



Task Force Danger

July 18, 2004

BRO Progress

1st Infantry Division

Soldiers, Iraqis celebrate freedom, sovereignty together



A 1st Infantry Division Soldier on Forward Operating Base Danger, Iraq, (right) watches a fireworks display on July 4. Fireworks hang in the air (left) over FOB Danger during the "Freedom Day Celebration."

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

MG John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division and TF Danger Commander, hosted "Freedom Day Celebration." The event attracted about 200 Iraqi guests and local dignitaries. More than 200 TF Danger Soldiers also attended the event.

The day included games for the children, traditional Iraqi and American foods as well as 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."

"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," Batiste said.

Task Force aides local medical school, hospital

TIKRIT, Iraq – Task Force Danger Soldiers delivered medical supplies, textbooks and journals to the Tikrit Hospital and Tikrit University Medical School on July 7.

The 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment and the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion coordinated and carried out the delivery.

The University of Tennessee Medical School collected 150 boxes of textbooks from medical students in the United States. The Elsevier Publishing Company provided the shipping from the U.S., said CPT Donna Kentley, a physician's assistant with the 415th CA Battalion coordinated the delivery.

This latest delivery boosted the number of books in the medical school's library to more than 50,000, Kentley said, who spearheaded the delivery. When the U.S. arrived in Iraq and started the rebuilding process, the university used photocopied texts for teaching medical students and nurses, Kentley said.



Iraqi National Guard graduates first basic training class



TIKRIT, Iraq – The 1st Infantry Division hosted a ceremony July 10 for the first class of Iraqi National Guard soldiers to graduate from the ING Training Academy located here.

This is the sole ING academy for the entire Task Force Danger area of operations. In the past training was done “in house” by the separate ING battalions. The 309 graduates completed the 20-day course taught by both Multi-National and Iraqi instructors.

“The graduation is a major milestone in your life and for the sovereignty of Iraq,” said MG John R. S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division Commander.

The course is designed after the United States Army Basic Training.

ING recruits are instructed on wear of the uniform, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony as well as basic rifle marksmanship, said MAJ Scot R. Bemis, ING Training Academy Commandant.

However, instruction is based off of the Iraqi Army’ marching, saluting, and even weapons familiarization on the AK-47, he said.

Recruits are also taught first aid, personnel and vehicle search as well as Individual Movement Techniques.

The soldiers are recruited by separate battalions throughout the Big Red One’s area of responsibility. Each battalion is allocated a certain number of class seats.



Newly-graduated Iraqi National Guard soldiers (top) raise their instructors upon their shoulders while celebrating the completion of the three week basic training course on July 10. An Iraqi National Guard recruit demonstrates Individual Movement Techniques (above) while an ING drill instructor shouts words of encouragement on July 6 at the ING Training Academy in Tikrit, Iraq. An Iraqi National Guard recruit practices reflexive-fire drills (right) as an ING drill instructor shouts commands on July 6 at the ING Training Academy in Tikrit, Iraq.