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## V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PASSES SOVEREIGNTY TO IRAQ'S DIYALA PROVINCE

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office release

**BAQUBAH, Iraq** – Before a background here of Iraqi National Guardsman, Diyala police officers, and the Diyala Provincial Council, Governor Dr. Abdullah Rasheed accepted full sovereignty for the province June 29 with a handshake from Col. Dana Pittard, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander for V Corps' 1st Infantry Division.



PHOTO COURTESY M. SCOTT MAHASKEY, ARMY TIMES

Col. Dana Pittard, 3rd Brigade Combat Team commander for V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, shakes hands with Diyala Provincial Governor Dr. Abdullah Rasheed June 29, symbolizing the restoration of full sovereignty to the province.

"This is a great day, a historical day for all of Diyala, and for Iraq," said Pittard. "Governor Rasheed and the provincial council's leadership will be vital as Iraqis take responsibility and we assume a supporting role," Pittard added.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the assembled Iraqis shouted, "With my life I will defend Iraq."

