

War or from more recent production. The JIC judged Iraq to be self-sufficient in the production of biological weapons. It also judged that Iraq had the means to deliver chemical and biological weapons

Recent Intelligence

5. Subsequently, intelligence has become available from reliable sources which complements and adds to previous intelligence and confirms the JIC assessment that Iraq has chemical and biological weapons. The intelligence also shows that the Iraqi leadership has been discussing a number of issues related to these weapons. This intelligence covers:

- **Confirmation that chemical and biological weapons play an important role in Iraqi military thinking.** Intelligence shows that Saddam attaches great importance to the possession of weapons of mass destruction which he regards as being the basis for Iraqi regional powers. He believes that respect for Iraq rests on its possession of chemical and biological weapons and the missiles capable of delivering them. Intelligence indicates that Saddam is determined to retain this capability and recognises that Iraqi political weight would be diminished if Iraq's military power rested solely on its weakened conventional military forces.
- **Iraqi attempts to retain its existing banned weapons systems:** Iraq is already taking steps to undermine the possible return of any UN weapons inspectors: Iraq has begun removing sensitive equipment and papers relating to its chemical and biological programmes and dispersing them beyond the gaze of inspectors, for example by hiding sensitive documents in the homes of his trusted officials. Saddam is determined not to lose the capabilities that he has been able to develop in the four years since inspectors left.
- **Saddam's willingness to use chemical and biological weapons:** intelligence indicates that Saddam is prepared to use chemical and biological weapons if he believes his regime is under threat. We also know from intelligence that as part of Iraq's military planning, Saddam is willing to use chemical and biological weapons against any internal uprising by the Shia population. The Iraqi military may be able to deploy chemical or biological weapons within forty five minutes of an order to do so.

Chemical and biological agents: surviving stocks