

ACEP NEWS

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LEADERS

Bringing Home Lessons From the Battlefield

Dr. Sudip Bose is bringing his lessons from battle to the home front. As a captain in the U.S. Army, Dr. Bose was deployed in 2004. During a 15-month deployment in Fallujah and Najaf, Iraq, Dr. Bose treated thousands of patients, both U.S. soldiers and Iraqis. He led the training of nearly 50 medics, and his team performed frontline casualty aid. Dr. Bose's exemplary service earned him several awards, including the Bronze Star. But if you ask Dr. Bose what he remembers most about his service, he'll say it was the camaraderie of his fellow soldiers and the birth of his passion for teaching. These days, Dr. Bose practices at the Medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Tex., where he also serves as the medical director for the city and its surrounding county. In addition to practicing emergency medicine, he gives motivational lectures around the country about his experiences in Iraq and how combat lessons can be applied in facing daily challenges, with most proceeds going to benefit wounded veterans and their families. Dr. Bose also manages an online board certification training program. He strives to use the media as a vehicle for patient education by acting as an expert source for media outlets including the Associated Press, CNN, and MSNBC. In an interview with ACEP News, Dr. Bose discussed how his service in Iraq fueled a passion for teaching, one he continues to foster today.

ACEP News: How were you able to gain a sense of stability in the tumultuous environment of war?

Dr. Bose: I gained my stability through education. When a bomb went off and there were hundreds of patients lying on the ground, I knew I couldn't treat everyone – but that's when I realized I had trained the medics and they were autonomously treating those patients. Because I had trained those medics, during that mass casualty situation our team made an impact on more patients through those medics. I think that's the power of the emergency physician. Whether we're teaching residents or we're teaching patients, we have the ability to make a huge impact.

ACEP News: How has your experience training medics influenced the work you do now?

Dr. Bose: We had to keep the medics up on their skills so that if the situation did arise, they would treat the patients appropriately. And that's the same thing that drives me to be the medical director for the city of Odessa now. I'm able to train the paramedics to provide the best care in the streets here. Also, my passion for teaching fellow physicians for their in-training exam, board exam, LLSA, and ConCert recertification exams is fueled by my passion for educating on patient care.

—Interview by Frances Correa



Dr. Sudip Bose speaks on how lessons from combat can apply to daily life.



During his tour of duty in Iraq, Dr. Bose trained medics and treated both U.S. soldiers and Iraqis, earning a Bronze Star for exemplary service.