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Blood, No Sweat and Probably No Tears

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The University of Dayton Army ROTC will host and sponsor a blood drive for the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Blood Donor Program from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, March 30, in O'Reilly Hall on the University of Dayton campus.

It is open to the public.

The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Blood Donor Center will collect blood donations and ship them directly to medical facilities in conflict areas overseas.

Donors must be 17 or older and weigh more than 110 pounds. Donors cannot donate blood if they have donated blood in the last two months; currently have a cold, flu, fever or sore throat; have had a root canal or any other serious dental procedure in the past 72 hours; or have had a tattoo or body piercing, other than the ears, in the last year.

Donors must bring a driver's license, state ID card or Social Security card.

The entire process takes about 40 minutes. Donors can register for priority scheduling at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Blood Donor Center Web site.

O'Reilly Hall — the ROTC Building — is across from the UD bookstore and Marianist Hall. Parking is available in C Lot. Parking passes must be obtained from the blood drive registration desk and returned upon completion, or at the parking services booth across from the RecPlex.

Military officials said collection from military personnel, veterans, military dependents and civilian military employees is not keeping up with the military's needs. When the military blood program cannot collect enough blood, it must purchase products from civilian agencies, such as the Red Cross, if blood is available after community needs.

Military officials say 43 percent of military personnel are ineligible to donate because of illness or potential exposure to Mad Cow Disease years ago.

"War readiness" requires 700 units of blood to be shipped out each month. With the recent troop surge, that number is expected to increase to 800 units a month. A single trauma case can require 40 or more units, according to military officials.

For more information, contact Major Andrew Loeb at 937-229-5522.