

USNH Sigonella Laboratory Earns Accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks

Sigonella, Sicily- USNH Sigonella Laboratory has been granted accreditation by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), according to Dr. Robert C. Stabley Medical Director.

Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially trained AABB assessors and establishes that the level of medical, technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards set by the AABB. By successfully meeting those requirements, USNH Sigonella Laboratory joins approximately 2,000 similar facilities across the United States and abroad that have earned the AABB Accreditation.

“**T**he AABB’s Accreditation procedures are voluntary, “ **Dr. Robert C. Stabley Medical Director** explained. “USNH Sigonella Laboratory has brought AABB Accreditation because this program assists facilities around the country in achieving excellence by promoting a level of professional and medical expertise that contributes to quality performance.”

Since 1958, the AABB has been engaged in the accreditation of blood banks and transfusion services. The Accreditation Program assists blood banks and transfusion services in determining whether methods, procedures, personnel knowledge, equipment and the physical plant meet established requirements. The minimum requirements for accreditation of blood banks and transfusion services are based primarily on the AABB’s *Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services*. These standards not only reflect the level of professional proficiency for blood banks and transfusion services in the United States, but also provide the basis for practice on similar facilities around the world.

Established in 1947, the AABB is the international association of community blood centers, hospital blood banks and transfusion and transplantation services. Individual members include health care professionals in blood banking and transfusion medicine. Its member facilities are responsible for collecting virtually all of the nation’s blood supply and for transfusing more than 80 percent of the blood used for patient care in the United States. The AABB sets standards, assesses and accredits blood collection and transfusion facilities, and provides continuing education and information.