

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 1500m or delivering harassing fire to 2000m.

It has an adjustable bipod, which can be detached, and can be tailored to fit soldiers' 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



WEAPONS OF THE ADF



Mk 19

The Mk 19 is a belt-fed, blowback-operated, air-cooled, crew-served, fully automatic grenade launcher, firing 40mm grenades at a cyclic rate up to 375 rounds per minute, with a practical rate of fire of 60 rounds per minute [rapid] and 40 rounds per minute [sustained].

The weapon operates on the blowback principle, using the chamber pressure from each fired round to load and re-cock the weapon.

The Mk 19 can fire beyond 2000m, though its effective range for a point target is limited to 1500m because the sights are only graduated to that distance.

Although the Mk 19 has a flash suppressor, this is designed only to save the eyesight of its operator and not to conceal the weapon's position.

The Mk 19 is a man-portable crew-served weapon that can fire from a tripod or a vehicle mount. Vehicle mounting is preferred because the weapon alone weighs 33kg. Ammunition comes in 32- or 48-round tins weighing 19kg and 27kg respectively.

Primary ammunition is the high-explosive dual-purpose M430 grenade, which, upon impact, can kill anyone within a 5m radius and wound within 15m. It can also punch through 5cm of light armour with a direct hit.

Mk 19 ammunition is not interchangeable with the M203.

Weight	32.9kg
Length	1090mm
Barrel length	413mm
Cyclic rate of fire	325-375 rounds/minute
Effective range	1500m
Max range	2023m

M2HB QCB

The 12.7mm [.50 cal] M2 Heavy Barrel Quick Change Barrel machine gun is used as the primary or secondary armament on various vehicles and watercraft in the offensive, defensive, suppressive and neutralising roles.

It can also be used in the ground role, fired from a tripod.

On vehicles and watercraft, it is used to provide close-range fire-support against surface and air targets.

When mounted on a tripod, it can be used in the direct-fire role or the indirect-fire role using observation of fall of shot.

It is an automatic, belt-fed, air-cooled, spring and recoil-operated weapon, also capable of firing single shots.

It fires from a positively locked breech position and is capable of a sustained high volume of fire.

The maximum effective range in the direct-fire role is 2000m and in the extended-range role 6800m.

Designed towards the end of WWI by John Browning, the weapon has been in general production since 1933. Only the Browning pistol [same designer] has been in general military service longer.

Calibre	12.7mm
Weight	25kg
Length	1656mm
Barrel length	1143mm
Muzzle velocity	890m/second
Cyclic rate of fire	450-575 rounds/minute



F1

When the use of direct fire to attack an enemy may not be appropriate or achievable, soldiers require a weapon that can overcome such deficiencies.

A hand-thrown blast and fragmentation grenade provides this capability at short range. It can be easily carried by individual soldiers so that it is available for immediate use.

Weight	370g
Length	96mm
Width	58mm
Lethal radius	6m
Casualty radius	15m
Danger radius	30m
Detonation	4.5-5.5 seconds

The flexibility and effectiveness of a section is also enhanced if each soldier has the capability to use grenades.

The Australian Army's current in-service grenades include coloured smoke, anti-riot CS, stun multi, sound and flash special purpose, incendiary and fragmentation.

The F1 fragmentation grenade is a hand-thrown, anti-personnel grenade, effective in the clearing of enemy from bunkers, fire trenches, dugouts and buildings. It can also be used for all types of close-quarters battle, urban fighting and ambushing.

The F1 fragmentation grenade contains 30g of HE mixture and approximately 4000 x 2.5mm steel balls.

M203PI

The M203PI [product improved] grenade launcher system for the F88 Steyr was purchased in 2000 by the ADF to replace the Vietnam era M79 and the M203 grenade launchers then in service.

It provides an integral high-explosive fire-support capability to an infantry section by enabling targets to be engaged in the zone between the maximum effective range of hand-thrown fragmentation grenades and the minimum safety range of mortars and artillery.

It is intended to be used as close fire support against point and area targets. The round can penetrate windows, blow in doors, produce casualties in enemy groups, destroy bunkers and damage or disable soft-skinned vehicles.

Grenade launchers are issued on the basis of two per infantry section, and enable soldiers to engage targets faster and more accurately than with existing launchers.

They can fire the full range of 40mm service ammunition including high-explosive, smoke and illumination.

The system comprises the 40mm M203 Product Improved grenade launcher, manufactured by R/M Equipment, a Knight's Armament Quadrant Reflex Sight and an Interbar mounting system, manufactured at ADI's Lithgow facility.



Weight	1.4kg
Length	380mm
Barrel length	305mm
Muzzle velocity	76m/second
Effective range	150m
Max range	400m
Action	Single shot
Cyclic rate of fire	5-7 rounds/minute

M72A6



The 66mm M72A6 light direct fire-support weapon, aka short-range anti-armour weapon, has an effective range of 250m and a maximum range of 350m.

The primary use of the '66' was against light-armoured vehicles but is mainly used today against enemy emplacements.

It is a portable one-shot 66mm unguided anti-tank weapon.

Designed in the USA, production began in 1963 and was scheduled to end in 1983 when a replacement was expected. However, the replacement project was terminated under a cloud of controversy and so the '66' has survived.

The weapon consists of a rocket packed inside a launcher made up of two tubes, one inside the other. While closed, the outer assembly acts as a watertight container for the rocket. The outer tube contains the trigger, arming handle and sights.

When extended, the inner tube telescopes backwards, cocking the weapon.

Once armed, the weapon is no longer watertight, even when collapsed.

The standard warhead can penetrate up to 20cm of steel plate, 600mm of reinforced concrete or 1.8m of soil.

Calibre	66mm
Weight	2.5kg
Length	630mm unarmed 881mm armed
Muzzle velocity	145m/second
Effective range	250m

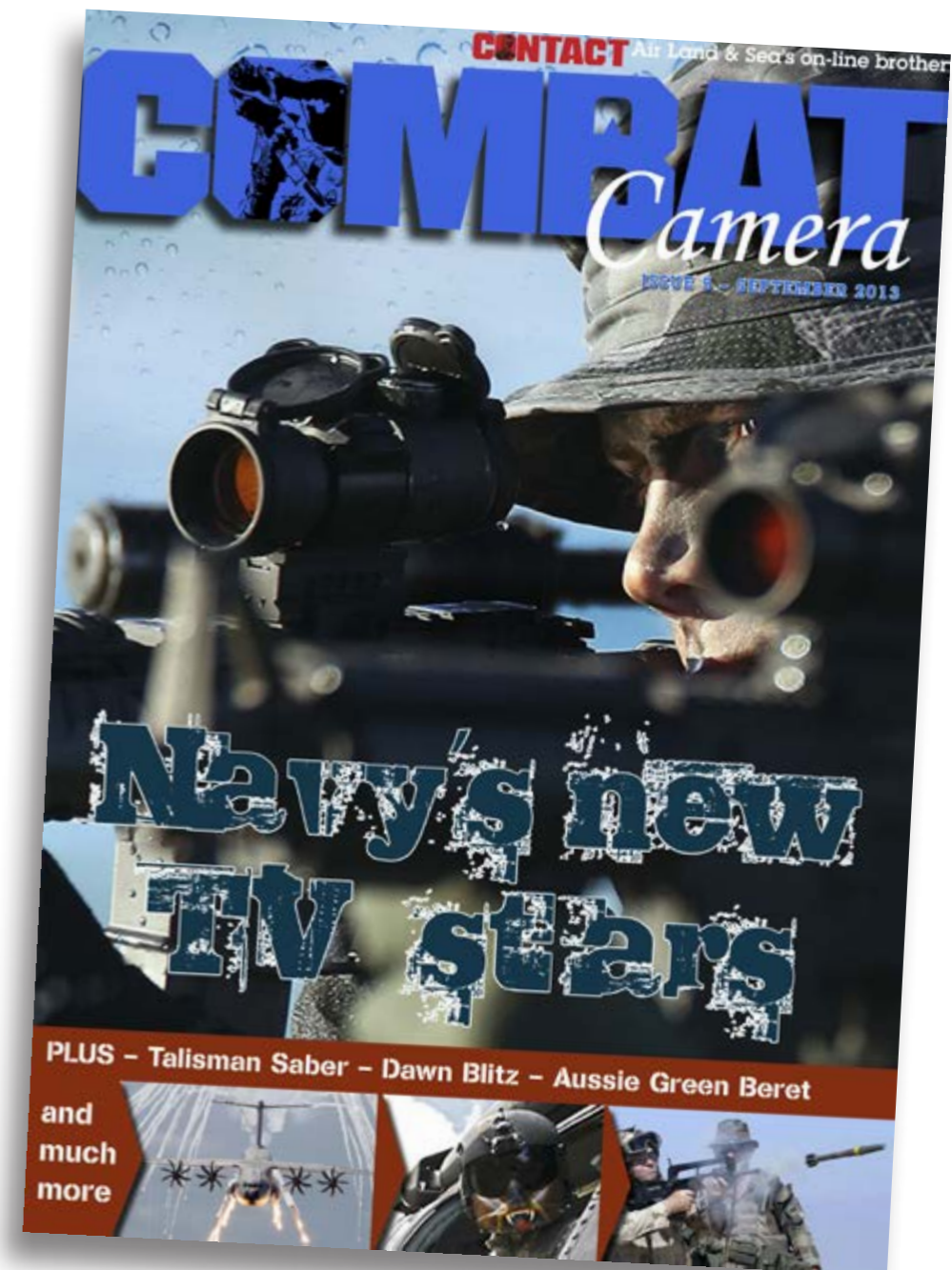
NOTE: Where [many] statistics and 'facts' listed above differ from those of other publically available sources [including relevant manufacturers], we have mainly used the official ADF figures [where available] on the grounds that in-service weapons may have been customer-modified. Where ADF figures are not available, we used other sources, especially Wikipedia.



Pic Captain Cameron Jamieson

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