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INFANTRYMAN WITH V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION EARNS SILVER STAR FOR VALOR

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARHORSE, Iraq — An infantryman with V Corps'

1st Infantry Division was awarded the Silver Star for Valor July 19 for actions credited with defeating the enemy and saving the lives of coalition Soldiers.



PHOTO COURTESY 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION

Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, commander of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, pins a Silver Star for Valor on Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger, an infantryman with the division's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry at Forward Operating Base Gabe near Baqubah, Iraq July 19. Bittinger was awarded the medal for his actions against anti-Iraqi forces and for protecting and saving the lives of coalition members in Baqubah and Buhritz April 9.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger, who is assigned to the division's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, and currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, was presented the medal by 1st Infantry Division Commander Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste.

About 200 Soldiers attended the ceremony on Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqubah, Iraq.

Bittinger, a 33-year-old Chicago native, earned

the medal for valorous actions leading to the

defeat of enemy forces and saving the lives of friendly forces on April 9 in Buhritz and Baqubah.

Lt. Col. Steven Bullimore, commander of Task Force 1-6, presided over the ceremony.

"As Americans, we love our heroes," he said. "We wonder in our heart of hearts what it is that makes them. In the example of Staff Sgt. Ray Bittinger, two things stand out. First, he has always been good at what he does. Second is the simple selflessness of a true professional."

Bittinger said he was humbled by the all of the attention and the remarks.

"I consider myself a Soldier, not a hero," said Bittinger after the ceremony. "I'm an infantryman. It's my duty. It's my job."

