



# Lessons in war

[BY ROY WAGGONER](#)

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He's seen all kinds of injuries through his time serving in Iraq, but Medical Center Hospital's Dr. Sudip Bose wants to apply some of that knowledge through the Odessa Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Services.

Bose is one of the new co-medical directors for the OFD along with Dr. Greg Shipkey, and Bose presented local medical professionals and some first-responders with a variety of lessons he learned while serving in Iraq from 2003 to 2005. Shipkey also

served in Iraq in 2003.

"This gave me a personal appreciation for those fighting on the front lines, such as the first-responders here in Odessa," Bose said.

He said one of the biggest lessons he learned overseas is that even horrific injuries can still include hope.

"This person with a major arm injury would be seen differently before. Now, there is hope. This guy can live a normal life," he said.

Bose pointed to his own close calls, such as moving his stuff out of one room only to have a mortar destroy the same room 20 minutes later.

"Even those without physical harm, there can be a mental battle. Everyone has had their close calls," he said.

To Bose, the lessons from military medicine can improve care in the United States, and may even give appreciation for treating those who may have caused their own injuries or act combative. Many of his patients in Iraq were in fact insurgents.

"I even treated Saddam Hussein himself. We had to treat him like all the others. While I can't speak much about my time with him, he spent a lot of time gardening in his cell. The one word he spoke in English was 'Doritos,' " Bose said to laughter.

Another lesson he hammered home to those at the lecture was the need for scene safety in Iraq and here at home.

"You can't treat until the scene is safe. You had to be constantly vigilant," Bose said.

He cited the kind of improvisational care provided during the war, such as using a weapon as a splint or a boot as a cervical collar to immobilize the neck. Firefighter paramedic David Dilbeck said he was glad to hear Bose's presentation.

"To have a person of his stature and reputation in the medical field come here and represent the servicemen and women, I just think it's great," Dilbeck said.

## **CARE LEVELS**

### **Levels of care Bose pointed to in Iraq:**

>> **Level I:** Immediate first aid.

>> **Level II:** Direct-support medical units with a few more capabilities.

>> **Level III:** Combat support hospitals with similar functionality to U.S. hospitals.

>> **Level IV:** Care provided outside the combat zone, in this case, Germany.

>> **Level V:** U.S. treatment, like Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

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