

# Iraq explosives issue dwarfs bigger picture

The infamous 377 tons of vanished explosives represent only a tiny fraction of the vast quantities of other munitions unaccounted for since the fall of Saddam Hussein. While the U.S. military has secured some 400,000 tons of munitions, up to 250,000 tons remain missing

## Sites thought to have been looted

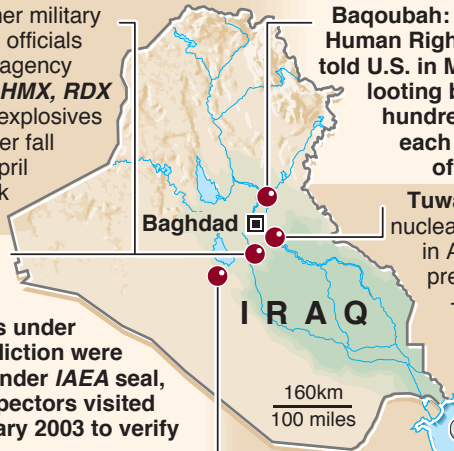
**Al-Qaqaa:** Former military installation. Iraqi officials told UN nuclear agency that 377 tons of **HMX**, **RDX** and **PETN** high explosives went missing after fall of Baghdad in April 2003, due to lack of security

**Al-Mahaweel:** Storage facility where most of RDX explosives under Al-Qaqaa jurisdiction were kept. Site not under **IAEA** seal, but agency inspectors visited facility in January 2003 to verify RDX was intact

**Ukhaider:** Ammunition storage area. UN inspectors found 11 empty chemical warheads in "excellent" condition in January 2003. Two U.S. aid workers reported looting in October 2003 but were told U.S. military didn't have enough troops to seal site

**Baqoubah:** Military College. Human Rights Watch says it told U.S. in May 2003 of daily looting by armed men of hundreds of warheads, each containing 26kg of high explosives

**Tuwaitha:** Iraq's main nuclear complex, looted in April 2003 of high-precision equipment – including milling machines and electron beam welders



**Munitions in Iraq before invasion:**  
**650,000 tons**  
Destroyed/secured:  
**400,000 tons**  
Unaccounted for:  
**250,000 tons**

