

PHOTO BY PVT. SHERÉE N. MADDOX

**Congressman John Sarbanes talks to Sgt. 1st Class George Brown on Monday about conditions at the Fort Meade Freedom Center where he is staying.**

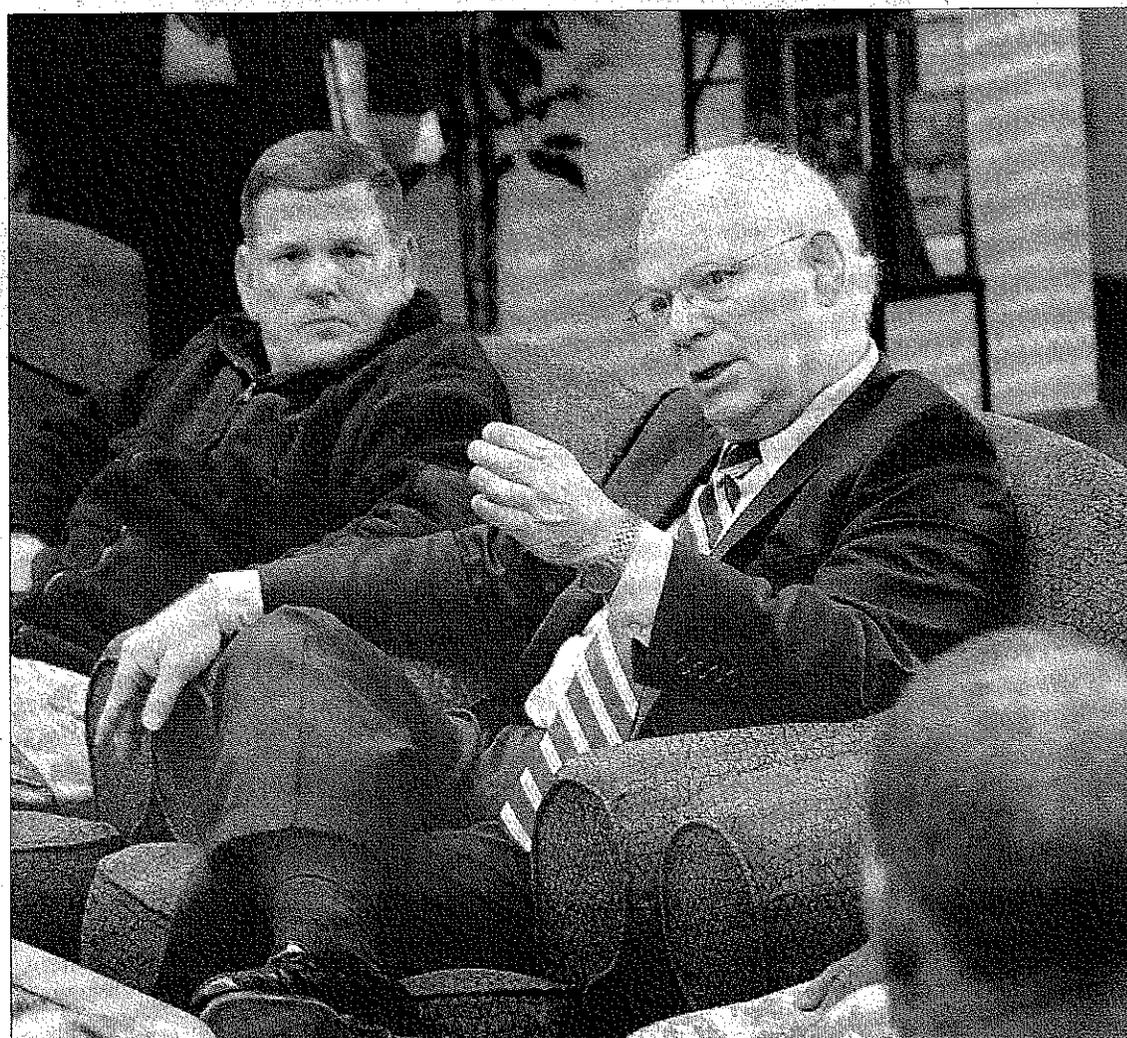


PHOTO BY PVT. SHERÉE N. MADDOX

**Sen. Ben Cardin speaks with Soldiers on various issues during his visit to Fort Meade on Monday.**

# OFFICIALS SUPPORT WOUNDED WARRIORS

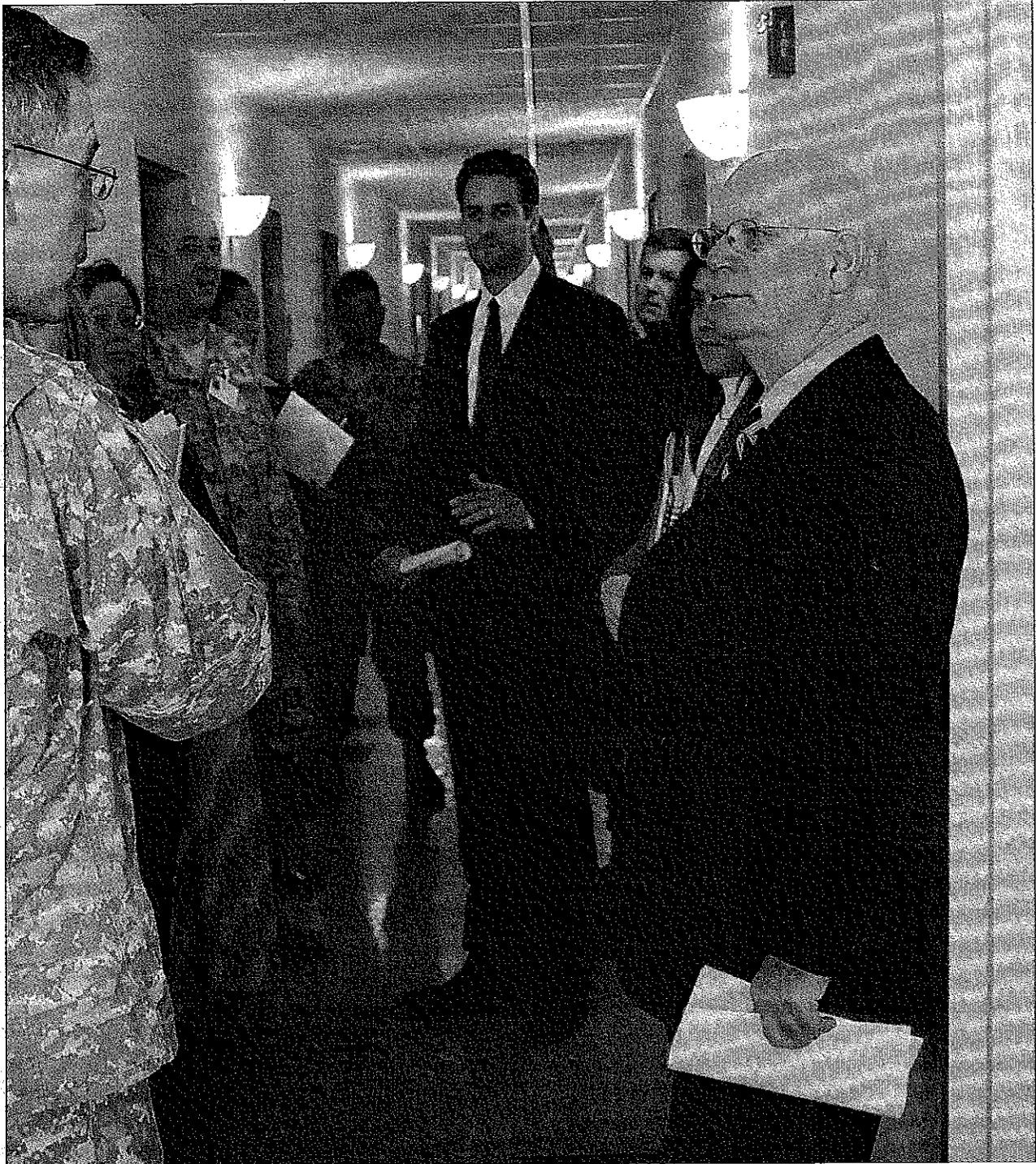


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Installation Commander Col. Kenneth O. McCreedy speaks with Sen. Ben Cardin and Congressman John Sarbanes from Maryland, about services the installation is providing injured Soldiers and their families. The Soldiers make use of a shuttle service provided by Walter Reed Army Medical Center to go to their appointments. Cardin and Sarbanes spent several hours with Soldiers, listening to their concerns and learning about the program which allows wounded service members to stay in the modern, state-of-the-art, barracks facilities at Fort Meade during their recovery. See Page 18 for story.



# OFFICIALS VOICE SUPPORT FOR

COVER STORY

# FORT MEADE'S WOUNDED WARRIORS

By Melanie Moore and Travis Edwards

Fort Meade Public Affairs Office

There have been several articles written lately about the problems dealing with Soldier care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). What hasn't been discussed as much is what the Army is doing to help the injured veterans and Soldiers who depend on Walter Reed for care.

Fort George G. Meade plays a large part in the Army's plans by providing a temporary home for injured Soldiers who are receiving treatment at the hospital and their family members.

On Monday, Sen. Ben Cardin and Congressman John Sarbanes visited Fort Meade to find out what the installation is doing for the Soldiers and also what get some insight on what they can do to help.

"[Installation Commander Col. Kenneth O. McCreedy] and the Fort Meade Freedom Center have done an excellent job in meeting the needs of the Soldiers who are staying here and receiving treatment at Walter Reed Medical Center," Cardin said.

"I've been fortunate to visit Fort Meade twice since I was elected to Congress this past fall. The more I learn about this facility, the more impressed I am," Sarbanes added.

Fort Meade began supporting Soldiers from Walter Reed Medical Center in January 2003.

Currently 13 Soldiers stay at the FGGM, which was constructed in June 2002. There, Soldiers have access to a shuttle service that takes them to Walter Reed Medical Center for medical appointments. The garrison also provides a government vehicle and driver support if a Soldier has a unique appointment or the appointment is not in line with the shuttle service. Soldiers are also provided lodging meal cards.

The Soldiers currently housed at FGGM are ambulatory patients capable of taking care of themselves and managing their own medical appointments. However there have been a few instances where a Soldier needed wheel chair accessible housing, which the garrison, under the supervision of Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Esmond Bakker, provided.

Noncommissioned officers who are assigned to Fort Meade on a temporary basis assist Bakker with the program.

"Fort Meade is committed to serving Soldiers every day. We especially are honored to assist

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wounded warriors in their time of need," McCreedy said. "We will continue to work with the Installation Management Command and the Medical Command to provide support as it is required."

Cardin shared similar feelings with the Soldiers and their families.

"Our priority is to take care of our nation's wounded Soldiers," Cardin said. "We have to live up to that responsibility. I am here today to meet with all of you because I want to hear about your experiences and hear about what you think we should be doing better."

Cardin and Sarbanes also shared their views on the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure Recommendations (BRAC) and Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) actions.

"The success of BRAC is critical to ensuring we have the military we need for the 21st century, Cardin

said. "Fort Meade is an important part of the military plan. I and other members of the Maryland delegation are committed to ensuring that Fort Meade has the resources it needs to carry out its new mission."

"Implementing BRAC at Fort Meade will take a collaborative

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PHOTO BY PVT. SHERECE N. MADDOX

Cardin, Sarbanes and Installation Commander Col. Kenneth O. McCreedy talk with Soldiers on Monday. The Soldiers are temporarily staying on Fort Meade while receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

effort among many stakeholders," Sarbanes said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Congressional delegation, state and local leadership, as well as Fort Meade officials to tackle this challenge on base and in the surrounding communities."

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