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Defector behind Iraq lies to be unmasked

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THE Iraqi defector whose fabricated account of Baghdad's biological weapons program was crucial to the US case for war was to be identified on American TV as an accused thief and failed chemical engineering student.

Known as Curveball by Western intelligence agencies, the man was to be named for the first time, on CBS' *60 Minutes* yesterday, as Rafid Ahmed Alwan.

According to the program, he earned low marks in chemical engineering at university and was accused of theft at an Iraqi TV station where he worked.

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