

Iraqi insurgents get Austrian sniper rifles

More than 100 Austrian sniper rifles that were exported to Iran have been discovered in the hands of Iraqi insurgents, according to U.S. sources.

Tehran bought 800 Steyr-Mannlicher HS50 rifles in 2005 to arm its National Iranian Police Organisation's counter-drug trafficking force

Steyr HS50: Single shot rifle fires .50-calibre armour-piercing incendiary round with effective range up to 1,500 metres

Telescopic sight: Standard military 10x scope gives ideal magnification between 230 and 920 metres

Barrel: Partially fluted, 833mm

Muzzle brake: Redirects propellant gases to counter recoil and hide muzzle flash

Adjustable buttstock

Manually operated, rotating bolt

Two-stage trigger requires 1.8kg pull

Integral folding adjustable bipods – rifle is not intended to be fired off-hand

Weight: 12.4kg
Length: 1,370mm

U.S. military says insurgents have killed up to 170 American and British soldiers with HS50