

Surgeon

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dom, said Col. James Rundell, an Air Force doctor and deputy commander of clinical services at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. DeRojas fit the bill.

"We knew we needed a vascular surgeon and an interventional radiologist," he said. A vascular surgeon specializes in repairing blood vessels and arteries, and interventional radiologists take the kind of X-rays needed to operate on combat-type injuries.

By matching up DeRojas and the Landstuhl center, the Army guaranteed that any soldiers wounded in Afghanistan would have a better chance of keeping their arms and legs.

"As a vascular surgeon, he brings a skill to surgery that we didn't have available," said Army Brig. Gen. Richard L. Ursone, Europe Regional Medical Command commander. DeRojas also is sharing his knowledge and experience with other physicians at the hospital, Ursone said.

DeRojas served in the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War and is a

veteran of treating combat wounds.

"I have scrubbed with him on numerous operations," said Col. David R. Welling, the medical center's chief of general surgery. "His surgical skills are top-notch. There have been several injuries we wouldn't have been able to deal with without him here."

So far, the medical center has cared for more than 100 soldiers from operations in and around Afghanistan. DeRojas has worked on almost every case, hospital officials said.

Special Forces soldiers are the hardest to treat, because they normally have multiple wounds requiring numerous surgeons, DeRojas said.

"They have injuries from head to toe," he said.

During a Purple Heart medal ceremony at the medical center on Dec. 1, Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey C. Lambert, Army Special Forces Command commander, recognized DeRojas' skill and dedication.



Army Reserve Dr. (Lt. Col.) Juan DeRojas, left, a surgeon sent to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, discusses shrapnel injuries on a patient's X-ray with Air Force Capt. Johnna Perdue, a staff nurse.

In a voice breaking with emotion, the general credited the doctor with saving one of his soldier's legs after a long operation.

DeRojas seems driven to do all he can to serve the military men and women serving America, Welling said.

"He works day and night, weekends and holidays," Welling said. "It seems like he is always here (at the hospital)."

Welling added that being in Europe means many sacrifices

for DeRojas, who will return home around the beginning of February. The surgeon's wife and five children have not seen him since October, and missed spending the holidays with him.

Additionally, as the senior partner of a busy private practice in Wilkes Barre, DeRojas would earn much more money at home than he does working for the Army, Welling said.

Still, DeRojas says, he is right where he wants to be.

"It's an honor taking care of these soldiers," he said. "I don't mind the sacrifices — they are small compared to what some of these soldiers are giving."

In addition to his duties as an Operation Enduring Freedom surgeon, DeRojas started a vascular service at the center. He treats numerous active-duty and retiree patients who normally would go to German hospitals or stateside for treatment.

The care DeRojas shows in everything he does stands out for people who meet him, Rundell said.

"He is one of the most dedicated physicians any of us has ever seen," he said.

"This is what we call an Army of One," Ursone said of DeRojas' work at the hospital, "where we all work together as a team. It's not separate Reserve and active Army components — but we work together as one Army Medical Department team, which is part of the Army team."

Late-night accident sends two to hospital

The Dallas police Department is investigating a one-car crash that occurred in the borough early Sunday morning, police said.

According to police, at approximately 12:30 a.m., a car, operated by Samantha Frederick, traveling westbound on Center Hill Road became airborne and struck a tree after Frederick lost control, police said. When the car came down, it rolled across the road and struck a fence on private property, police said.

Michael Weaver was a passenger in the car at the time of the crash. Both were taken to Community Medical Center in Scranton by life flight helicopter.

Police have not interviewed either person yet, and said the investigation is ongoing.

Funds released for Toby's Creek study

BACK MOUNTAIN — Senator Charles J. Lemmond announced January 8 the release of funding by Governor Mark Schweiker's office to undertake pre-engineering work for flood damage prevention measures along Toby's Creek in Dallas Borough and Kingston and Dallas townships.

The initial \$150,000 effort will include evaluating past flood and erosion damage, modeling the watershed to establish peak runoff and design floodflows, compiling and analyzing past and potential property damages, developing an alternative solution and cost estimates, and assessing the economic justification to proceed with design and construction.

A consultant will be hired by the Department of General Services to oversee the process.

The pre-engineering study is being sponsored by Dallas Borough, Kingston and Dallas townships, which will be asked to provide information for the consultant's use. Once a consultant is on board, the work is expected to take about one year.

Representatives

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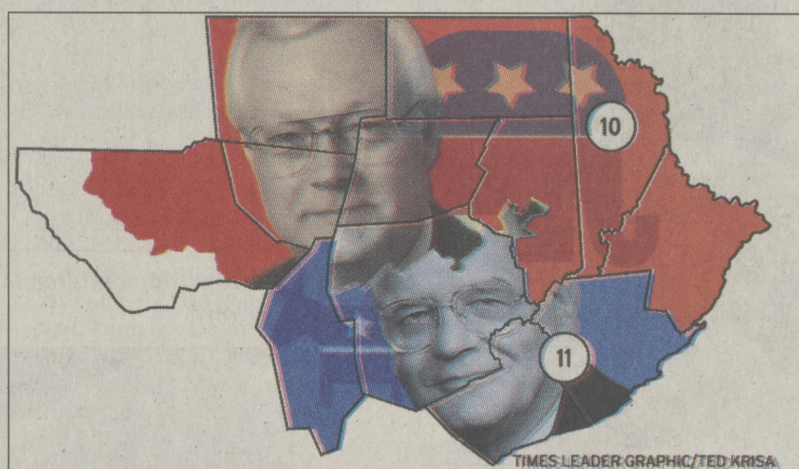
Lehman Township. "I feel good about gaining Dallas Township and Dallas Borough," said Hasay. "I know a lot about those municipalities, and I feel that I can meet the challenge."

Sherwood is a name that many in the Back Mountain are familiar with, and some are happy to hear.

"I think that it works out to the best interests of Back Mountain residents to have Don Sherwood representing them," said Joe Moskovitz, Dallas Borough manager. "Most communities in the Back Mountain are Republican, so now they will have a Republican representing them."

Harveys Lake Borough is the lone Democratic municipality of the seven municipalities in the Back Mountain. Harveys Lake mayor Rick Boice did not return several attempts to contact him for comment.

A former school board presi-



In the new Congressional map, Don Sherwood will represent all of the Back Mountain.

dent and small business owner, Sherwood is known for his programs promoting economic development in rural communities, and that is something both Moskovitz and Lemmond agree can only benefit the Back Mountain.

The issue had been seen as a political move to gain power in the House of Representatives, but Hasay said all municipalities involved will gain from the changes.

"Because of a federal court ruling, we had to make sure that both new congressional districts had as equal a total number as possible," said Hasay. "The magic number was 646,371, meaning one vote equalling one person. We came as close as absolutely possible."

Under the new boundary lines, Kanjorski has 646,372 people in his district, while Sherwood has 646,374.

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