NGIC Assessment

U.S. Army
National Ground Intelligence Center

(U) Iraq: UPDATE - Small Arms (Infantry Weapons) Used by the Anti-Coalition Insurgency

Purpose

(U) This assessment reviews the small arms infantry weapons currently in use and projected to be used by the anti-Coalition insurgency in Iraq. It updates information in (U) Iraq: Small Arms (Infantry Weapons) used by the Anti-Coalition Insurgency (March 2004).

Key Points

- (U) Prewar Iraq was armed with a mixture of locally produced weapons and weapons purchased from a wide variety of foreign sources. Additionally, it has been reported that the prewar Iraqi government authorized each household to maintain an automatic weapon. Estimates of the number of small arms in the country at the start of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) range between 1 to 2 million and 5 to 7 million. Some weapons, such as the FAMAS, FN FAL and Type 70-1, were not known to be in prewar Iraq but have been identified since the start of OIF.
- (U) The disintegration of the Iraqi Army and widespread looting resulted in broad dissemination of these small arms throughout the country. Shoulder-fired antitank grenade launchers (RPGs), improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and small arms primarily 7.62-mm and below are the weapons favored by the insurgents.
- (U) The anti-Coalition insurgency is continuing to refine its tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) in its pursuit to prevent the interim Iraqi government from stabilizing and attacking Coalition forces Some insurgent groups are conducting training to build on lessons learned through combat with Coalition forces. The continued increase in complexity of their operations will probably result in expanded use of heavier/exotic weapons and/or armor-piercing ammunition to defeat Coalition forces' advantage in personnel and vehicle force protection equipment. For more information on insurgent training and TTPs see the assessments listed below:
    - (U) Iraq: Mahdi Army Training and Tactics in Najaf during the Month of August 2004.
    - (U) UPDATE: Adaptation of Asymmetrical TTPs by Anti-Coalition Fighters in Iraq.
    - (U) Iraq: Asymmetric Urban Warfare Doctrine
    - (U) Iraq: Asymmetric Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures Used at Fallujah and by the Mahdi Army, Spring 2004.
    - (U) Iraq: Insurgent Strategy and Tactics for the Defense of Fallujah Against a Coalition Attack, Nov 2004.
- (U) While the role of foreign fighters in Iraq may be small, it can be expected that successful TTPs

developed by the anti-Coalition insurgency in Iraq will at some time be adopted by the opposing militant forces in Afghanistan and vice versa. These foreign fighters and the organizations they belong to could influence the battlefield by migrating effective improvised weapons, supplying the insurgency with motivated/experienced fighters, offering "Pan-Islamic" legitimacy/support, financing, TTPs, and smuggling in new weapon systems and/or ammunition. See (U) NGIC Assessment: Al Qa 'ida Small Arms and (U) How They Fight: Militant and Terrorist Organizations of the World.

Discussion

(U//FOUO) See (U) NGIC - Spirit Intelink Home Page for information on the weapons and equipment used in prewar Iraq.

(U) **Iraqi Weapon Designations**

(U) General Designations

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO	
Western Designation	**Iraqi Designation**
Pistol	Musaddis
Rifle	Bundiqiya or Bundigiya
Automatic rifle	Bundiqiya Aaliya
Sniper rifle	Bundiqiya Qanassa or Bundigiya Ganassa
Machinegun	Rashasha
Grenade	Rumana
Handgrenade	Rumana Yadawiya
Light launcher (RPG)	Qaadhifa Khafifa or Gaadhifa Khafifa (dh = th)
Mortar	Hawun
	UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO

(U) Weapon Designations

UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO	
Western Designation	**Iraqi Designation**
Tariq (Iraqi Beretta Mod. 51)	Tareq
Tokarev	Tukarif
Browning Hi-Power	Brawnink
Makarov	Makruf
Tabuk (Iraqi-produced AKM)	Tabook
SKS	Al-Rasheed
AK/AKM	Kalashnikov, Kalashnikof, or Klashnikuf
SVD Dragunov	Draknuf
Al-Kadissiya (Iraqi-produced SVD)	Al-Qadissiya or Al-Gadissiya
RPK	RBK, Al-Quds, Al-Kuds or al-Guds
RPD	Degtaryev, Daktriuf, or Suez
PK/PKM	PKS, PKC, or BKC
Goryunov SGM	Kurinuf or Aswan (Egyptian-made version)
RPG-7	RBG or RBJ
SPG-9	SBG
Infantry mortar (60-mm w/ bipod)	Hawun Al-mushat
Commando mortar (60-mm w/out bipod)	Hawun Al-mughawir
Spanish mortar (Spanish-made 120-mm)	Hawun Asbani
UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO	

(U) **Small Arms**

(U) U.S. forces have captured caliber .25 pen guns in Afghanistan and caliber .22 pen guns in Iraq since October 2003. There is one reported assassination in Afghanistan involving a pen gun in the Fall 2003. This weapon could be utilized to extend the insurgency reign of terror into perceived Coalition and Iraqi safe areas. These pen guns could slip past cursory inspections and be fired in a secure area. There are no reports of these weapons being used in Iraq. See (U) Small-Caliber Guns Concealed Within Pens.

(U) The standard assault rifles used by the insurgency are derivatives of the Russian 7.62x39-mm AK-47 and the AKM, with the AKM being more prevalent. The AKM functions exactly the same as the AK-47. It differs only in the rate of fire (reduction from 250 rpm to 120 to 150 rpm) and the construction of the weapon (stamped receiver), which reduces the weight by approximately 25%. The most common AKM derivative found is the Tabuk. The Tabuk is an Iraqi-produced Yugoslavian Faz (M70), which is a variant of the AKM (7.62x39-mm), except that it has the ability to fire rifle grenades. The four types of Yugoslavian rifle grenades in Iraq are the M60 AT Rifle Grenade, the M60P1 Frag Rifle Grenade, the M62 Smoke Rifle Grenade, and the M62 Illum Rifle Grenade. Also see (U) Iraq: The FAZ Rifle and Rifle Grenades for more information on Iraqi rifle grenades.

(U) Other AKM variants in use are the Chinese Type 56, the Iranian KLF, the Hungarian AMD-65, the Romanian Model 63 AKM, the Bulgarian AKM, and the Polish Kbk-AKM.

(U) Large numbers of folding-stock variants of all these weapons are also in use.

(U) Other rifles and assault rifles in use by the insurgency, although in lesser numbers, are the Russian, Chinese and Iraqi SKS, the Russian Mosin-Nagant, the British .303 Lee Enfield, the German Mauser 98, the French Lebel, the Iranian G3, the Belgian FN FAL, and the French FAMAS F-1.

(U) The German Mauser 98, the French Lebel, and the French FAMAS F1 were not known to be in prewar Iraq. Limited numbers of 5.45x39-mm AK-74's may be found in Iraq; however, their small numbers are largely due to the fact that prewar Iraq never made the transition to the 5.45x39-mm round. If AK-74's are used/found, it probably will signal that the user is a foreign fighter.

(U) While the use of sniper rifles was noticeably absent during the first 10 months of the insurgency, they have become a common sight on the battlefield since the spring 2003 uprising. There are four sniper rifles in use by the insurgency: the 7.62x39-mm Iraqi Tabuk Sniper Rifle, the 7.62x54R-mm Romanian FPK, the 7.62x54R-mm Iraqi Al-Kadissiya, and the 7.62x54R-mm Russian SVD Sniper Rifle.

(U) **Note:** The Tabuk sniper rifle is a Tabuk assault rifle modified with a lengthened barrel to fill the sniper role. The Al-Kadissiya is the Iraqi version of the Russian SVD. While the Romanian FPK bears an outward resemblance to the Russian SVD, it is actually an extensively reworked RPK squad light machinegun transformed into a section marksman weapon. See (U) Iraq: Anti-Coalition Militant Snipers in Fallujah for more information on insurgent sniper activity.

(U) The standard light machineguns available to the insurgency are the 7.62x39-mm RPK, RPDM, and the RPD (3rd Version).

(U) The primary general-purpose machinegun is the 7.62x54 R-mm PKM. Some insurgents have dismounted armored vehicle coaxial machineguns such as the PKT for use against Coalition forces. Other machineguns available, although in lesser numbers, include the 7.62x54-mm RP-46.

(U) **Armor Piercing Incendiary Ammunition**

(S) Armor piercing incendiary (API) ammunition was manufactured in prewar Iraq, was part of the prewar Iraqi inventory, and was issued as part of the basic load. For example, snipers received 40 rounds of 7.62x54R-mm ammunition, which included 5 rounds of API. The Iraqi stocks of API prior to the start of OIF is unknown. Coalition forces have captured API ammunition on insurgents and in caches on multiple occasions; however, the bulk of the reporting is still sketchy about the true extent of API on the battlefield. There are very few incidents where API use has been reported. It probably is being used more, but not known or not reported. For example, unless the API projectile defeats some sort of protection such as a small arms protective insert (SAPI) plate, there is no indication the rounds fired are API. Misses or injuries to extremities could have been caused by API but are not reported as such because they are treated as normal small arms fire and wounds. When findings or use are reported, the report contains very little detail, such as "found AP ammunition." It is NGIC 's assessment that either the initial reports do not contain this detail or the initial "on the ground" patrol/SALUTE reports are being filtered as they progress up through command channels. Units have significant amounts of information to report, which increases at each higher level of command, but because of limited time and manpower the result is a filtering. Most API ammunition found in Iraq is 7.62x39-mm. This ammunition is for the AK, RPK light machinegun. The 7.62x54R-mm ammunition is

for the PKM General Purpose Machinegun and the SVD-style sniper rifles. The protection data on U.S. force protection equipment versus enemy small arms fire is listed below:

- (C) US Personnel Armor System Ground Troops (PASGT) helmet: Provides limited protection against 9-mm pistol bullets and fragmentation.
- (C) Interceptor Body Armor (IBA): Provides limited protection from 9-mm pistol and fragmentation.
- (C) Small Arms Protective Insert (SAPI Plate): Provides Level 3 Protection - Protection against multiple hits from Rifle Ball. Rifle Ball is classified as CIS 7.62x39-mm Ball, NATO 7.62x51-mm Ball, and CIS 7.62x54R-mm "Light" Ball; Light Ball is generally characterized by a silver tip. Actual protection depends on many factors like obliquity, range, and location of strike. The United States (NATICK) has tested the 7.62x39-mm API, and the first-generation SAPI brand of plate was penetrated inside 200 meters by 50% of the rounds tested. At present, no tests have been completed for 7.62x54R-mm API ammunition; however, U.S. body armor plates are not designed to stop this round. But based on testing against rolled homogenous armor (RHA), this round would defeat a vest out past 500 meters.

(C) Some Special Operation Forces SAPI plates are rated for API. These plates provide Level 4 protection against one hit from 7.62x63-mm API (.30 to .06 caliber).

(U) **Portable Rocket Launchers**

(U) There are many types and variants of portable rocket launchers in use by the insurgency in Iraq. See below for details on the types of rocket launchers and warheads in use.

(U) The most popular portable rocket launcher is obviously the Russian RPG-7. Many copies of the RPG-7 can be found in Iraq, including the Iraqi produced Iraqi Al-Nassira, the Chinese Type 69-1, the Iranian RPG-7, the Bulgarian RPG-7, and the Romanian RPG-7.

(U) Currently only Unitary HEAT, one Tandem HEAT, and antipersonnel (APERS) PG-7 warheads are being used by the insurgency. The Unitary HEAT warheads in use are the PG-7, PG-7M, PG-7S, and the Iranian NADER. Only one Tandem HEAT warhead has been confirmed in Iraq. An Iranian NADER Tandem warhead was confirmed in Iraq through a video on a CNN news broadcast over 13 to 14 November 2004 timeframe. The APERS fragmentation warheads in use by the insurgency are the Russian/Bulgarian OG-7, the Chinese DZGI-40, the Iranian SAEGHEH, and the North Korean NR-4. Prewar Iraq manufactured modified PG-7 warheads with 60-mm and 82-mm mortar rounds on top of PG-7 rocket motors. They are limited in direct fire range to less than 200 meters and may reach up to 1500 meters in maximum indirect fire range for the 60-mm version. The Iraqis marketed 60- and 82-mm mortar warheads on PG-7 rocket bodies as early as 1988 in a Baghdad arms show. The FMLN in El Salvador developed a field expedient method by cutting off the mortar tail fin, cutting threads into the projectile body, unscrewing the PG-7 warhead from the PG-7 rocket motor, and screwing the mortar round into the rocket motor.

(U) Limited numbers of the obsolete RPG-2 are found. They were used in the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s and were believed to be in storage prior to OIF. These systems are probably in caches and in limited use by the insurgency. The RPG-2 fires only a Unitary HEAT warhead, the PG-2.

(U) The RPG-18 is also found in large numbers. The RPG-18 is similar in size and function to the 66-mm U.S. LAW.

(U) The Russian RPG-22 is also in use by the anti-Coalition insurgents, however it is found in small numbers. The RPG-22 is an upgraded RPG-18.

(U) Very small numbers of Czech RPG-75s were found in Iraq after Operation DESERT STORM (ODS) and OIF. There are no reports of RPG-75's being used against Coalition forces.

(U) Very small numbers of German Armbrusts were found in Iraq after ODS and OIF. The Armbrust can be found all over the world; however, it is usually found in one's and two's. There are no reports of Armbrusts being used against Coalition forces.

(U) The Chinese Type 70-1 has been used against coalition forces by the insurgency. This weapon system was not known to be in Iraq prior to OIF. Insurgents have modified this weapon by welding a crude-stand to the weapon and utilizing it as an improvised antitank off-route mine. See NGIC assessment (U) New Improvised Anti-Tank Off-Route Mine Used in Iraq - Command detonated RPGs/ATGMs for more information.

(C) There is a widespread belief among the insurgents that the orange VS-17 panels on U.S. armored vehicles designate some form of high technology force field that repels RPG fire. The insurgent field expedient countermeasure is to wrap the RPG warhead in electrical tape, plastic shopping bag, or burlap bag, etc. See NGIC assessment (U) Iraq: Modifications of RPG Warheads for more information on this subject.

(U) See the following NGIC assessments for more information on the antitank/antiarmor vehicle threat in Iraq:

- (U) Iraq: Rocket-Propelled Grenades and Recoilless Rifles
- (U) The Ubiquitous RPG-7.
- (U) Iraq: Modifications of RPG Warheads
- (U) Iraq: Use of Air to Ground Rockets as Improvised RPGs Grows
- (U) Iranian Tandem RPG-7 Warhead Confirmed in Iraq

(U) **Crew-Served Weapons**

(S//REL TO USA, AUS and GBR) Prewar Iraq had mounted large-caliber antimaterial machineguns (12.7-mm), antiaircraft weapons (14.5-, 23- and 57 mm) and recoilless rifles (73- and 106-mm) on commercial trucks. It is important to note that the DShK 12.7x107-mm machinegun and the SPG-9 73-mm and U.S.-copied M40 106-mm recoilless rifle can be ground mounted on tripods as well. See (U) Iraq: Truck-Mounted Anti-Armor Weapons and (U) Iraq: Rocket-Propelled Grenades and Recoilless Rifles for details on these large caliber weapons and their prewar applications.

(U) Prewar Iraq had the AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher in its inventory. Small numbers have been reported in the inventories of some insurgent groups. They probably have been used in the defense of insurgent safe areas; however, reports of AGS-17 usage are nonexistent.

(U) **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)**

(S) Prewar Iraq possessed significant inventories of ATGM missiles. The first known use of an ATGM by insurgents was an AT-5 KONKURS fired at a U.S. convoy in March 2004. It was not reported until the end of May 2004. The second reported use of an ATGM was an AT-4 FAGOT in June 2004. Additional reports of insurgents moving HOT and MILAN ATGMs have also surfaced. There is

evidence of the willingness of insurgents to rig missiles for use without a launcher (i.e., as IEDs).

- (S) While older systems such as the Russian MALYUTKA, which use manual command-to-line-of-sight guidance, require significant amounts of gunner training to be used effectively, many of the systems in Iraq are second generation systems that use semiautomatic command-to-line-of-sight (SACLOS) guidance. In operation, SACLOS systems only require the gunner to place the crosshairs of the sighting system on a target and to keep them there until missile impact. Most of the portable SACLOS ATGM systems in Iraq (i.e., the Russian FAGOT and KONKURS, and the Euromissile MILAN) are fairly simple to operate. A gunner with a basic understanding of the setup and operation of one of these systems can achieve reasonable proficiency with the system without a lot of training, particularly against stationary or slow-moving ground targets. With some additional training and experience, a gunner could become proficient in engaging faster moving ground vehicles or even low-flying aircraft, in particular helicopters.
- (S) However, more significant than the skill of operators and the numbers and types of missiles is the numbers of portable ground launchers available; most Iraqi ATGM launchers were on helicopters and on armored vehicles. One estimate places the number of portable ground launchers in service at below 600 based on documents captured during ODS. A late 1990 Iraqi document lists 252 x AT-3 (including 108 BRDM-mounted), 72 x AT-4, 108 x MILAN, 68 x HOT (Panhard armored vehicle-mounted) and 92 x TOW (including 36 M113-mounted) launchers in service. These 592 systems do not include the improved TOW vehicles (ITV) the Iraqis captured from the Kuwaitis in 1990.
- (S) See (U) ATGM Systems Used by Iraq for information on the types of systems used by prewar Iraq. See (U) Iraq: Antitank Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for prewar TTPs and ATGM effectiveness against Coalition armored vehicles.

(U) **Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)**

(S//REL TO USA and MCFI) IEDs in all their forms are currently the biggest threat to the Coalition. They are simple to make, easy to employ, and very effective. They have been made from virtually everything-mortar/artillery shells, PE-4A, propane tanks, etc. They have been employed in everything-in trash on the side of the road, in soda cans, in dead animal carcasses, in cars, on people, etc. See (U) National Ground Intelligence Center Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Resource Page for the latest information on IED activity by the insurgency. See NGIC Assessment (U) Iraq: Anatomy of an IED Attack for an overview of an IED attack. Insurgent use of IEDs has evolved from wire-detonated toward more remote-controlled and vehicular-borne IEDs (VBIED). See NGIC Assessment (U) Iraq: Evolving VBIED Tactics and Designs for more information on recent trends in VBIED attacks. They have used everything from remote car alarms to garage door openers to long-range cordless phones (there have been no cell phones used up to this point) as initiation devices, with remote car alarms being the most numerous. The insurgency has even employed collapsing circuit IEDs, which is an entrapment-style electrical circuit designed to energize the detonator if it is disrupted. These are designed to detonate when EOD or other first responders attempt wire cutting that would disable any conventional circuit. See (U) Iraq: Collapsing Circuit IED Introduces New Dangers. Since late spring 2004, the insurgency has begun making attempts at improvising flame weapons. See (U) Iraq: Improvised Flame Weapons for more information on this subject. The latest attempt at making IEDs more lethal is the improvised explosively formed penetrator (EFP) charges. For more information on EFPs in Iraq see NGIC Assessment (U) Iraq: EFP/Claymore IEDs and the Hizballah Connection.

(U) **Indirect Fire**

(S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Indirect fire has remained popular due to the insurgent 's ability to fire into Coalition secure areas. Usually there is little or no adjustment of the rounds; however, there are noted exceptions. Some insurgent groups have displayed an increasing trend towards adjusted fire. The insurgency has modified its TTPs in the execution of indirect fire attacks. The trend for use of mortars by insurgents is to conduct more remote firing and leaving weapon systems in place in order to ensure their own survivability. Additionally, the insurgency has used mortars in baited ambushes, i.e., placing IEDs in a location where they can be easily found. Once the Coalition arrives on site and attempts to disarm the IED the insurgents then fire some mortar rounds into the objective. See (U) NGIC Crisis Action Indirect Fire Incident Page for more information on the TTPs and types of mortars used by the insurgency.

(S//REL TO USA and MCFI) **Note:** It is very possible that some of the mortar fire into Coalition compounds are not mortar rounds impacting but are insurgents firing FAZ Rifle Grenades from the end of AKMs or modified RPG-7 warheads with 60-mm or 82-mm mortar rounds mounted on PG-7 rocket motors. Both are limited in range to less than 200 meters, and thus the culprit(s) of the mortar fire may be just outside the compound walls.

(U) **Handgrenades**

(U) Handgrenades are plentiful throughout Iraq. They are primarily, though not exclusively, of Russian, Chinese, Bulgarian, Yugoslav, and Egyptian origin. The most plentiful handgrenades found are the fragmentation kind. The following are confirmed fragmentation grenades in Iraq:

- (U) F-1.
- (U) RG-42.
- (U) RGD-5.
- (U) RGO-78.
- (U) Type 82-1 (very limited numbers).
- (U) Type 86P fragmentation handgrenades.

(U) The following are also found in lesser numbers.

- (U) No. 1 defensive.
- (U) No. 2 Defensive
- (U) M-75 defensive handgrenade.
- (U) No. 1 Offensive.
- (U) No. 2 Offensive.

(U) Additionally, the insurgency is in possession of and is using RKG-3 antitank handgrenades. See (U) Iraq: Anti-Coalition Acquisition of the RKG-3EM Grenade for more information.

(U) **Note:** There is an unfounded rumor circulating that one grenade in every Russian case of 24 has a zero-delay fuze, and that this zero-delay fuse can only be distinguished from the 3 to 4 second delay-fuze grenades by unscrewing the fuze from the grenade. If it has a "0," then that is the zero-delay fuze. This rumor is false and is attributed to an article written in Soldier of Fortune

Magazine over 15 years ago. The ink-stamped numbers are in fact the inspectors' marking numbers. Each inspector has a unique number so the inspections can be traced if there is ever a quality control problem. Additionally, Russian handgrenades come disassembled in the cases-24 grenade bodies and 2 sealed cans of 12 fuzes. This being said, the United Kingdom discovered two Chinese zero-delay booby trap handgrenades in Afghanistan. These grenades are identified by a red band beneath the threaded portion of the fuze just above the detonator. The Russians undoubtedly have zero-delay booby trap handgrenades in their inventory, although they are more likely designed for use by Special Operations Forces.

Conclusion

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) The anti-Coalition insurgency has undergone the natural progression in the refinement of their TTPs as outlined in our Contemporary Operational Environment doctrine. The anti-Coalition insurgency is outclassed by U.S. training and firepower; however, it continues to direct attacks against Coalition forces. The insurgents are also increasing their engagements against the pro-Coalition Iraqi security forces, such as the police and civil defense forces. The anti-Coalition insurgency has been seeking methods to counter Coalition force protection measures such as body armor, the M114 HMMWV, and bar armor/explosive reactive armor (ERA).

(S//REL TO USA and MCFI) It is NGIC's assessment that importation of new weapon systems into theater directly by the insurgency will be limited. The infrastructure is not available to conduct this on anything more than a limited scale. Proliferation of weapons and tactics expertise is currently the most dangerous import coming into Iraq. A limited infusion of specialty weapons might accompany some special-skilled foreign fighters. For example, a fighter with experience in Chechnya or the Balkans could bring some Russian or Serbian manufactured antimaterial sniper rifles into Iraq. Limited proliferation has come from countries such as Iran. However, the proliferation mostly consists of systems that are already available in Iraq such as the NADER PG-7 warhead. Coalition forces may be presented with what they perceive as new weapon systems. These "new" weapon systems will for the most part be preexisting systems that the insurgency has not used in the past, has used infrequently, or has modified for another purpose. However, NGIC is closely watching for the proliferation of several types of systems into the theater. The following is a list of weapons NGIC is looking for, which, if proliferated, might change some of the dynamics of the battlefield:

- (C) RPG-7 Unitary HEAT warhead.
  - (C) The Russian PG-7L is the top of the line Unitary HEAT warhead for the RPG-7 that can penetrate over 500-mm of RHA.
  - (C) It is not currently in Iraq; however, it is widely proliferated even to remote areas such as Afghanistan.
- (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) RPG-7 Tandem HEAT warhead.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Tandem HEAT warheads are specifically designed to defeat ERA.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) These warheads consist of two warheads, a precursor and a main warhead. The precursor warhead initiates the ERA and clears a path for the main warheads penetration into the base armor.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The most dangerous of the available tandems is the Russian PG-7VR; however, it also has its shortcomings. The PG-7VR does not

incorporate an upgraded rocket motor and thus is underpowered, i.e., short range and poor accuracy.

- (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Possible sources for proliferation are Syria, Iran, and possibly Chechnya. There is a low probability that this weapon will be proliferated in the near term.

- (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Antitank rocket launchers.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The Russian RPG-26 is a one-shot, disposable launcher, which fires a Unitary HEAT warhead. There was one unconfirmed report by a Coalition member of one RPG-26 being discovered in Iraq. Possible source for proliferation is from Chechnya.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The Russian RPG-27 is a one-shot, disposable launcher, which fires a Tandem HEAT warhead similar to the underpowered Russian Tandem PG-7VR warhead. Possible source for proliferation is from Chechnya.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The Russian RPG-29 is a reusable launcher, which fires an upgraded (more powerful rocket motor) Russian Tandem PG-7VR warhead. Possible sources for proliferation are from Syria, Iran, and Chechnya.
- (U) Thermobaric weapons.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Thermobaric weapons are highly effective, relying on blast overpressure instead of fragmentation as the lethal element. Generally thermobarics have little fragmentation.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The Russian RPO-A is a one-shot, disposable thermobaric weapon, which has proliferated throughout the world. It was used in combat for the first time in Afghanistan in 1983 to 1984 timeframe. It proved to be highly effective against guerrillas in caves. The Chinese also make an indigenous version of the RPO-A called the Type WPF89-1.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) The Russian TBG-7V is a thermobaric RPG-7 warhead. China also makes a copy of this system.
  - (S//REL TO USA and MCFI) Russia also makes thermobaric versions of the RPG-27 (designated the RShG-1) and the RPG-26 (designated the RShG-2). The RShG-2 warhead differs from all other Russian thermobarics in that its warhead is thermobaric with fragmentation. There is one credible report by EOD personnel that a cache of RPO-As were found and destroyed during the ground phase of OIF; however, this cannot be confirmed. The most likely source for the Russian versions of these weapons making their way into Iraq is from Chechnya or Iran, however, the RShG-1 and RShG-2 are the least likely to proliferate into theater because there are small numbers available in the Russian inventory. The more likely source for the proliferation of Chinese versions is from Iran.
- (U) Antimaterial rifles (AMR).
  - (// S//NF) There are currently over 30 countries producing and marketing large caliber (>12.7-mm) sniper rifles. In the hands of trained operators these weapons can destroy targets out to 2000 meters. These rifles can have significant impact on the battlefield. Listed below are a few of the rifles most likely to be proliferated into Iraq.
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(// S//NF) The Russian OSV-96 was used by the Russians and was used against the Russians in Chechnya. There are unconfirmed reports that possibly up to 25 South African NTW may have made their way into prewar Iraq. The NTW is a multicaliber AMR that can currently fire 14.5- and 20-mm ammunition by merely changing out the barrel, magazine, and a few internal parts. There are reports the South Africans are modifying the NTW so that it can also fire 12.7- and possibly 25-mm ammunition as well. The weapon that initiated the AMR boom, the Barrett Model 82, and all the subsequent upgrades, such as the Barrett Model 95, may enter the theater due to their wide proliferation throughout the world, which includes elements of the narcoterrorist community such as the FARC.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) It is NGIC 's assessment that the use of heavier weapons, such as ground-mounted and vehicle-mounted 12.7-mm DShK and >14.5-mm ADA guns will probably continue to be used in perceived insurgent safe areas. These weapons are bulky to move around the battlefield and do not facilitate insurgent hit and run tactics currently being employed. Most of these weapons will continue to remain in caches for the near term - It can be expected that if the insurgents believe they have the Coalition on the ropes and they can deal a significant blow these weapons will come out in large numbers.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) **Note:** The lack of AGS-17 usage may also be a result of bulkiness. Post-ODS reporting confirmed that these weapons are in the Iraqi arsenal, but very small amounts of ammunition have been found. Therefore, the lack of use may be a result of having little or no ammunition to fire from them.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) It is NGIC 's assessment that the RPG in its many variants will continue to be widely used. RPGs are plentiful, easy to use, and one of the few weapons the insurgency possesses that can overcome many of the Coalition 's force protection measures. However, there are reports that the insurgency is dissatisfied with the RPG-7 's effectiveness against Coalition armored vehicles and that they are looking for more effective weapons or modifications to the RPG-7 warheads they have. One of the reasons why the insurgency's RPG-7 warheads are not performing as well as they are expecting is due to the warheads serviceability. Many of these warheads are being stored out of their packaging material in less than desirable locations. The gunners are hand carrying them around in firing configuration banging them against walls, etc. Therefore, the weapons are not functioning like they just came from of the factory. For example, there is data that suggests RPG-7 warheads, such as the NADER, average 35% to 50% dud rate compounded by insurgents' poor marksmanship, which results in the poor shoot-to-hit and hit-to-kill ratio exhibited by the insurgency.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) ATGM usage will increase over the next 12 months. Their use is limited by their size, weight, and the insurgency 's ability to find trained gunners and serviceable portable ground launchers. A spike in the use of ATGMs may signal an infusion of ground launchers or operation by an experienced ex-soldier from the prewar Iraqi Army. The possibility of this spike being a result of foreign fighters is low; however, if foreign fighters were found to be responsible they would probably be Hizbollah or Iranian Quds agents. It is possible that ATGMs could be used as a method of isolating a planned objective, especially if Coalition mechanized forces are in the area of operations. Probable uses of ATGMs are against armored vehicles in convoys and against Coalition facilities due to the ATGMs' long-range capability and the capacity to direct them at a point target.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) It is NGIC 's assessment that the insurgents will continue on the whole to be poor marksmen. An increase in the marksmanship is not likely to dramatically improve due to

several factors.

- (C//REL TO USA and MCFI) There was limited marksmanship training in the prewar armed forces.
- (C//REL TO USA and MCFI) There is a proclivity in the region to under utilize weapon systems capabilities in combat.
- (C//REL TO USA and MCFI) A localized marked increase in the small arms marksmanship exhibited by the insurgency is probably an indication of prewar Iraqi professional army training, i.e., older, experienced veterans from the Iran-Iraq War.
- (C//REL TO USA and MCFI) The average insurgent is not effective past 50 meters with his weapon because he does not aim and he uses a large volume of fire (fully automatic) against Coalition forces-the spray and pray methodology.
- (C//REL TO USA and MCFI) Poor marksmanship is a general attribute of the younger members of the insurgency.

(S//REL TO USA and MCFI) There are some estimates that the prewar Iraqi Army had approximately 3000 "trained" snipers; however, the prewar training these designated snipers received is questionable, since the incidents of insurgent sniper attacks reported generally exhibit a poor shot-to-hit ratio. Most of these "trained" snipers are equivalent in skill to a squad-designated marksman. There is one report from August 2004 of a "sniper" in Najaf firing more than 80 rounds over the course of 8 hours at U.S. forces, but this sniper's firing did not result in any casualties. It is more likely that the firers of these weapons may actually be looking down the sights or through a scope and aiming rather than pointing the weapon and emptying the magazine, which is the typical procedure. The incorporation of scopes on weapons has probably increased the average insurgent's marksmanship out to perhaps 200 to 300 meters. There is evidence of some true snipers operating in some insurgent groups, which is exhibited by spikes in single shots to the head and torso (shots through the side of the IBA). A possible source of these true snipers might be the influx of experienced veterans from the Iran-Iraq war.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) It is NGIC 's assessment that the insurgency 's sophistication in designing and employing IEDs will continue. The IED spectrum will continue to span from the most rudimentary to the very exotic and complex. The biggest danger to the Coalition from IEDs is the proliferation across the insurgency cells of IED designs and employment techniques.

(C//REL TO USA and MCFI) The incorporation of API ammunition into the insurgency inventory has already occurred, although some insurgents may not know what they have. API ammunition is widely produced, is available through a variety of sources, and is a proven method to counter U.S. body armor. In the near term, this ammunition will continue to appear in small amounts. It will never be the standard round used by the insurgency. The rank and file will still be armed with standard ball ammunition because there are already large quantities of that type of ammunition in country and the insurgency will be unable to import the millions of API rounds necessary to replace it.

Additional Reading

(U) SEE:

- (U) Small Arms Ammunition Identification - OEF and OIF

- (U) Increased Use of Armor Piercing Ammunition Against Coalition Forces

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