

PART 2: Sniper rifles/Support weapons

All pics Brian Hartigan except where otherwise captioned

Sniper rifles

SR98



Australian Army snipers are issued the Accuracy International SR98 sniper rifle, providing them with the capability to engage targets beyond 800m.

The weapon is a magazine-fed, bolt-action rifle fitted with a telescopic sight on a Picatinny rail.

Iron sights are supplied in the complete equipment schedule as an emergency back-up system and can

be fitted should the telescopic sight be damaged.

The SR98 can be fitted with a screw-on suppressor to reduce muzzle flash and noise signature.

It is fed by a 10-round magazine.

The SR98 is almost unique in being a purpose-designed sniper rifle as opposed to an adapted or improved standard rifle.

Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	7.8kg (with sight and bipod)
Length	1250mm
Barrel length	660mm
Muzzle velocity	825m/second
Effective range	800m+

Blaser

The Blaser Tactical 2 sniper rifle is a straight-pull, bolt-operated rifle that feeds from a detachable four-round magazine.

The weapon is capable of firing both ball and armour-piercing .338 calibre ammunition, and engaging point targets to a range of 1500 delivering harassing fire to 2000m.

It has an adjustable bipod, which can be detached, and can be tailored to fit soldier personal tactical requirements.

Calibre	.338mm
Weight	9.14kg (with full magazine)
Length	1230mm
Barrel length	627mm
Muzzle velocity	800-915m/second
Effective range	1500m



AW50F

The AW50F 'anti-materiel rifle' (AMR) is a bolt-operated, magazine-fed weapon that fires several types of 12.7mm (.50 cal) ammunition with the capability of engaging targets to a range of 1500m.

It has an adjustable bipod and third leg at the rear that can be adjusted to fit soldiers' personal and tactical requirements.

It may be fitted with telescopic or iron sights.

Ammunition types include ball F1, tracer, armour piercing, armour-piercing incendiary and multipurpose, fed from a five-round box magazine.



Calibre	12.7mm (.50 cal)
Weight	14.93kg (with full magazine)
Length	1350mm
Barrel length	692mm
Muzzle velocity	825m/sec
Effective range	1500m

SR-25

Defence has a variant of the SR-25, which is referred to as the Knights Armament MkII Mod 0 sniper rifle.

This is a hand-built, semi-automatic sniper rifle capable of engaging point targets beyond 800m.

It is an air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed weapon with a rotating-bolt locking action. It is fitted with a fixed butt and is capable of both semi-automatic and automatic fire.

The weapon can fire a number of different types of munitions and can be fitted with a suppressor to reduce its visual and audible signature.

It has an adjustable bipod, which can be detached, and a rail system that allows a range of sighting systems and ancillaries to be mounted, allowing a sniper to configure the weapon to support a specific role, mission or operating environment.

The role of the MkII Mod 0 is to provide commanders the flexibility for accurate day or night engagement of selected point targets with high discrimination at long range.

Designed to provide a complementary capability to the SR98, it allows a sniper to rapidly engage multiple targets or re-engage single targets – a capability not provided by bolt-action rifles.

For these reasons, sniper teams have been using the MkII Mod 0 as the weapon of choice for the number two in a sniper pair.



Calibre	7.62mm
Weight	6.9kg (without magazine)
Length	1150mm
Barrel length	510mm
Muzzle velocity	780m/second
Feed	20-round magazine
Effective range	800m+

Support weapons

M3 Carl Gustav



The 84mm M3 Carl Gustav is a breech-loaded, percussion-fired, recoilless, shoulder-controlled weapon that is highly accurate and versatile.

It is fired by one soldier (the No 1) from all the normal firing positions. However, the back-blast danger area (BBDA) must be taken into account and the firing position adjusted to suit.

A second soldier (No 2) carries the ammunition and acts as a loader. The M3 version was designed to withstand arctic, tropic and desert conditions better than the M1 or M2 versions.

There are six types of service ammunition available, including high-explosive anti-personnel and high-explosive anti-tank, illumination and non-explosive practice.

Calibre	84mm
Weight	10kg (with bipod and sight)
Length	1065mm
Effective range	500m (stationary targets) 300m (moving targets) 100m (area targets)
Back blast danger area	60m rearwards and 820mm either side

M18A1 Claymore

The anti-personnel weapon M18A1 Claymore is a command-detonated, fixed-direction, fragmentation weapon designed primarily for use against personnel. The fragments also effectively penetrate soft-skinned vehicles.

All soldiers must be able to effectively employ the Claymore against the enemy and safely among friendly troops. This requires high-level knowledge of the weapon, its characteristics and each component's operation.

Claymore is employed during both offensive and defensive operations.

Fragmentation	700 steel balls
Explosive	700g
Weight	1.5kg
Length	21.5cm
Effective range	100m

