

human intelligence gathering from Iraq. (This source bravely stayed throughout the war, and has since been re-located by the British).

So why has so little evidence of Iraq's WMD programme been uncovered?  
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In one sense the question itself is the wrong one. The hardware of WMD includes such pedestrian military items as empty artillery shells, 122mm rockets, scuds and Al Hussein warheads. Hundreds of these have indeed been found.

No-one would expect to find the bacteria or chemical warheads without a very hard search in a huge country, or without talking to the very people who would surely have buried the incriminating evidence once it became clear by Day 3 of the war that Saddam's C3 had collapsed. Which regional commander would wish to be found holding stocks of anthrax, botulinum, Sarin or VX nerve gas in his refrigerators. Incidentally, as the electrical grids began to falter throughout Iraq, the bacteria would have died anyway and would surely have been disposed of.

Why weren't the weapons used against coalition forces? Intelligence from a second Iraqi source, given after the end of the war was that whatever there was to the WMD programme that needed hiding from UNMOVIC's Hans Blix in his pre-war forays was so widely dispersed that it would have been difficult or impossible to reconstitute the disparate elements into a coherent weapons system especially given the suddenness of the decision to invade. If this not unreasonable theory is true, then it follows that much of the gunk remains carefully and deliberately hidden in a country with terrain from hell, insecure and verging on lawlessness.

Western intelligence know there was a WMD programme for several reasons. There were signals intelligence intercepts from 1998 onwards that confirmed the point: it would have been wholly illogical for Saddam to kick out the UNSCOM inspectors (with all the horrendous political implications that were almost bound to ensue) and NOT run a covert WMD programme.

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