

Delivery Systems

46. The JIC Assessments clearly describe the weapon systems assessed to be capable of delivering chemical and biological munitions as

free-fall bombs for aircraft,
artillery shells and rockets (range up to 25km),
helicopter and aircraft sprayers,
al Hussein ballistic missiles (range 650km),
al Samoud/Ababil ballistic missiles (range 150km plus), and
L-29 remotely piloted vehicles

47. The assessments also spell out the difficulties and complications with using these systems Iraq:

had, at most, 20 al Hussein missiles that had been hidden since 1991 and were in an unknown condition,
probably did not have chemical or biological warheads for the al Samoud/Ababil missiles;
had free-fall bombs, and helicopter and aircraft sprayers, including the L-29 remotely piloted vehicle, but the use of them would be difficult given the allied air superiority over the Northern and Southern No-fly Zones

48. The JIC assessed that the Iraqis might use chemical and biological weapons against neighbouring states or concentrations of Western forces. We were told that the weapons systems most likely to be used to deliver chemical and biological munitions against Western forces were artillery and rockets. These are battlefield weapons, which can be used tactically to great effect, but they are not strategic weapons.

"Within 45 minutes"

49. The JIC reported that the Iraqi military could use chemical and biological weapons within 20–45 minutes. On the question of deployment time, the Committee examined the SIS report on which this was based. The report was dated 30 August 2002. It reported, amongst other things, that on average it took 20 minutes to move BCW (*sic*) munitions into place for attack. The maximum response time was 45 minutes.