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SENATOR CARDIN ATTENDS MOBILIZATION CEREMONY FOR 323rd MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION - A COMPANY

FT. MEADE, MD – **U.S. Senator Benjamin L. Cardin** (D-MD) today attended the mobilization ceremony for the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion – A Company, which is being deployed to Iraq for one year. The Senator told the soldiers that they are “*an inspiration to our nation*” and we are counting on them to provide support to the on-going global War on Terrorism.

In his remarks, the Senator pointed out Maryland’s long and proud history of military service dating to the first militiamen who set foot in the Maryland colony in 1634 to the War of 1812 when our soldiers held Ft. McHenry through World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

*“The 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion has added to this history for more than four decades, tracing its roots back to the 19th Military Intelligence Battalion that was originally activated in 1968 in Germany,” said **Senator Cardin**. “More recently, the 323rd was deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom from January 2003 to April 2004. I know that the men and women of Company A here today will courageously continue this tradition, bravely and honorably serving our country once again in Operation Iraqi Freedom at Camp Liberty as you deploy to Baghdad.”*

The Senator also paid special tribute to the family members of our service men and women, telling them:

“I know that you too will face many challenges and endure tremendous sacrifices while your loved ones are abroad. We owe you an immense debt of gratitude as well. We are committed to the care of your loved ones while you are away and we look forward to welcoming you home in twelve months with the continued support and assistance you deserve.”

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