma transfusions. Plasma improves a patient's ability to stop bleeding by supplementing clotting factors, and it restores blood volume to the patient. Burn victims can often use several hundred units of plasma during their recovery period.

Plasma donors must be 17 years old, weigh a minimum of 110 lbs. and be in good health. They can donate as often as once a month. FBS has automated technology specifically made for plasma and platelet donations at Donor Centers throughout Tampa Bay. Blood is drawn and channeled through a sterile machine which separates the plasma and platelets from the other blood components and safely returns them to the donor.

Florida Blood Services provides for the blood needs of patients at 38 hospitals in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas Counties through the participation of volunteer blood donors. Approximately 750 donations are required daily, due to the high quality of medical care in Tampa Bay that serves the most critically ill patients throughout West Central Florida.

Additional blood supply information can be found at www.fbsblood.org

###