

# ALBUQUERQUE TIMES

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

## Decorated Army Surgeon Returns to New Mexico Roots

*By Jessica Ramírez, Staff Writer*

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After more than a decade of military service, Colonel Michael Brown, M.D., has officially returned home.

A decorated combat surgeon and native of Albuquerque, Dr. Brown has spent much of the last 15 years stationed across conflict zones around the world, serving as a frontline trauma specialist with the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Now, with his final tour complete, he's traded combat fatigues for a white coat-joining the civilian medical community to focus on long-term recovery care and integrative health.

"You don't come back the same," Dr. Brown told the *\*Times\** in a brief interview. "But I didn't come back empty either. There's work to be done here, and I still believe in showing up for it."

Though Dr. Brown declined to speak in detail about his deployments, local officials and fellow physicians describe him as calm under pressure, known for his commitment to patient dignity and battlefield ethics. He was credited with adapting emergency triage protocols in active zones that are now being studied in civilian trauma centers.

His return to New Mexico marks a full-circle moment. Brown, who grew up in Bernalillo County and graduated from Valley High School, said the decision to return wasn't difficult.

"The mission doesn't stop just because the uniform changes," he said. "You keep serving where you're needed."

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Dr. Brown plans to work with regional hospitals on trauma integration initiatives and hopes to develop outreach programs for underserved rural populations. He will begin full-time clinical work in March.

A private welcome event is scheduled later this month, hosted by the Veterans Health Alliance of New Mexico.