

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

THE PRECINCT STRATEGY



BY DANIEL J. SCHULTZ

“What can I do where I live?” Answer: Your Civic Duty as a Volunteer Party Precinct Committeeman.

Some have said that 2022 will be a tipping point, politically, for the United States. I agree. Will the voters elect better people to the public servant offices or will they continue to elect those who will not take their oath of office seriously? If you are asking yourself what you can do to help elect better, moral people to public office, those who will honor their oath to support, defend, and follow the Constitution, this article will

equip you with the knowledge to best use your time to ensure that happens.

BECOME AN OWNER NOT JUST A DONOR

You are not really a member of a political party unless you are a voting member of it. The position is an elected, private position, and in many states, it is called “precinct committeeman.” Anyone eligible to *continued >*

“The Precinct Strategy, as explained by Dan Schultz at www.precinctstrategy.com is a great way to restore our republic by transforming our party currently at less than half-strength at the precinct level into a full-strength get out the vote powerhouse.”

- President Donald J. Trump,
27 February 2022

The SCAR Heavy, equipped with a ported compensator, match trigger and reliable low powered variable optic (LPVO), makes an excellent combat rifle.

COMBAT HEAVY RIFLE

BY **BRENDAN SOUDER**
PHOTOS COURTESY
RPG-INTERNATIONAL.US

As a special operations soldier deployed in both CENTCOM and SOUTHCOM, the ability to engage long-range targets quickly and effectively has always interested me.

I have seen multiple platforms that offer solutions to the age-old problem of long-range engagements while maintaining a semi light-weight platform, adequate magazine capacity and repeatable performance across varied environments, but building the perfect Combat Heavy Rifle has proven to be a challenge that many companies still struggle with today.

During WWII, the famous M1 Garand served as a heavy caliber rifle capable of successful engagements out to 500 yards and beyond. The .30 - 06 Cartridge proved to be very effective in war and it emerged as the first auto-loading service rifle for the U.S. Military. The M1 Garand would eventually be replaced by the M14 rifle, which was chambered in 7.62 x 51mm NATO to replace the M1 Garand, M3 Submachine Gun, and the Browning Automatic Rifle.



The M14 was widely replaced in Vietnam with the M16, but the M14 offered operational units a base model for a Designated Marksmanship Rifle (DMR) used for engagements at greater distances with scoped optics. The military found the M14 to show strength in this regard as units began to assign a DMR position on teams, squads and sections for long-range engagements. Studies suggest that typical firefights with the enemy in Afghanistan were from distances of 300yds to beyond the edge of the envelope for M4 carbines). The M14 platform continued to provide an option for longer ranges.

In 2008, I had the pleasure of shooting various M14s for two days at one of Fort Bragg's long-range facilities. My Special Forces Operational Detachment (SFODA) was tasked to test out all of the Company's M14s stored in the arms room. It seemed like an easy task, but 20 rifles later and two cases of 7.62LR ammunition later, my should felt like a semi-truck hit it. The M14 recoil and combined hard stock made the gun fun to shoot for the first few magazines. After that, it became apparent I would have some long days with my teammates. At this point in my career, I started to appreciate the mechanical genius of the gas-operated AR-



Springfield .308 Saint: a fast shooting, long-range hitting, combat heavy rifle.

10 platforms and eventually the SCAR-Heavy.

The FN SCAR (Special Operations Combat Assault Rifle) was one of my favorite rifles to shoot as it came into our inventory. The SCAR Heavy, chambered in 7.62 NATO, is effective out to distances of 800yds while still applicable in CQB engagements. The SCAR Heavy, equipped with a ported compensator, match trigger and reliable low powered variable optic (LPVO), makes an excellent combat rifle. The SCAR's ergonomics were slightly different from that of the M4 carbine or AR10, but the rifle proved itself in combat on many occasions across SOCOM.

I spent the majority of a SOUTHCOM deployment in Colombia shooting the SCAR Heavy, working on different modifications, and shooting various drills in an attempt to build out a gun that shot as fast as my MK18 (CQB Rifle) and as close as possible to the accuracy of the M24 (Sniper Weapon System). Toward the end of my trip, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the SCAR Heavy shot almost as fast as my MK18 with accuracy out to 800 yards.

One of the most accurate semi-automatic Combat Heavy Rifles I shot while assigned to the unit was the SR25 (AR10 variant manufactured by Knights Armament). This gun was accurate out to 900 + yards and took 20 round magazines like the SCAR. Combined with a suppressor, I found this gun extremely enjoyable to shoot. You could find these in every arms room within the SF Regiment between the SR25 and the M110 SASS (another AR10 variant used by the U.S. military). My



The author outfitted the Saint with a Vortex LPVO.

company (Crisis Response Force) used these variants quite a bit for sniper operations. The nice thing about the AR10 platforms was that the controls were similar to the M4 Carbine with 60 percent of the parts being interchangeable.

Recently, in my retired life (as of February 2022), I was asked by Panteao Productions to film an instructional video covering a Combat Heavy Rifle. This video was somewhat of a challenge because I had limited time and no hands-on experience with the demo rifle I was to use (Springfield .308 Saint). My first day at the filming location started with the standard routine to familiarize myself with a new platform. In this case, I arrived to find a brand-new rifle, 1,000 rounds, an LPVO, a match grade trigger, performance safety selector switch, sling, Picatinny rail mounts, bipod legs and a large port compensator. The mission: work this gun into a fast shooting, long-range hitting

Combat Heavy Rifle platform and demonstrate best practices with training to share with the shooting industry.

It was good to have a day upfront to test out the rifle. My first step was to shoot it with iron sights after inspecting the gun and snaking the barrel. I was able to get a few rounds out with its factory configuration to determine if I should become a gun doctor for the remainder of the day (swapping parts and pieces for enhanced performance). Fairly quickly, I mounted my LPVO that I brought up from Florida and achieved a 100yd zero on paper to allow me the ability to use the BDC (Ballistic Drop Compensator) reticle in my scope for longer engagements. The range I was using had targets at known distances of 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600yds. On day one, I achieved shots out to 600yds without much effort at all.

After getting zeroed and hitting steel at

distance, I felt the necessity to work in some CQB marksmanship-styled drills—making fast shots while maintaining acceptable accuracy (USPSA target, focused on only A-Zone hits). I was able to shoot fairly quickly with a five-shot string time hovering around 1.65 seconds. My normal times put me in a sub-1-second five-shot string with an M4 or Pistol Caliber Carbine. Armed with data and the desire to shoot even faster, I replaced the stock trigger and muzzle brake with performance-enhancing parts that make a difference. Additionally, the change in parts increased my ability to engage targets at longer distances successfully! The results were night and day. I shaved .60 off of my five-shot string time and was able to maintain a fundamentally correct rifle shooting stance without the original drastic forward lean.

Training is the most critical aspect of the process after getting your rifle and gear set up. It should be purposeful and repeatable. Combat Heavy Rifle training, in my opinion, should focus on shots from 5-600 plus yards. The application of this type of platform should address CQB style engagement and cross over into the Designated Marksman role for professionals and gun enthusiasts.

What do you need? You should secure a training site/range with proper berms that provides the opportunity to shoot out to 600 yards (at least) on known distance static steel targets. Shooters should bring bipod legs, barricade (9-hole), shooting mat, rifle bag, three paper target stands and at least ten cardboard USPSA targets (with pasters).

LADDER DRILL

I like to do a ladder drill with the steel targets at a known distance (depending on the range). I identify the targets I intend to shoot from 100-600yds and set up my gun in the prone on bipod legs to practice engagement under no stress to ensure the gun is performing with no issues. Engage each target successfully from 100 yards out to 600 yards using the BDC and holdovers and continue engaging in reverse order until finishing out on the last 100 yard target. This drill allows you to work on your holds to make adjustments in the optic without any dialing or stress-induced mistakes. The Ladder Drill is a great drill to gain confidence in your equipment and understand your holdovers using an LPVO with your Combat Heavy Rifle. Repeatability is key to performance. Once the stress levels rise or obstacles are introduced, it is crucial to know your equipment is *on* without any

doubts. The Ladder Drill can be modified to incorporate a shot timer (recording the time it takes to engage successfully).



The author's challenge was to familiarize himself with the .308 Saint to complete the video production.

20A DRILL

This drill is one my friend KC Eusebio taught me in a course designed for performance-based shooting. We use a USPSA target on sticks with shooting positions at 5, 10 and 15 yards. The drill begins with a rifle, starting at the low ready, on safe, muzzle pointed downrange. The drill is shot in four separate strings with five shots for a recorded time. The objective is to run the gun as aggressively as possible while maintaining all shots in the A Zone. I like this drill as it is challenging to execute with a Combat Heavy Rifle for competitive times. Advanced level shooters should be able to perform the shot string at the 5-yard segment in 1.5 seconds or better, 10 yards in 2.5 seconds or better, and 15 yards in 3.5 seconds or better while achieving all shots in the A-zone. The total round count for this drill is 20 rounds.

GEMINI DRILL

The Gemini Drill is my favorite drill to use for movement, speed, accuracy and gun handling procedures. The drill is set up with (2) USPSA targets on sticks with 5-7 yards in separation. There are four marked shooting positions with a 5-yard position and 10-yard position in front of each target respectively. The shooter will always start at one of the 10-yard positions. The rifle (Combat Heavy Rifle) will be loaded,

on safe, low ready with the muzzle generally pointed downrange. On the start signal, the shooter will engage the USPSA target A zone twice from each position and end at the start point with a final two-round engagement. This drill incorporates lateral movement, forward movement, breaking contact and safety manipulation throughout the drill. Advanced level shooters should have the ability to execute this drill in 12 seconds or less with all shots inside the A Zone. The total round count for this drill is ten rounds.

GEMINI TO LADDER (CQB TO DMR)

There are several ways to set this up on the range. Shooters should set up a course of fire that incorporates the Gemini drill then strive to end it making shots out to distance by combining the Gemini and the Ladder drill. This drill should be executed using a PAR time (timeout of 60 seconds or less clean). This drill is a great way to test your ability as a shooter under stress and pressure.

I have learned that there are many versions of what is considered to be a "Combat Heavy Rifle" beginning from WWII to present-day rifles. The constant I have strived for is knowing my equipment's capability through purposeful training and making a dedicated effort to replicate stressful scenarios to shoot under pressure. Applying the fundamentals of marksmanship spans across all weapon platforms and can serve as a way to keep us honest with our shooting abilities. "Sights and trigger" remain my focal point for making the shot count.

If given a choice for a "do all" kind of rifle, I would suggest finding a "Combat Heavy" rifle with the ability to engage at close distances quickly and out to greater distance with the knockdown power needed to get the job done. 7.62 NATO is a powerful round that has years of performance behind it. It will continue to be a top contender for the foreseeable future.

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BIO

Brendan Souder is a recently retired USASF soldier, a competition shooter, and owner/operator of Range Project Group International (rpg-international.us) in the Panhandle of Florida. RPGi hosts shooting competitions and training courses that leverage the SOF background/competition hybrid model. The views expressed in this article are the opinions of Brendan Souder and do not reflect views of the U.S. Military.