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V CORPS TASK FORCE, IRAQIS CELEBRATE U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY, IRAQI SOVEREIGNTY

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers of V Corps' Task Force Danger and Iraqi citizens celebrated Independence Day and Iraqi sovereignty together during traditional Fourth of July festivities on Forward Operating Base Danger here July 4.

Maj. Gen. John R.S Batiste, 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger commander, hosted the "Freedom Day Celebration" that attracted about 200 Iraqi guests and local dignitaries. Another 200-plus Task Force Danger Soldiers attended the event.

The day included games for children, traditional Iraqi and American foods, music by the 1st Infantry Division Band and a half-hour fireworks display.

"Today is a day in which we Americans celebrate the birth of our nation," Batiste said. "It is a day in which you Iraqis celebrate the rebirth of your's."



SGT 1ST CLASS CHUCK JOSEPH
A 1st Infantry Division soldier on Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq watches a fireworks display during the "Freedom Day Celebration" there July 4.

"It is a day in which we together, Iraqis and Americans, celebrate our common dreams for the future – dreams of peace, freedom and prosperity for us all."

