



(U) Identifying Small Arms and RPGs Produced in Iran

Purpose

(U) This assessment provides deployed forces a visual identification method for determining whether captured weapons were produced in the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI).

Key Points

- (U) The IRI produces several infantry weapon systems which can or may soon be identified in Iraq. These weapons have several distinctive visual identification markings that identify their source.
 - (U) Some weapons may have some of their markings "sanitized."
 - (U) Iranian number and letter markings may be in either Persian (Farsi) or in Arabic. There are Persian variants for a couple of numerals sometimes used by Iranian and Pakistani manufacturers but never by Arab manufacturers. Iranian (and Pakistani) manufacturers sometimes use the Persian variant of the numerals 4 and/or 6 (and occasional stylistic differences with the 5 and 0) which simply don't occur in Arab origin markings (although often the Iranians or Pakistanis will sometimes use the Arab variants of 4 and 6 since both variants exist in Persian but not in Arabic). For example the second G-3 photo in the article shows a Persian-style upside-down-heart 5, which would never appear on an Arab-manufactured product (likewise it shows the Persian letter zh, which, of course, does not exist in Arabic). Iranian and Pakistani manufacturers will also occasionally incorporate some Nast'aliq script font into some larger size markings (which you would never see in Arab manufacturing) although most of the smaller markings will use a nondescript standard typewriter-style font like you would find in smaller-size Arab markings. Additionally, it is important to mention also that in both Farsi and Arabic, words are written from right to left, but numbers are written left to right--important to know if you are recording serial numbers.
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KL Series

(U) The IRI produces an indigenous clone of the Soviet/Russian AKM-series assault rifle, which they name the KLS (AKM-fixed, wooden stock) and the KLF (AKMS-folding, metal stock).

- (U) KLSs typically have red-brown or black bakelight plastic furniture
- (U) KLs do not have a compensator on the muzzle.
- (U) KLs have a seven-digit serial number on the left side of the weapon, usually just above the magazine well.
- (U) Component parts, such as the receiver cover, the recoil spring guide rod, the bolt, and

the bolt carrier may only be marked with the last three to five digits of the serial number.

- (U) Late production export models may have been "sanitized" but should still retain the seven-digit serial number.
- (U) KLSs have an enclosed front sight post similar to the Chinese AKM variant, the Type 56.
- (U) KLSs may or may not have a symbol (which is an inspector mark) on the right side of the receiver, just below the bolt/charging handle.
- (U) Weapon selector markings are on the right side of the receiver to the right of the selector lever. Markings are as follows:
 - (U) L = Full automatic fire.
 - (U) D = Semi-automatic fire.



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(U) IRANIAN KLS RIFLE



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(U) IRANIAN KLF RIFLE

- CHINESE TYPE 56 STYLE ENCLOSED FRONT SIGHT POST
- NO COMPENSATOR ON MUZZLE



- RED-BROWN OR BLACK BAKELIGHT PLASTIC FURNITURE



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(U) IRANIAN KL-SERIES RIFLE IDENTIFICATION FEATURES



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(U) IRANIAN KL-SERIES RIFLE SELECTOR MARKINGS

SOME KL's MAY NOT HAVE THE THREE TO FIVE DIGITS
OF S/N STAMPED ON THE RECEIVER COVER.

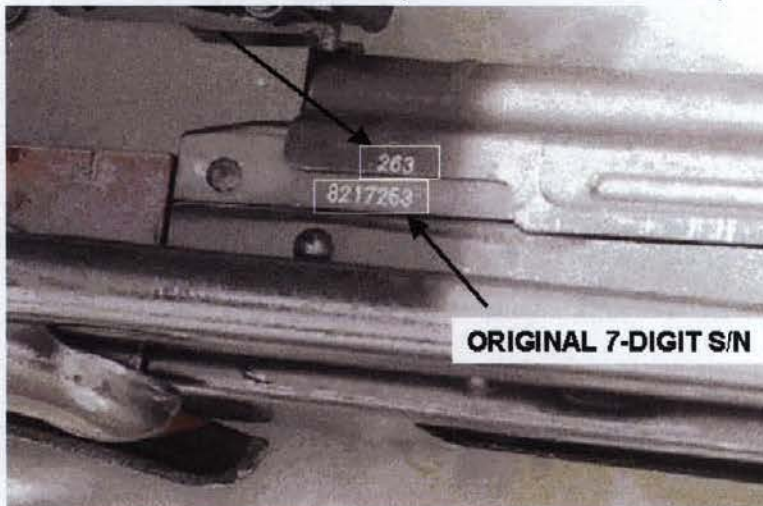


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(U) IRANIAN KL-SERIES RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FORMAT, 1 OF 3

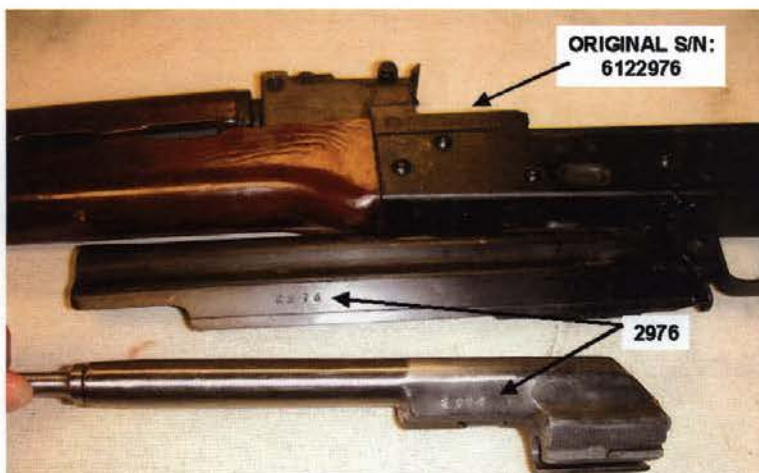
LAST THREE TO FIVE DIGITS OF S/N MAY BE STAMPED
ON THE RECEIVER COVER (ABOVE THE 7-DIGIT S/N)



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(U) IRANIAN KL-SERIES RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FORMAT, 2 OF 3



LAST THREE TO FIVE DIGITS OF S/N MAY BE STAMPED ON THE RECEIVER COVER (ABOVE THE 7-DIGIT S/N), ON THE RECOIL SPRING GUIDE ROD (NOT SHOWN), ON THE BOLT (NOT SHOWN), AND ON BOLT CARRIER.

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(U) IRANIAN KL-SERIES RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FORMAT, 3 OF 3

G3 Series

(U) The IRI produces a licensed production of the Heckler and Koch (H&K) G3A6 Assault Rifle. These are reported to be produced at the Mosalsalsasi Weapons Factory. The rifles are produced in two versions: the G3A1 (with fixed butt stock) and the G3A1-1 (with retractable butt stock).

- (U) IRI G3's will have a symbol (several variations) stamped on the right side of the magazine well.
- (U) The serial number on the left side of the magazine well will likely be in Persian numbers.
- (U) H&K G3's have ambidextrous selector levers. The selector markings on the right side of the weapon will be in the original "S, E, F" while the markings on the left side may be in Arabic.
- (U) Late production export models may have been "sanitized."
- (U) Original H&K markings will be missing. Original markings are the "Eagle with N" stamp and the caliber stamped on the left side of the magazine well, place of manufacture on the right side of the magazine well, and the "Eagle with N" stamp on the bolt head.



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(U) IRANIAN G3A1 RIFLE



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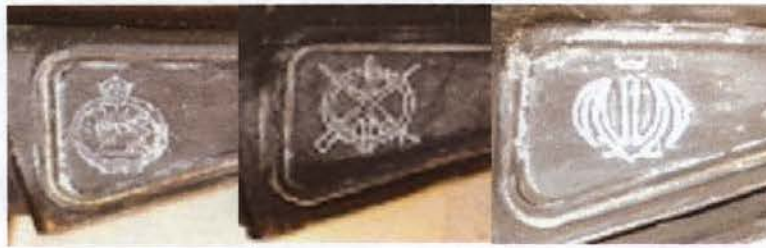
(U) IRANIAN G3A1 RIFLE SERIAL NUMBER FORMAT



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(U) IRANIAN G3A1 RIFLE SELECTOR LEVER MARKINGS



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(U) IRANIAN G3A1 RIFLE MAGAZINE HOUSING STAMPED SYMBOLS



**ORIGINAL H&K MARKINGS MISSING
(EAGLE w/ "N" ON BOLT HEAD)**

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(U) IRANIAN G3A1 RIFLE MISSING H&K MARKINGS

RPG-7's

(U) The IRI produces an indigenous copy of the RPG-7. There are two uniquely Iranian visual identification features on their RPG-7's which distinguish them from all other RPG-7's: first, Iranian RPG-7 launchers have a plastic pistol grip with finger grooves and second, Iranian RPG-7's have a round, post-style pistol grip to the rear of the trigger housing.

(U) Other identification features are as follows:

- (U) Iranian RPG-7's have green (some versions are black) heat shields, a green pistol grip, and may or may not have a post-style second pistol grip.
- (U) There is often an IRI stamp on the left side of the trigger group pistol grip, just behind the trigger.
- (U) RPG-7 serial numbers follow the seven-digit format and are located on the left side of the weapon just above the optic rail.
- (U) There may or may not be Arabic or Persian script elsewhere on the launcher; possible locations are the left side of the launcher just above the trigger housing group, the left side of the launcher just below the rear sight, and/or the bottom of the heat shield just behind the post-style pistol grip.



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(U) IRANIAN RPG-7, w/ OPTIC



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(U) IRANIAN RPG-7

OLD MODEL RPG's WILL HAVE ARABIC OR PERSIAN SCRIPT ON THE LAUNCHER; NEWER MODELS WILL NOT.



(U) IRANIAN RPG-7 MARKINGS



IRI RPG-7 S/N FOLLOWS 7-DIGIT FORMAT; MAY BE IN STANDARD WESTERN NUMBER FORMAT (LEFT) OR IN PERSIAN NUMBERS (RIGHT).

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(U) IRANIAN RPG-7 SERIAL NUMBER FORMAT

Rocket Propelled Grenades

(U) Iran produces several distinctive warheads for its RPG-7 launchers, to include unitary high-explosive antitank (HEAT), Tandem HEAT, and antipersonnel (APERS) high-explosive fragmentation warheads.

(U) HEAT Warheads

(U) Iranian HEAT warheads are visually distinctive from all other PG-7 HEAT warheads in two ways:

- (U) They do not have a piezo-electric crystal.

- (U) (U) Iranian nose cones are rounded while all other PG-7 HEAT warhead nose cones are straight.

(U) **NADER.** Developed initially by a West German firm for the Shah of Iran in the late 1970s. Iran still produces the NADER for its armed forces and for export sales.

- (U) Launcher caliber: 40 mm.
- (U) Warhead caliber: 80 mm +/-.
- (U) Length: rocket with motor = 900 mm.

(U) **NAFEZ.** The NAFEZ is another indigenously designed and produced RPG-7 warhead for its armed forces. The NAFEZ is marketed as an upgraded unitary HEAT warhead. The NAFEZ is offered for export.

- (U) Launcher caliber: 40 mm.
- (U) Warhead caliber: 80 mm +/-.
- (U) Length: rocket with motor = 1015 mm; rocket only = 725 mm; warhead = 420 mm.

(U) **TANDEM.** The Iranian Tandem is of an entirely Iranian design. Tandem HEAT warheads possess two HEAT warheads: one large warhead, called the main warhead, and a smaller warhead, called the precursor warhead. The precursor warhead is intended to activate explosive reactive armor (ERA) to clear a path for the main warhead to defeat the target armor. The Iranian Tandem is offered for export.

- (U) Launcher caliber: 40 mm.
- (U) Main warhead caliber: 80 mm.
- (U) Precursor warhead caliber: 30 mm.
- (U) Length: rocket with motor = 1150 mm.

(U) APERS Warheads





(U) **SAEGHEH.** Iran developed and produces its own anti-personnel high-explosive fragmentation RPG-7 warhead to extend the utility of its RPG-7 launchers. It consists of a rocket-propelled high-explosive warhead designed to detonate with a very loud explosion while emitting blast and fragments from the prefragmented steel warhead body. The SAEGHEH is offered for export.

- (U) Launcher caliber: 40 mm.
- (U) Warhead caliber: 40 mm.
- (U) Length: rocket = 590 mm; warhead = 310 mm.

(U) Iranian RPG warheads

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(U) Iranian RPG warheads

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 <p>(b)(7)(E) UNCLASSIFIED (U) NADER</p>	 <p>(b)(7)(E) UNCLASSIFIED (U) NAFEZ</p>	 <p>UNCLASSIFIED (U) SAE-GHEH</p>	 <p>(b)(7)(E) UNCLASSIFIED (U) TANDEM</p>
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Assessment

(U) The IRI produces copies or clones of the AKM, the G3, and the RPG-7. Additionally, the IRI also produces several types of indigenous RPG-7 warheads, of which some are in Iraq.

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Additional Reading

(U) SEE:

- (U) Iran: Small Arms (Infantry Weapons)
 - (U) Small Arms Ammunition Identification - OEF and OIF
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