

## Team Shaw member gives gift of life

By Staff Sgt. Lee Watts  
Internal Information chief

Hooked to medical machines, with his blood flowing out and more being pumped in, a Shaw officer recently gave what many consider the greatest gift of all: life.

This officer was not in the hospital because of the war against terrorism but because of the war against cancer.

Maj. Steve Granger, 20th Fighter Wing executive officer, recently underwent a peripheral blood progenitor cell collection. A PBPC is a procedure involving the separation and collection of cells from the blood. The collected cells are used to treat leukemia patients.

Though the procedure can be painful, Maj. Granger said the discomfort is small in comparison to the benefits.

"It's an opportunity to give back, and it may even help save somebody's life," he said.

Since the process, the major said it was put in perspective for him when a friend's 2-year-old child was diagnosed with leukemia.

"When you hear of something like that, all you can think of is 'what can I do to help?'" he said.

The major said he got involved in the program in 1994 when a group visited Vance Air Force Base, Okla. during a bone marrow and blood drive.

"I've actually been contacted four times for a test to see if my cells were compatible with a person needing a transplant, but this was the first time I was a match," Maj. Granger said.

According to him, a non-family match is rare.

Though the harvesting of the cells was done in a few hours,

preparing his body for the procedure took almost a week.

In order to get the most cells, he was given an injection each day, five days prior to the procedure to make his body overproduce the desired cells.

"The shots, while not comfortable, weren't terrible. It had a burning sensation and afterward it gave me flu-like symptoms. During the actual procedure, needles were placed in each arm.

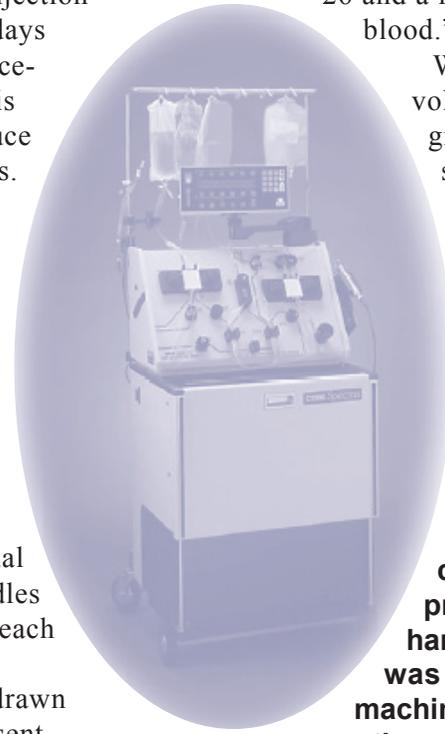
Blood was drawn from one arm, sent

through a machine for processing and then back into the other arm.

They wound up processing about 26 and a half liters of my blood."

When asked why he volunteered for the program, Maj. Granger said, "This is direct effect in helping and a chance to make a difference. It makes you thankful for your own health."

**The blood cell separator machine (pictured at left) uses a centrifuge to separate cells into components so the progenitor cells can be harvested. Maj. Granger was hooked to the machine for more than six continuous hours.**

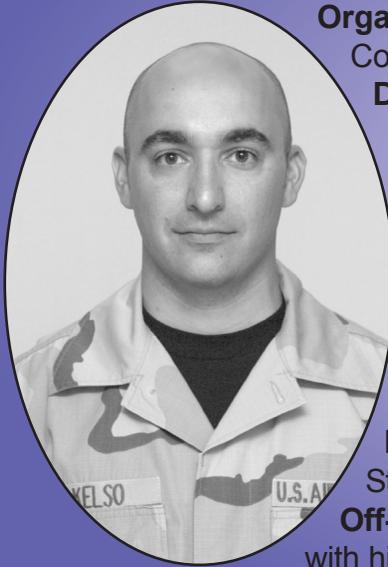




## Spirit Spotlight



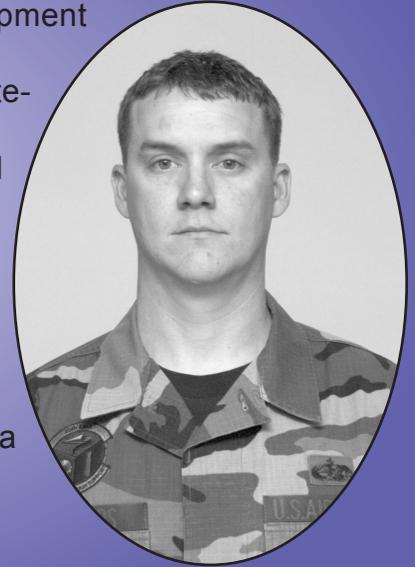
### Staff Sgt. Christopher Kelso



**Organization:** 609th Air Communications Squadron  
**Duty title:** NCO in charge of the network engineering support systems team  
**Job duties:** Supervise the engineering and installation of enterprise level services and network infrastructure  
**Hometown:** Lakeland, Fla.  
**Time in service:** 10 years  
**Family:** Daughters, Adriana and Stori  
**Off-duty interests:** Spending time with his children, swimming and reading

**Words I live by:** "To the world you're one person, but to one person you're the world."

### Staff Sgt. Kenneth Phillips



**Organization:** 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron  
**Duty title:** Armament maintenance crew chief  
**Job duties:** Perform scheduled and unscheduled inspections on alternate mission equipment and 20 mm gun systems  
**Hometown:** Whitmire, S.C.  
**Time in service:** 11 years  
**Off-duty interests:** Backpacking, camping, scuba diving, hunting and fishing

**Words I live by:** "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -- *Mahatma Gandhi*

## Shaw pilot gives new meaning to 'Cross into the Blue'

By Airman 1st Class Susan Penning  
Staff writer

Off he goes into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun. Down he dives, into a saltwater tank?

Capt. Steven Buryanek, 20th Fighter Wing warlord, wing inspections, is also a certified, advanced open-water scuba diver. This fighter pilot trades in his wings 2 - 3 times a month, in exchange for flippers, at one of South Carolina's aquariums.

The captain arrives around 7:30 a.m., just in time to start preparing food for the sharks, eels, sea turtle and 35 different species of fish that call the Great Ocean Tank home.

After food prep, Capt. Buryanek suits up for his first dive of the day. On this swim, he cleans and checks tank conditions.

Next are the performance shows for visitors. In the first show, Capt. Buryanek teaches audience members about the relationship between land and marine animals, and the importance of the food chain.

The second dive is a feeding show. The captain said sharks in the tank are fed when divers aren't in the water, so they never confuse swim-

mers with an afternoon snack.

The third performance includes a game where the audience answers questions about ocean life and winners get a behind-the-scenes tank tour.

Lt. Col. Nathan Hill, 20th FW wing inspections chief, recently attended a show. "Using an underwater microphone, [Capt. Buryanek] was able to have excellent interaction with the crowd," he said. "He knew about all [the animals]; what they ate, what their habits were and where they are found in the world."

When asked if it makes him nervous to swim with sharks, the captain said, "They aren't aggressive like you see on TV. In the wild, they usually eat one time a week. Here, they're fed 2-3 times a week and are trained to expect meals at certain times."

Capt. Buryanek said he's always enjoyed diving. Volunteering at the aquarium gives him the added bonus of meeting other people who enjoy the hobby.

To volunteer, advanced open-water certification is required as well as a commitment to help at the aquarium two times a month, for a year. Capt. Buryanek has been doing it for six months.

"It's fulfilling," he said, "especially when you see the kids' expressions at the show. They're awestruck. What we do teaches them respect for

nature and the environment."

Col. Hill was impressed with the captain's performance at the aquarium. "I am proud to work with someone who not only does his job well, but cares about the community," he said.

Applicants interested in pursuing diver certification should be at least 15 years of age, in good physical health, and possess basic swimming skills. Any local dive shop should have information on getting started.

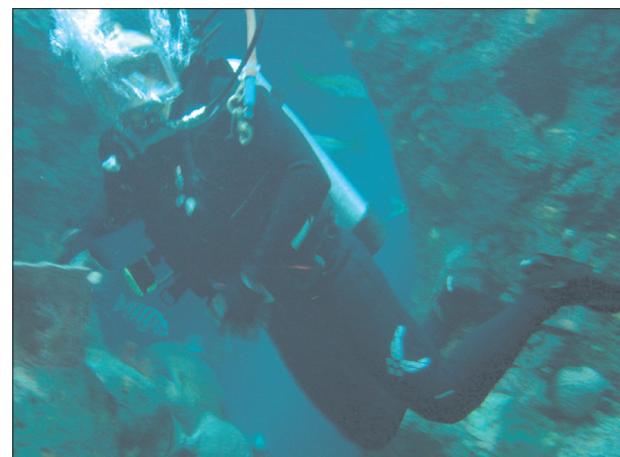


Photo by Lt. Col. Nathan Hill

**Capt. Buryanek performs for visitors during a recent aquarium show.**