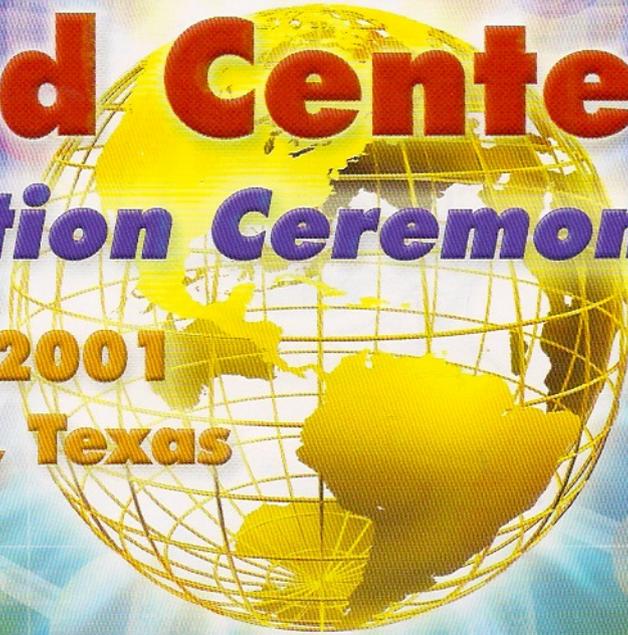
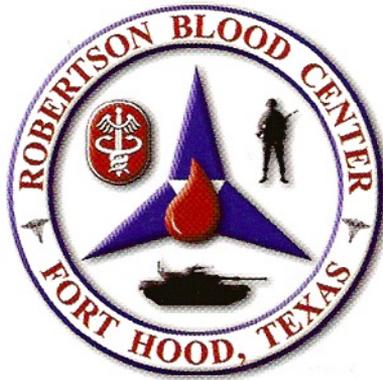


# Robertson Blood Center

*Dedication Ceremony*

**August 3, 2001**  
**Fort Hood, Texas**





# **Robertson Blood Center**

## **Dedication Ceremony**

**August 3, 2001**  
**Fort Hood, Texas**

# Sequence of Events

## *Arrival of Official Party*

*Invocation* Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) John D. Read  
*Darnall Army Community Hospital*

*Opening Remarks* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik  
*Commander, Army Medical Department Activity*  
*Fort Hood*

*Guest Speaker* Colonel (Retired) John R. Hess  
*Blood Researcher*

*Presentation of Gift* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik  
*Commander, Army Medical Department Activity*  
*Fort Hood*

*Unveiling of Robertson Plaque* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik  
Colonel (Retired) John R. Hess  
Dr. Alan Robertson  
Mr. Donald I. Robertson

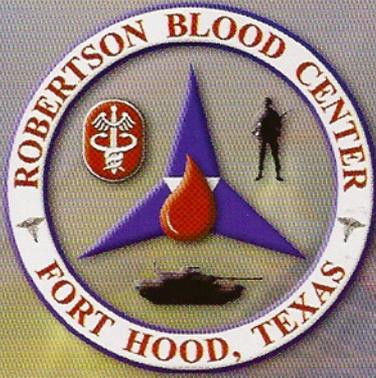
*Presentation of Plaque* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik

*Benediction* Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) John D. Read

*Closing Remarks* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik

*Ribbon Cutting* Colonel Donald J. Kasperik  
Colonel (Retired) John R. Hess  
Dr. Alan Robertson  
Mr. Donald I. Robertson  
Lieutenant Colonel Elaine S. Perry, Director, Robertson Blood Center

*Refreshments and Tours*



## Robertson Blood Center



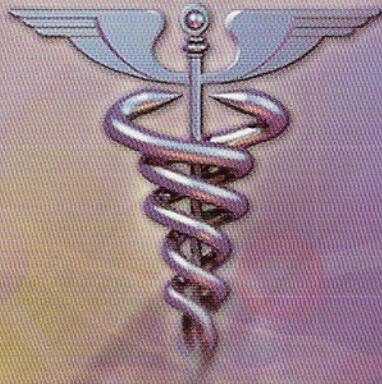
The Robertson Blood Center was first conceptualized in September of 1996. The goal was to build the largest, most productive and most highly technologically advanced blood collection, testing, and distribution facility in the Department of Defense. And now, through the hard work and efforts of a great many people, this has been achieved.

The building was designed by Marmon Mok and has a square footage of 21,571. The ground breaking ceremony was August 16, 1999, and shortly thereafter RJK Construction began to erect the building. Construction was completed in May of 2001 and the first donors were received in July 2001.

The Robertson Blood Center provides blood services to III Corps and Fort Hood, as well as many other installations. As the largest and most advanced blood facility in the Department of Defense, the Robertson Blood Center not only provides services to Army installations around the world, but to Air Force and Navy installations as well.

The Robertson Blood Center offers blood donor services, pheresis, Department of Defense Blood Donor Testing, and Department of Defense Bone Marrow Registration. In addition, by shipping quality red cells and blood components, the Robertson Blood Center fulfills the Armed Services Blood Program contingency blood quotas and complies with peacetime military treatment facilities' requests throughout the United States and overseas.

The naming of the Robertson Blood Center was as important as the construction of the building, and there can be no doubt that the most appropriate choice was made. Dr. Oswald Hope Robertson, the "Father of Blood Banking" was a true pioneer in the field of blood banking. He is credited with building the first blood bank on the Western Front in World War I. Through his tireless efforts, he proved that transfusion medicine works.



Doctor

## Oswald H. Robertson

*The "Father of Blood Banking"*



Oswald Hope Robertson was born in England in 1886. His father was an English army officer and his mother was from Ireland. They moved to Fresno, California, when Robertson was 2 years old. He did premedical studies at the University of California (Berkeley) and graduated cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1915. His senior research project advisor was Roger Lee, whose work on transfusion included one of the first proofs that group "O" blood, then called Moss group IV, could be used as "universal-donor" blood.

The United States entered World War I in April 1917. The 5th Base Station Hospital had been formed by Harvard faculty and alumni who were commissioned in the Army Medical Officer Reserve Corps. The 5th left for France in May 1917, the first American unit to go to war. Among its doctors was Oswald Robertson. The 5th was attached to the British Third Army, where there was immediate work for the surgeons. Dr. Robertson, not being a surgeon, was assigned to investigate the treatment of shock. With the help of his uncle, a general in the British Army Medical Corps, Dr. Robertson made visits to British casualty-clearing stations for a firsthand view of shock and its effects on soldiers.

In November, 1917, during the battle of Cambrai, Dr. Robertson built an ice chest from two ammunition cases, took 22 units of blood to a casualty-clearing station, and used them to resuscitate Canadian soldiers judged too deep in shock for surgery. Eleven of the 20 recipients lived. This was the first use of cold blood storage or "banked blood."

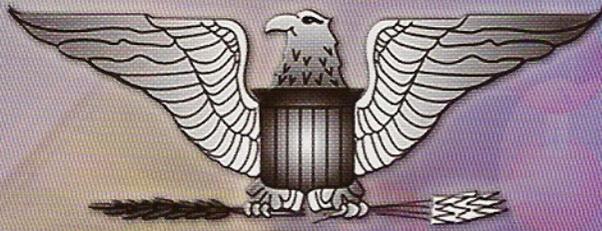
As a result of the success of his program, Dr. Robertson was assigned the task of training transfusion teams for the British Expeditionary Force.

Dr. Robertson's transfusion teams became a common sight in battalion aid stations and divisional transfusion cellars - the latter, large underground bunkers where blood was drawn, typed, crossmatched, and transfused to prepare casualties for surgery. His work was recognized as among the most significant medical contributions of the war. The British Government awarded him the Distinguished Service Order.

Robertson built a donor and transfusion service that would be recognizable today. He collected blood from previously typed "universal" donors by needle venipuncture. Blood flowed through rubber tubes into glass bottles containing citrate and dextrose solution. He stored these bottles on ice for up to 26 days and transported them to casualty clearing stations where they were needed.

In 1958, Dr. Robertson received the prestigious Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award of the American Association of Blood Banks and he has also been recognized as the "Father of Blood Banking" by the California Blood Bank System.

(Excerpts from "The First Blood Banker: Oswald Hope Robertson," by J.R. Hess and P. J. Schmidt in the January 2000 edition of the magazine *Transfusion*.)



**Colonel**

# **Donald J. Kasperik**

*Commander, U.S. Army Medical  
Department Activity, Fort Hood*



Colonel Donald J. Kasperik was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania. He completed his undergraduate education and Reserve Officer Training at Washington and Jefferson College. Upon graduation in 1972, he was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the U.S. Army Reserve. He attended the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University and graduated with honors in 1975. Colonel Kasperik completed 18 months of family practice residency training at Washington Hospital, Washington, Pennsylvania, before being called into the military to fulfill his ROTC obligation in 1977. He completed his residency training at Silas B. Hayes Community Hospital, Fort Ord, California, in 1984, and was board certified as a family physician in 1985.

His military professional training includes the Army Medical Department Officers Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College (resident) and the Army War College (resident).

Key assignments have been Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Army Health Clinic, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania; Chief, Ambulatory Medical Services, Dunham Army Health Clinic, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; Officer-in-Charge, and staff physician, Presidio of Monterey, California; Chief, Department of Family Practice, Primary Care and Community Medicine, Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Division Surgeon, 1st Infantry

Division, Fort Riley, Kansas; Deputy Commander, Munson Army Community Hospital, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity and Winn Army Community Hospital, Fort Stewart, Georgia; Command Surgeon, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Colonel Kasperik's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (four oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, National Defense Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, and Order of Military Merit.



**Colonel (Retired)**  
**John R. Hess**  
*Premier Blood Researcher*



Colonel (Retired) John R. Hess was born in Midland, Michigan and received his undergraduate degree at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington and his medical degree at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Hess performed his internship in medicine at Presbyterian University Hospital, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and his residency in internal medicine at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. He has served as School Health Officer, Government of American Samoa; Battalion Surgeon, 1/42 Field Artillery, ChunChon, South Korea; Area Surgeon, U.S. Army Support Command, Samoa San, Thailand; staff internist, 121 Evacuation Hospital, Seoul, South Korea; private practice, Queen's and St. Francis Hospitals, Honolulu; Director of Health, Government of American Samoa; Senior Surgeon & Clinical Director, USPHS HIS Hospital, Ft. Yates, North Dakota; staff hematologist/medical oncologist, Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Denver, Colorado; research hematologist and Chief, Blood Research at Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio of San Francisco; Commander, Letterman Army Institute of Research, Presidio of San Francisco; Commander, Blood Research Detachment, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington DC; Associate Professor of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of Health Services; and staff internist at the Washington Free Clinic.

His awards and decorations include the Charles E. Walter Memorial Award for Outstanding Scientific Contributions to Blood Banking from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Blood Banks, the U.S. Army Surgeon General's "A" Designator, Meritorious Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), and the Army Research & Development Achievement Award.

Hess has received a U.S. Patent for his work on dry fibrin sealant technology. He has also published numerous journal articles and abstracts of his work as a premier blood researcher and is currently an Associate Professor of Pathology, Transfusion Medicine, at the University of Maryland Medical Center.



*Public Affairs Office  
Darnall Army Community Hospital  
Fort Hood, Texas  
[www.hood-meddac.army.mil](http://www.hood-meddac.army.mil)*