Subject Matter Briefing

Introduction

- Saudi National Day, held annually on September 23, commemorates the unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by King Ibn Saud in 1932.
  - It further celebrates the renaming of Saudi Arabia from the Kingdom of Nejd Hejaz.

- Made a national holiday in 2005, Saudi National Day is the first nonreligious public holiday in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi National Day

- In its 90-year history, Saudi National Day has become one of the foremost days on the Saudi calendar.
  - Significant announcements are often made during Saudi National Day, including the opening of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in 2009.

- This day is marked by folklore, dances, songs, and traditional festivals across Saudi Arabia and the world.
  - Buildings and roads are decorated with Saudi flags and people dress in green and white, the colors of the Saudi flag.
  - The celebration also focuses on educating and highlighting Saudi Arabia’s history to generations of Saudis across the world through workshops and interactive programs.

- Saudis across the world celebrate the holiday wherever they are, including here in the United States.

- Past U.S. media coverage regarding Saudi National Day includes stories about Saudi student groups who celebrated by hosting campus events, sharing stories, pictures, and traditional foods.

Saudi National Day 2020

- This year, despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, Saudi Arabia will be celebrating their 90th Saudi National Day.
  - This year’s celebration will feature more virtual events highlighting not only Saudi Arabia’s history but the exciting reforms and transformation occurring in Saudi Arabia thanks to Vision 2030.

Conclusion

- Saudi National Day is one of the most important days on the Saudi calendar, similar to that of July 4th here in the United States.

- Millions of Saudi citizens each year celebrate their people’s history and future on Saudi National Day, sharing with the world the pride and excitement they have for their home.

- As Saudi Arabia continues to play a pivotal role in international affairs and the world economy, Saudi National Day will continue to be a day of significance around the world.