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## Boston University Medical Center

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# NEWS

For Immediate Release  
April 1991

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### UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN RETURNS FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Boston, Mass.--Eight months ago, Gaspar W. Anastasi, M.D., the chief of plastic surgery at The University Hospital (UH) and a clinical professor of plastic surgery at Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), turned in his medical scrubs for his naval uniform. A local U.S. Naval Reserve official informed him on August 23 at 3:00 a.m. that he needed to report for active duty in response to the Persian Gulf crisis. Although Anastasi returned last Friday to Boston, to his family and to his practice at UH, he will not officially be discharged from his military obligations until April 18.

While on duty, Captain Anastasi, a member of the U.S. Naval Reserves since 1974, worked in the plastic surgery department of naval hospitals in Charleston, South Carolina and Newport, Rhode Island. The plastic surgeon's role during the war was to handle the casualties requiring reconstructive surgery and hospital care. Initially, the government intended to make the naval hospital in Charleston one of the initial transport sites for casualties returning from the Gulf. As the U.S. military presence in the Gulf increased, Anastasi was transported to Newport in an effort to spread the medical expertise along the east coast. "We never knew from day to day whether we were going to be deployed. As events occurred and the military began to see what was needed, they filled in the holes," says Anastasi.

Although he never actually treated casualties, Anastasi treated active duty personnel, dependents and retired personnel. He also lectured at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. "It was a crazy war. We just waited during the long preparations and build-up that started in

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Anastasi

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August," says Anastasi. According to Anastasi, one of the biggest sacrifices he had to make was the loss of professional time.

Anastasi is both delighted and relieved to be home. "I really missed my patients and working at the hospital, and I am anxious to do a lot of things. No matter where I was, I never had a place of my own."

Anastasi received his bachelor's degree from St. John's College and his medical degree from the Ottawa University School of Medicine. The author of numerous publications, he is the past president of the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons and of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Inc.