



COURTESY NASA

Stellar sparks

■ A brilliant field of red, white and blue stars glitters across a new image from Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope, resembling a sparkler glowing against the night sky. The space agency released the image to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the US, celebrating the nation's long history of exploration while showcasing one of the oldest collections of stars in our galaxy. Beyond the colours of the US flag, the image offers a rare look at a stellar system that has existed for nearly the entire history of the universe.