



# Pentagon Briefing

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## **Iraq's Weapons Programs: *Lies, Denial and Deception***

➤ **Saddam has demonstrated his determination to conceal his weapons of mass destruction and their development.**

- For more than a decade, Saddam Hussein's regime has made denial and deception an integral part of military, diplomatic and overall government operations in Iraq. Among the tactics Saddam employs to deceive the world about his weapons of mass destruction are:

- Satellite countermeasures
- Camouflage
- Underground and covert facilities
- Disinformation
- Cover stories
- Staged media activities
- False installations

➤ **Saddam's regime has a history of denial and deception.**

- Since 1991, Saddam has used the following tactics to hide his development of weapons of mass destruction and to lie about their existence:
  - Iraq conceals weapons facilities in residential areas, such as the biological weapons plant in Abu Ghurayb that is within 2 blocks of Iraqi private homes.
  - Iraqi officials sanitize sites by moving or hiding materials -- in some cases, literally moving arms and components out the back door while inspectors come through the front.
  - Saddam's regime has made fraudulent declarations to the United Nations. In a 1992 letter to the U.N. Secretary General, Iraq's foreign minister wrote: "Iraq has not produced any bacteriological or biological weapons...The equipment which could be said to be capable of producing such weapons have been destroyed."
  - Iraq will sacrifice certain documents and weapons material in order to divert attention from and protect the true nature of its WMD programs. At a chicken farm in 1995, Iraq turned over 150 boxes of documents, many of which referenced other, more damaging documents that were withheld.

- Saddam's officials invent cover stories for weapons facilities, such as the "Baby Milk Plant" that sprouted perimeter fencing and roof camouflage at the onset of the Gulf War.
- Saddam's palaces and their grounds, which house bunkers & weapons equipment, are declared "sensitive sites" and off-limits to inspections.
- Saddam will destroy buildings to simulate combat damage and spread disinformation about civilian casualties. In February 1991, Iraqi forces destroyed the Al Basrah Mosque, claiming it had been damaged by coalition aircraft. The nearest bomb crater --visible in satellite imagery -- was several hundred feet away.
- Saddam will stage media tours that restrict press to facilities that have been cleared of weapons material and production activity.

➤ **Saddam Hussein and his regime cannot be trusted.**

- Saddam's government is committed to misleading and deceiving the international community, the United Nations and the media about his weapons of mass destruction.
- Iraq's repeated denials that it has weapons of mass destruction, and the regime's pattern of lies to the world have become institutions of Saddam's government.
- Among the many government offices Saddam uses to hide his WMD program are (in addition to the Iraqi Office of the President):
  - The Higher Security Committee
  - Special Security Organization (SSO), run by Saddam's son, Qusay
  - Military Industrial Commission
  - Iraqi Intelligence Service (IIS)
  - Special Republican Guard
  - Directorate for Military Intelligence