



Dr. Bose applies war experience to local care

Michigan native went from Chicago emergency rooms to Iraq and Basin

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Dr. Sudip Bose sits in one of the examination rooms at the Neighbors Emergency Center in Midland.

Dr. Sudip Bose wanted action when he joined the Army and became an emergency physician, and he got it in abundance at the Second Battle of Fallujah in Iraq and other crises including the collision of a Show of Support parade float with a train in Midland.

Bose saw deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein shortly after Hussein's capture in 2003, and he has been working in Odessa and Midland since 2009.

Having won the Bronze Star, he is a co-owner of the Neighbors Emergency Centers here and in Midland and is a motivational speaker, media consultant and staffer at Medical Center Hospital, where he works five 10-hour shifts per month. He covers five 24-hour shifts a month at the emergency centers and is a part-time professor at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and University of Illinois at Chicago medical schools.

"I wanted to give back to the country after seeing how wonderfully my parents were treated after they came to the U.S. in the 1960s from Kolkata, West Bengal, India," Bose said. "Dad landed with \$8 in his pocket, and Mom was wearing sandals and a sari."

Bose was accepted into the Northwestern University Honors Program in Medical Education out of high school and joined the Army at age 21 while in medical school. He had the highest score in the nation, 97, among 3,650 doctors taking the 2002 American Board of Emergency Medicine exam, he said.

"You can never predict what the journey will be when you join the military," Bose said. "With nearly 15 months in Iraq, I ended up having one of the longest combat tours by a physician since World War II. Fallujah was urban warfare from building to building and room to room. It was the bloodiest battle since the Battle of Hue City in Vietnam in 1968.

"I was more like a glorified medic, rolling out in the tanks. When you hear the bullets hissing, you know they're close. There was nothing positive about that. It was war. But if anything, we look at experiences like that and see medical things advance to the civilian sector. The beauty of emergency medicine is that you can make a bigger impact in this world because you see everything."

According to military records, 95 Marines died and 560 were wounded while 1,200 to 1,500 insurgents were killed and 1,500 captured at Fallujah in November and December 2004.

Asked if he often reflects on the Nov. 15, 2012, train crash in which four wounded veterans being honored by Show of Support were killed and 16 people injured at the Garfield Street crossing in Midland, Bose said, "You can't not remember things like that.

"It was tragic, much like a combat zone with multiple casualties. There was great work by the Midland police and fire departments, keeping the scene under control. I always have an aid bag and supplies in my car and was at the scene within minutes. The most immediate priority was stopping bleeding. One of the wives had lost her leg, and we were using everything for tourniquets from belts to T-shirts."

Bose's parents, Subhas and Alaka, immigrated to Grand Forks, N.D., where his dad got a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of North Dakota. They were later in

Duluth, Minn., and Ann Arbor, Mich., where Bose was born. He graduated from high school in the Chicago suburb of Naperville, where his parents still live. He has a younger sister and is single.

The 43-year-old Midlander had prepared for Iraq in the emergency rooms of Fort Hood and Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Cook County Hospital in Chicago. "I had always thought I'd go back, but I knew some of the physicians here because I had trained with them," he said.

"I'd been in a residency class with Dr. Greg Shipkey at Fort Hood, and he said, 'Come check it out.' I like it here. I had less freedom in Chicago as an employee."

Bose's memories are also vivid of Dec. 13, 2003, when Saddam Hussein was pulled from an underground bunker just outside Ad-Dawr in north central Iraq. "He was choppered (helicoptered) in on short notice and arrived with six to eight armed guards, disheveled, blindfolded and restrained in a wheelchair," said Bose, who left the Army as a major in 2007 after serving on active duty from 1999-2005.

"I was ready to sedate Hussein if needed, but he was more cooperative than we had thought he might be. It was tense, but medically not that challenging. I talked with him through an interpreter. It was not a bantering conversation. I spent eight to 10 hours with him, and the conversations were clinical to get the job done. I didn't want to miss a critical diagnosis.

"It was strange. It happened fast, and I focused on providing him care. He eventually got his shower and haircut."

Hussein was executed for crimes against humanity on Dec. 30, 2006.

Dr. Shipkey, of Odessa, said Bose is a good leader. "You will never be successful if you don't care about those you're leading," Shipkey said.

"It's something you can't fake. All the things that Sudip is passionate about are a true passion. The age-old question is, is a leader made or born? It's a combination of the two. Going through the military makes you a better leader. It honed the skills that Sudip already had."

Midland Fire Capt. Aaron Cox said Bose "is a down to earth guy, real personable.

"He likes teaching people," said Cox, who is also a nurse practitioner at MCH. "The true value of a leader is that he develops more leaders."

Bose donates his speaking fees to cover the overhead at his nonprofit corporation, The Battle Continues, and has often gone to Washington to see the Texas Congressional Delegation about health care and veterans' issues. He has appeared on the "Dr. Oz" TV show in New York City and contributed to CBS 7 news broadcasts.

“It’s a shame when you come back and see veterans committing suicide at the rate at 22 a day,” he said. “Imagine, you survive the battlefield and come back and take your own life.”

Bose said vets kill themselves for reasons ranging from survival guilt to joblessness, homelessness and losing the sense of purpose that was so powerful in the military. “My goal is to fight a battle against the increasing costs of healthcare and to improve access to quality care,” he said.

“You see everything from children who can’t get access to homeless drug addicts and the wealthy person losing his job. We are America’s primary care physicians after 5 p.m.

“I want to multiply my battlefield experience to make a bigger impact in health care, and this is a great region to do that in with the education of emergency physicians, nurses, paramedics and the general public. What we’re doing here can be done across the entire U.S.”

http://www.oaoa.com/people/health/article_ffe98102-4d61-11e7-b29f-67d42a14f591.html