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EXPERT REPORT OF MATTHEW KRINER

Randall Kowalke v. David Eastman et al.

Case No: 3AN-22-07404 CI

Prepared for the Northern Justice Project, LLC

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kriner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Introduction

My name is Matthew Kriner and I am the Senior Research Scholar at the Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism (CTEC). I have held this position since October 2021. I am providing this expert opinion on behalf of the Northern Justice Project, LLC related to the ongoing case against Representative David Eastman.

I have been asked by the plaintiff in this case to render an expert opinion whether the Oath Keepers are an organization or association which advocates for the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence. As detailed in the subsequent sections of this document, it is my expert opinion that the Oath Keepers is an active organization which advocates for the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence.

Qualifications

I have studied the dynamics of terrorist organizations, anti-government extremists, and individual radicalization for over a decade. Prior to my current role at CTEC, I was a contracted intelligence analyst that supported the US government's law enforcement missions at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). In that capacity I contributed to DOJ investigations into violent extremist threats leading into and following the January 6th Insurrection. Preceding that role, I was a Senior Analyst and Program Manager for a market-leading technology firm's Global Security Center. In that capacity it was my responsibility to identify, triage, and coordinate response to active crises affecting the firm's global assets and personnel. Crises included, but were not limited to, active terrorist attacks, bomb threats, targeted violence threats against executives, and more.

As the Senior Research Scholar at CTEC, it is my duty to oversee and conduct research related to violent extremist movements and related efforts to destabilize democratic governments. This has predominantly fallen into three broad categories of research expertise: anti-government violent extremism; neofascist militant accelerationism; and threat assessment. Within these categories my research and analysis has focused on a wide range of actors and threat types. I have lead cutting edge research on emerging violent extremist movements like the Boogaloo movement, the Proud Boys, and numerous neofascist accelerationist entities that are designated as terrorist organizations by foreign governments, such as Canada and New Zealand. These research efforts have led to direct policy changes and action by those entities towards the violent actors, such as the listing of the Proud Boys as a terrorist organization by the New Zealand government.

Additionally, prior to, and following, the January 6th Insurrection, I have conducted extensive research on US militia movement groups and networks. This research has included topics such as examining how criminal conduct by individuals in the groups is, or is not, emblematic of the group, conducting threat assessments on militia-associated individuals, networks, and groups, and more. I have produced numerous research products, op-eds, briefed law enforcement and policy makers, and provided dozens of interviews to journalists related to the broader topic of American militia's anti-authority and anti-democratic activities. With respect to the Oath Keepers, I have produced multiple research products and conducted numerous briefings on their role in the January 6th Insurrection and their broader historical anti-government and politically motivated violent activity. Specifically, I have provided testimony for the Alaska House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee as well as led the drafting of two Statements for the Record for the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol,

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one titled “Toppling Tyranny: Understanding the Militia Movement’s Role in the January 6th Insurrection and Beyond” and one titled “The Weaponization of Conspiracy Theories: A Growing National Security Threat.” Both Statements provide assessment of how the Oath Keepers contributed to the broader violent extremist and anti-government militia landscape with a careful examination of their involvement in the January 6th Insurrection. In each of these products I have extensively reviewed primary source content (e.g., court records, social media, websites, member blogs, and more), as well as secondary and tertiary reporting on the Oath Keepers (e.g., research products, academic books, media reports, and more) that informs the Oath Keepers’ organizational structure, its history, its online and offline activities, its membership details, criminal conduct of individuals, and the Oath Keepers position in the broader violent extremist landscape of the United States. An accounting of the materials reviewed and relied upon for this expert report can be found in Section IV.

It is in this capacity that I offer the below statement related to the issue of Representative Mr. David Eastman and the Oath Keepers organization.

I have not previously testified as an expert witness at trial or by deposition. My entire CV is attached as Exhibit 1.

Compensation

I am being compensated by the Northern Justice Project LLC at a rate of \$150 per hour for my consulting services in offering this report. To date, I have spent 26 hours on this case.

Documents and Information Considered

In formulating my expert opinions in this case, I reviewed and relied upon the following types of materials: court documents; primary materials produced by the Oath Keepers including but not limited to the Oath Keepers website, reporting on the Oath Keepers data leak, Oath Keepers social media, communications from the Oath Keepers to members, and personal blogs of self-identified members of the Oath Keepers; media reports; secondary analysis, research, and opinion pieces; and lastly, data made available to me by the Northern Justice Project related to discovery in this proceeding. All of the sources considered are of the type reasonably relied upon by experts in my field.

Additionally, see Appendix 2 for a list of sources utilized in my research and drafting of this statement that may exist beyond the provided footnotes throughout the statement.

Statement of Opinions

Who Are the Oath Keepers?

Oath Keepers group is an anti-government, anti-authority, right-wing extremist organization that portrays itself as “guardians of the republic” dedicated to preserving Americans’ natural rights from abstract tyrannical forces. The organization was founded and is led by Stewart Rhodes. In the by-laws for the organization, Rhodes is written in as “president of the group for life, unless he resigns or is found incompetent.” According to the Oath Keeper website:

“Stewart is the founder and National President of Oath Keepers. He served as a U.S. Army paratrooper until disabled in a rough terrain parachuting accident during a night jump. He is a former firearms instructor, former member of Rep. Ron Paul’s DC staff, and

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served as a volunteer firefighter in Montana. Stewart previously wrote the monthly Enemy at the Gates column for S.W.A.T. Magazine. Stewart graduated from Yale Law School in 2004, where his paper “Solving the Puzzle of Enemy Combatant Status” won Yale’s Miller prize for best paper on the Bill of Rights. He assisted teaching U.S. military history at Yale, was a Yale Research Scholar, and is writing a book on the dangers of applying the laws of war to the American people.”¹

Since its inception in 2009, the group has used a warped sense of patriotism, loose enforcement of laws surrounding paramilitary activity, and America’s founding revolutionary spirit to justify anti-government mobilization. It consistently walked the edge of political violence before taking part in the January 6 insurrection. According to Dr. Sam Jackson, “Oath Keepers exemplifies a style of American politics that views violence as a legitimate means to achieve political goals, at least under certain conditions.”² Thus, the Oath Keepers act at times as an insurrectionary movement that cloaks its violent activities in pseudo-patriotism and revolutionary rhetoric as a sense of duty to the U.S. Constitution. In January 2022, Rhodes and 10 other members of the Oath Keepers were arrested on seditious conspiracy charges related to their role in the January 6th Insurrection on January 6, 2021. To date, eleven Oath Keepers and leader Stewart Rhodes are alleged to have engaged seditious conspiracy for their role in the January 6th Insurrection which sought to disrupt the Constitutional process of certifying the 2020 election.

The Oath Keepers derived their group name “from oaths that military and law enforcement members take,” which “evokes a sense of inherent patriotism and duty to the U.S. Constitution.” For example, the group explicitly outlined in their founding document ‘Declarations of Orders we will not Obey,’ this oath:

Recognizing that we each swore and [sic] oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and affirming that we are guardians of the Republic, of the principles in our Declaration of Independence, and of the rights of our people, we affirm and declare the following...³

Instead, to fulfill Rhodes’ views of the group as “guardians of the republic”, the group has weaponized American patriotism with the aim of capturing the state, even violently if certain conditions are met. Rhodes and the Oath Keepers movement regularly adopt political stances that are nakedly insurrectionary and use rhetoric that borders on incitement. It’s commitment to the rule of law and the US Constitution is a rotating notion of individual preference and ideological interpretation. As I have written elsewhere, “the Oath Keepers has built a myth around itself as defending everyday Americans from the abuse of an ever-encroaching federal government that is stripping Americans of their natural rights. Yet, in recent years, the mission of the Oath Keepers has evolved into one predicated on a profoundly hostile stance toward the political status quo in the United States.”⁴ As witnessed on January 6, 2021, the organization’s principal target is the government itself—particularly federal agencies—and

¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20201115033306/https://oathkeepers.org/2020/11/oath-keepers-critical-message-to-patriots-on-election-day-and-after/>

² Sam Jackson, Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020).

³ Oath Keepers website; Jackson, Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group; A full accounting of the “Orders” can be found in Appendix 1.

⁴ <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-oath-keepers-and-their-role-in-the-january-6-insurrection/>

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it has routinely engaged in a manner that rejects the authority and undermines American democracy through armed intimidation.

Until recently, these views are largely confined to America's most extreme fringes like the sovereign citizen movement, the CSPOA, and other actors who conspiratorially view the US government as illegitimate. Since 2016 increasingly grown antagonistic towards democratic principles and the United States federal government. Following the 2020 presidential election, Rhodes and many individual members of the Oath Keepers have rejected the lawfully elected President, Joseph R. Biden, and engaged in routine denunciation of the current administration as unlawful and as the result of a fixed election or a coup d'état. As such, the group's anti-authority views and activities do little to uphold an oath to the Constitution, and instead pervert its noble purpose to subvert American democracy. The Oath Keepers engage in three primary forms of activity: political activism, misinformation, and paramilitary activities. Despite arguments to the contrary, the Oath Keepers are not a benign weekend warrior club that trains with firearms and waxes poetically about the finer points of defending American democracy from foreign tyranny.

History of the Organization

Historically, the Oath Keepers has routinely espoused anti-government rhetoric and stood openly against federal law enforcement with firearms.⁵ From their involvement in the 2014 Bundy Ranch standoff with United States federal law enforcement to their acting as perimeter defense for the occupiers of the federally owned Malheur Natural Refuge⁶ in 2016 and ultimately their alleged role in the January 6th Insurrection, the Oath Keepers have made clear through their actions that they are willing to use force against the United States government when they believe it has acted against their wishes.

On April 19, 2009, the first Oath Keepers muster was conducted on the historic Lexington Common outside Boston, Massachusetts. Lexington Common is the site of the first battle in the American Revolution. Oath Keepers advertised the event by inviting others "to celebrate 'The shot heard around the world' – April 19, 1775, where the first fighting in the Revolutionary War occurred." Just a month after the group was founded, the event focused heavily on former military individuals speaking passionately about a looming second revolutionary war, globalism's threat to American sovereignty, and the need to resist supposedly tyrannical governance that would subvert Americans' natural rights.⁷ The group's founder and leader, Stewart Rhodes, presented his foundational vision for the Oath Keepers that day, read aloud the group's "Declaration of Orders We Will Not Obey," and conducted a mass oath-swearing ceremony with those gathered.

The Oath Keepers' leader—Elmer Stewart Rhodes, better known as Stewart—is a former Army paratrooper, Yale Law graduate, disbarred Montana lawyer,⁸ and staffer for Congressman Ron Paul (retired). Today, Rhodes is the most visible member of Oath Keepers (by his own design) and touts the additional title of "Person One" in federal prosecution filings and Congressional subpoena related to his

⁵ <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/oath-keepers/9780231193450>

⁶ <https://www.opb.org/news/series/burns-oregon-standoff-bundy-militia-news-updates/theres-another-armed-group-in-burns-and-theyre-not-the-bundys/>; <http://cup.columbia.edu/book/oath-keepers/9780231193450>

⁷ Transcripts reviewed at scholar Sam Jackson's archive.

⁸ *In the matter of Elmer S Rhodes, "Order,"* Supreme court of the state of Montana, 2015.

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and the Oath Keepers' alleged involvement in the January 6 insurrection. In the by-laws for the organization, Rhodes is written in as "president of the group for life, unless he resigns or is found incompetent."⁹

The militia and patriot movements, while sometimes referred to as separate components of the broader anti-government extremist landscape in the United States, according to scholar Sam Jackson are best "defined by two closely related beliefs: the federal government (and possibly some state and local governments) are currently tyrannical or are quickly becoming tyrannical; and American patriots need to be ready to engage in conflict with that government to protect or restore traditional American rights. That conflict could begin anytime, and it could include a range of different types of action including an insurgency-style war."¹⁰

Status

It is my expert opinion that the Oath Keepers is an active organization. To date, there is no formal statement of dissolution for the Oath Keepers organization. In contrast, following the events of the January 6th Insurrection, and the Canadian government's listing of the Three Percent movement as a terrorist organization, the movement's national leadership issued a formal, public dissolution notice via their website.¹¹ The issuance of public dissolution notices is a common practice and its absence suggests that the leadership of Oath Keepers does not see itself as defunct, dissolved, or otherwise not active.

Organizational Structure and Membership

The Oath Keepers are a hierarchical organization with a national leadership council, state and county chapters, and local branches.¹² The Oath Keepers have an extensive set of by-laws that outline the organizational structure, conduct, and expectations of members. Operationally, most activity is undertaken by individual chapters or branches, allowing for a degree of autonomy on local mobilization. According to scholar Sam Jackson, organizational dynamics of Oath Keepers put local chapters and branches and state-level leadership on the hook for arranging "meetings, demonstrations, and training exercises."¹³ National leadership, which consists of a board of directors that is led by Rhodes, oversees the Oath Keepers' brand and reputation, and maintains its own social media and web presence separate from the state and local activity—though national leadership will feature state and local content, as well as boost calls to action based on activity that state and local branches initiate. A good example of this is the proactive stance that the Josephine County branch of the Oath Keepers took in relation to the Sugar Pine Mine standoff and the Malheur Wildlife Refuge standoff. Both times, the Oath Keepers' national leadership team responded to actions taken by the local branch before issuing a stance on the incident and the merit of the Oath Keepers' involvement. These episodes are described later in the statement.

⁹ Jackson, *Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group*.

¹⁰ Sam Jackson, "Fantasies of Violence in the Patriot/Militia Movement in the United States" in Barbara Perry, Jeffrey Gruenewald, and Ryan Scrivens eds. *Right-wing Extremism in Canada and the United States* (London: Palgrave, 2022), chapter forthcoming.

¹¹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20210310130503/https://thethreepercenters.org/2021/02/ttpos-final-statement/21/>

¹² Jackson, *Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group*; Oath Keepers website.

¹³ Jackson, *Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group*.

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Overall, the group answers entirely to Rhodes. Except for individual acts, it seems there is virtually no Oath Keepers activity that Rhodes is not aware of or not involved in planning to some extent. Rhodes, by design, is the fulcrum around which the organization exists.

The Oath Keepers group seeks explicitly to recruit “current and formerly serving military, police, and first responders.”¹⁴ Reporting based on a leaked dataset of Oath Keepers membership shows that “state lawmakers, congressional candidates, and local government and GOP officials”¹⁵ were included in the Oath Keepers’ membership list, specifically: “28 people who currently hold elected office joined or financially supported the Oath Keepers,”¹⁶ multiple New York Police Department officers,¹⁷ and approximately 150 individuals who registered membership with a “.mil” email address.

Ultimately attaining membership in the Oath Keepers is predominantly an individual act and responsibility. As demonstrated by Mr. Eastman’s inquiry regarding his lifetime membership to Rich Melville the Oath Keepers National Membership Coordinator, our research has found that an individual associated with the group is often more concerned with the status, public or parliamentary, of their membership than the organization (at any level) or the leadership. Additionally, the organization retains the ability to remove individuals as detailed in Article VIII, Section 8.02 Restrictions on Membership, subsection (c) of the Oath Keepers’ by-laws states that “Oath Keepers reserves the right in it’s [sic] sole discretion, to withhold, deny, or revoke the membership or associate membership of any person whom Oath Keepers determines will dilute, impair or disrupt Oath Keeper’s mission, dishonor, or in any manner bring ill repute to Oath Keepers.”¹⁸

My research and the extant literature¹⁹ show that some events have been linked to an uptick in membership of the Oath Keepers while others have seemingly led to a downturn in individuals remaining dues-paying members. In the aftermath of the insurrection, Oath Keepers entered a period of transition with members and supporters of the organization divided in their response. Some reaffirmed their commitment or became dues-paying members for the first time,²⁰ perhaps believing that the insurrectionists were “patriots” who were stopped by corrupt law enforcement. Others renounced their involvement, indicating that the attack on the Capitol revealed the extremism inherent in Oath Keepers that they hadn’t previously noticed.²¹ A leader of one Oath Keepers chapter described the insurrection as an “ugly stain on our nation’s history” and announced that the chapter would become independent.²² Numerous individuals previously associated with the organization, as both lifetime and non-lifetime members, have recognized the extremity to which the organization has progressed and since left it formally.

¹⁴ Oath Keepers website

¹⁵ <https://www.propublica.org/article/oath-keepers-in-the-state-house-how-a-militia-movement-took-root-in-the-republican-mainstream>

¹⁶ <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jessicagarrison/oath-keepers-data-elected-officials>

¹⁷ <https://gothamist.com/news/hack-oath-keepers-militia-group-includes-names-active-nypd-officers-de-blasio-launches-investigation>

¹⁸ Via Oath Keepers website.

¹⁹ See Jackson, *Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group*.

²⁰ https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kenbensinger/finances-membership-for-oath-keepers?bftwnews&utm_term=4ldqpgc#:~:text=The%20listings%2C%20which,600%20new%20members.

²¹ <https://nrcolumbus.com/local-oath-keepers-split-from-national-following-jan-6/>

²² <https://nrcolumbus.com/local-oath-keepers-split-from-national-following-jan-6/>

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Therefore, as exhibited by the examples above, it is reasonable to conclude that any continued involvement or association with the Oath Keepers following the January 6th Insurrection, is reasonably viewed, at minimum, as a tacit endorsement of the violent insurrectionary activity alleged by the DOJ in their filings related to the seditious conspiracy charges against Rhodes and ten other Oath Keepers for their activities on January 6th, 2021.

Oath Keeper Anti-Government Views

The Oath Keepers are ideologically and operationally best characterized by their preoccupation with preparation for a seemingly inevitable direct conflict against the government, which Rhodes and Oath Keepers view as an imminent tyrannical threat to “control the population.”¹⁵ Tyranny’s form rotates in the Oath Keepers outlook, allowing macro-level perceived threats (e.g., the United Nations and Marxism) to occupy equal purchase in the minds of the group’s members as the supposedly tyrannical actions of executive branch agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at specific localized state and federal flashpoints. Since 2016, the rise of movements like Black Lives Matter and anti-fascist organizing have assumed a prominent role in the pantheon of Oath Keepers’ perceived threats, largely stemming from the organization’s long embrace of conspiracy theories that fixate on global institutions supposedly forcing Marxism or Socialism onto American citizens via the United Nations. Rhodes has routinely appeared on the conspiracy website InfoWars and spoken at length about the threat of Marxism, antifa, and Black Lives Matter. The Oath Keepers website also regularly posts content that reinforces these views and promotes conspiracy theories related to COVID-19, anti-fascist organizing, democrats, and more.²³

State Capture

State capture and state collapse are two categorizations of contention with the state by extremist and radical organizations, networks, and cliques that can better inform our understanding of actor behavior that led to the January 6th Insurrection – particularly that of the Oath Keepers. To understand why a group that styles itself as a Constitutional praetorian guard would engage in a blatant use of force that ultimately undermined that same Constitution, we should look to two categorizations of political contention: state capture and state collapse. Understanding this framework can help us better understand the individual and group-level motivations that drove participation in the January 6th Insurrection.

The distinction between capture and collapse is premised on the question of whether the actor being examined feels that the current political system has utility or moral value. In the case of actors that seek to capture the state, this means they see the state as either a moral positive or a tool towards their goals of restructuring society in their image. State capture activity can range from political movements to political violence and even terrorism. The defining element of state capture is the desire to retain features of the current system in the event of successful seizure of power. In a liberal democratic system this often takes the form of illiberal or reduced egalitarianism within the post-capture state structure (e.g., a reduction of rights for some, such as the removal of voting capabilities).

²³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/09/11/long-dangerous-history-far-rights-calls-violence-civil-war/>

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Militias, paramilitary forces, and more broadly anti-government militants that still see value in the political system can attempt to influence outcomes from within that system. In the American context this often equates to political expressions of illiberalism. It can also result in behaviors seeking to coerce the system with implied threats of violence from without. An example of such behavior is illustrated in discussions from the Oath Keepers on how to physically position themselves on January 6th as the election was being certified, stating that “We need to make those senators very uncomfortable with all of us being a few hundred feet away.”²⁴ This statement, overt in its intent to intimidate a lawful political proceeding through the specter of force, still operates within the confines of the political system – even if it does seek to radically or violently alter it. Historically, Patriot-militia and Oath Keeper mobilization, while violent and insurrectionary at times, is best understood as attempts to capture the state with the intention of radically altering its parameters by paring down its reach and influence.

The Oath Keepers are emblematic of a group more embracing of capturing the state, engaging in acts of political violence via armed presence at key events that carried the implicit threat of violent resistance if federal authorities failed to act in accordance with the Oath Keepers’ views on the U.S. Constitution and natural rights.²⁵ Additionally, like the insurrectionary accelerationists present in the Boogaloo movement,²⁶ “Rhodes and by extension the Oath Keepers are preoccupied with the notion of a second American civil war.”²⁷ Militants’ expressed view of social collapse and civil war are frequently paired with a belief that the actors aware of the dissolution are either uniquely situated to prevent or survive the conflict, or they are vindicated in their longstanding views that they must actively fight against the evil forces precipitating the collapse. This is true of the Oath Keepers and the practical manifestation of this for Rhodes and the Oath Keepers was their desire to see President Trump invoke the Insurrection Act on January 6th and their preparations to violently intervene in the lawful transition of power that day in Congress due to a conspiratorial belief that a “deep state” or abstract leftist cabal had “stolen” the election from President Trump. When paired with violence, or the threat of it, this is an insurrection and is tantamount to a plan to overthrowing the state through disrupting the lawful transition of power.

Oath Keepers, and principally Rhodes, has asserted since approximately 2016 that the political condition in the United States had devolved due to a perceived pernicious growth in Marxist violence and politics from the left. Rhodes is particularly obsessed with the notion that America is primed to descend into collapse and/or civil war. The Oath Keepers are heavily fixated on this narrative, that America is already in or rapidly approach a collapse or civil war. Some state-level leadership and individual members of the Oath Keepers, as well as other Patriot-militia movement groups, have asserted that a civil war has already started and is being waged beyond the view of the public as the mainstream media doesn’t cover it.²⁸ These views are often tied to conspiracy theories that Marxist, Socialist, or Communist agents are secretly infiltrating left-wing social justice groups like Black Lives Matter and Antifa to foment unrest and engage in terrorism. Following the August 2020 shooting of a member of the neo-fascist group Patriot Prayer by an anti-fascist activist, Rhodes stated that, “The first shot has been fired brother. Civil war is here, right now. We’ll give Trump one last chance to declare this a Marxist insurrection &

²⁴ <https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2191/f/Rhodes%20et%20al%20Indictment.pdf>

²⁵ <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-oath-keepers-and-their-role-in-the-january-6-insurrection/>

²⁶ <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-evolution-of-the-boogaloo-movement/>

²⁷ <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-oath-keepers-and-their-role-in-the-january-6-insurrection/>

²⁸ Prescott eNews, “The Coming Civil War? Part 1,” YouTube, November 22, 2020.

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suppress it as his duty demands. If he fails to do HIS duty, we will do OURS. ‘against all enemies, foreign and domestic’ Stewart”.²⁹

Coded, or masked, language is a critical tool in the propaganda repertoire of the Oath Keepers anti-government views. Like many other extremist organizations Oath Keepers utilize words and phrases that have multiple plausible meanings depending on the audience they are delivered to and the conditions in which they are used. This allows speakers to engage in “wink and nod” dialogue with a sympathetic audience (online, in physical communication mediums, and through in-person dialogue) that communicates a message the average listener or consumer may not fully understand.

For example, Oath Keepers’ founder and leader Stewart Rhodes has asserted that, ‘It’s the right of the people to abolish [the United States government] to institute such new government as they think necessary or reform it. It’s the people’s obligation.’ To some, this statement carries an additional weight beyond the context of discussing the legacy of the American Revolutionary War and the justification the American colonies made to reject British tyranny. That additional context is that the current government is akin to that historic tyrannical force and as American citizens, they are inheritors of that legacy and are therefore morally compelled to resist the current government in a manner akin to the Revolutionary War – violently through insurrection or rebellion. This sentiment is not a matter of academic debate within the Oath Keepers. It is a guiding principle that framed out the group’s existence from its launch in 2009 when Rhodes chose the site of Lexington Green for its symbolism as the start to the American Revolutionary War.

Much like its militia and patriot movement predecessors, the Oath Keepers has built a myth around itself as defending everyday Americans from the abuse of an ever-encroaching federal government that is stripping Americans of their natural rights. Yet, in recent years, the mission of the Oath Keepers has evolved into one predicated on a profoundly hostile stance toward the political status quo in the United States. Oath Keepers rhetoric is deeply conspiratorial and promotes the need for a violent replacement of tyrannical forces in the United States due to an alleged imminent conflict with the federal government.

The militia and patriot movements, while sometimes referred to as separate components of the broader anti-government extremist landscape in the United States are best “defined by two closely related beliefs: the federal government (and possibly some state and local governments) are currently tyrannical or are quickly becoming tyrannical; and American patriots need to be ready to engage in conflict with that government to protect or restore traditional American rights. That conflict could begin anytime, and it could include a range of different types of action including an insurgency-style war.”³⁰

In recognition of Oath Keepers extremist activity offline and the rhetoric and its use of the platform online, Twitter and Facebook removed the group from their respective platforms in 2020. These platforms do not lightly remove accounts of this nature. The listing of the Oath keepers as a militarized social movement by Facebook’s Dangerous Organizations and Individuals would have required significant evidence and justification that the organization is engaging in activities that include but

²⁹ Oath Keepers website

³⁰ Sam Jackson, “Fantasies of Violence in the Patriot/Militia Movement in the United States” in Barbara Perry, Jeffrey Gruenewald, and Ryan Scrivens eds. *Right-wing Extremism in Canada and the United States* (London: Palgrave, 2022), chapter forthcoming.

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would not be limited to the following: violence offline, incitement, and coordinated planning on platform to engage in violent offline activity.

The Oath Keepers' insurrectionary rhetoric online and acts offline have resulted in the group's permanent removal from most mainstream social media platforms. In 2020, the Oath Keepers and Stewart Rhodes were banned by Facebook and Twitter.³¹ Facebook, which has listed the Oath Keepers as a "militarized social movement," was a significant arena for the Oath Keepers to promote its brand and organize followers. Before its ban from Facebook, the Oath Keepers boasted approximately 551,000 followers on its official page.³² While active on mainstream platforms, the Oath Keepers' branded pages and group members directly targeted politicians with implicit threats of violence from their social media accounts. Rhodes and by extension the Oath Keepers are preoccupied with the notion of a second American civil war. Prior to its suspension by Twitter, and in response to the killing of a Patriot Prayer member by an alleged anti-fascist activist in August 2020, Rhodes wrote on the official Oath Keepers Twitter account the following: "The first shot has been fired brother. Civil war is here, right now. We'll give Trump one last chance to declare this a Marxist insurrection & suppress it as his duty demands. If he fails to do HIS duty, we will do OURS. 'against all enemies, foreign and domestic' Stewart."³³ In 2019, the Oath Keepers Facebook page posted the following message about Oregon Governor Kate Brown:

Gov. Brown, you want a civil war, because this is how you get a civil war.

The post was in response to Governor Brown's orders to state police to find Republican legislators that walked out from the state legislature to avoid a vote. Militia and extreme far-right threats over the political row prompted the Oregon State Police to "recommend that the Capitol be closed."³⁴

Calls to Action & Anti-Government Activities

As stated at the outset, the Oath Keepers engage in three primary forms of activity, one of which is paramilitary activity. This is exemplified by the local and national "calls to action" that have served to mobilize the group's members and sympathizers and more hardened extremist co-travelers (e.g., Three Percent Movement and the CSPOA). From 2016 onwards, the group consistently mobilized armed responses, often posing as "security operations" to perceived threats, and increasingly expressed the belief that the United States was on the brink of or already in a state of civil war. The Oath Keepers' "calls to action" in response to such conflict have led to armed standoffs with the federal government, armed intimidation of protestors,³⁵ implicit threats of violence if their demands are not met,³⁶ and individual acts of criminality and violence.³⁷ Despite its claims that its members are simply monitoring events, Oath Keepers at these engagements have been accused of escalating tensions on the ground due to their often heavily armed paramilitary appearance. According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), for the year 2020 nearly "a quarter of all demonstration events

³¹ <https://www.engadget.com/twitter-the-oath-keepers-211426663.html>

³² <https://homeland.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Testimony%20-%20MacNab.pdf>

³³ <https://twitter.com/cjcmichel/status/1300223852371415041>

³⁴ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/8xz7nv/lets-check-in-on-those-oregon-republicans-who-fled-the-capital-shall-we>; <https://apnews.com/article/legislature-kate-brown-us-news-climate-change-oregon-6f244646d3624ad89013d88c539aeabb>

³⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ferguson-oath-keepers-idUSKCN0QG0SG20150811>

³⁶ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/oath-keepers>

³⁷ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/oath-keepers>

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in which Oath Keepers are involved have turned violent and/or destructive.” The 24 percent rate for Oath Keepers is higher than the Proud Boys at 21 percent, though the Proud Boys had significantly more observed instances of offline mobilization logged by ACLED than the Oath Keepers in 2020. Logged instances of observed presence are defined by ACLED as offline activity where Oath Keeper participation was verified by the ACLED team through open-source research.³⁸

As I have written elsewhere, “The operational history of the Oath Keepers in the period before January 6 was defined by a mixture of brinkmanship, physical posturing (often threatening due to the armed nature of security operations), and symbolic resistance against government and law enforcement via online mediums such as podcasts and video streams.”³⁹ In the acute moments of perceived crisis where Oath Keepers issued calls to action, or responded to other calls to action issued by Patriot-militia actors, Oath Keepers has justified its anti-government armed responses as anticipating an imminent collapse of society or the imminent ascendancy of tyrannical un-Constitutional Federal governance.

Additionally, the Oath Keepers is often co-travelers to more extreme organizations. For example, the group was deeply intertwined with the more violent Three Percenter movement,⁴⁰ members of which are linked to multiple attempted acts of terrorist violence against minorities and charged for their involvement in the January 6 insurrection.⁴¹ The Three Percenters is a deeply conspiratorial and violent militia movement that emerged in the resurgence of the militia presence in America around the 2008 presidential election. Additionally, one of the Oath Keepers’ oldest relationships to anti-government movements is its relationship with the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA).⁴² The founder of CSPOA, Richard Mack, was also a founding member of the Oath Keepers. CSPOA is premised on a belief that overlaps with sovereign citizen ideology that the county sheriff is the highest authority in the county, capable of overriding even the federal government.⁴³

Like CSPOA, the founder of the Three Percent movement Mike Vanderboegh was also involved in the founding of the Oath Keepers and assisted Rhodes in the 2009 mass oath-swearing ceremony at Lexington Common.⁴⁴ In 2015, following the killing of four U.S. Marines at two military installations in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters mobilized jointly to serve as volunteer armed guards at military recruitment centers where active duty members were prohibited from carrying firearms.⁴⁵

³⁸ <https://acleddata.com/2021/06/23/actor-profile-oath-keepers/>

³⁹ <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-oath-keepers-and-their-role-in-the-january-6-insurrection/>

⁴⁰ Listed as terrorist organization by the Canadian government in part due to its involvement in the January 6th Insurrection <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canada-puts-us-right-wing-three-percenters-militia-group-terror-list-2021-06-25/>

⁴¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/oklahoma-man-charged-in-anti-government-bomb-plot/2017/08/14/97816686-80f9-11e7-ab27-1a21a8e006ab_story.html;

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⁴² <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/oath-keepers>

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⁴⁴ <https://www.csis.org/blogs/examining-extremism/examining-extremism-oath-keepers>

⁴⁵ “Protect the Protectors-Update,” Oath Keepers website, July 22, 2015; https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/on-guard-armed-civilians-take-up-posts-outside-local-recruiting-office/article_fbdfa7c4-3163-11e5-9c7a-bf6392b51db8.html

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Where and how the Oath Keepers chose to act was often contingent on the perceived payoffs and risks associated with physical presence. The group often inserted itself into acute moments of tension or at events that allow for low-risk, high-branding activism or protest. The above example of the mobilization alongside the Three Percent movement demonstrates this well, as the likelihood of a direct conflict with law enforcement or an additional attack was quite low.

Yet Oath Keepers leadership, in particular Rhodes, have been risk averse. The adage ‘actions speak louder than words’ is particularly salient for Rhodes, who has routinely positioned himself as endorsing less aggressive actions than his Patriot Movement counterparts (such as Ammon Bundy) and less aggressive actions than individual members of the Oath Keepers. This directly contradicts his profoundly incendiary rhetoric that borders on incitement. Unlike similar entities in the past, which have run afoul of federal or state statutes criminalizing private militias,⁴⁶ the Oath Keepers and Rhodes have displayed a sharp awareness of the distinctions they must draw to inhibit investigations into their activities. A notable example would be when the national leadership of the Oath Keepers did not endorse the Bundy-led occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, nor did they issue a call to action. However, Rhodes did endorse the Josephine County branch of Oath Keepers decision to position themselves a security buffer between Bundy’s milieu and the federal agencies responding to the occupation as a “righteous mission” that may “prevent another Waco incident.” This illustrates the level to which Rhodes set the tone and directed the overall trajectory of the organization’s offline activities.

Overall, it is reasonable to assert that the election of President Joe Biden, acted as a catalyst that seemingly moved Rhodes and the organization beyond anticipating collapse into a position of direct action against the US government. Thus, for the Oath Keepers and Rhodes, the mobilization for January 6th and the Stop the Steal demonstration promoted by Rhodes demonstrates a zeal to seize a moment of opportunity to directly influence what they perceived to be an unlawful transition of power.

Criminality from Oath Keepers Members

The following is a non-comprehensive list of Oath Keeper members who were charged with, or convicted, of criminal activity:

Daniel Knight Hayden: In 2009, Hayden, an Oath Keepers supporter, was indicted by a federal grand jury for threats to “kill or injure police officers at a public tax protest assembly called a ‘Tea Party’ scheduled for April 15, 2009, at the Oklahoma State Capitol.”⁴⁷ Hayden was convicted for this crime and sentenced to eight months in prison.

Darren Huff: In 2010, Huff was a self-declared member of the Oath Keepers⁴⁸ “convicted on a firearms offense after traveling from Georgia to Tennessee to put government officials under citizen’s arrest for refusing to indict President Obama.”⁴⁹ Huff was sentenced to four years in federal prison.

⁴⁶ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/dispelling-myth-second-amendment>;
<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/icap/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2018/04/Prohibiting-Private-Armies-at-Public-Rallies.pdf>

⁴⁷ <https://archives.fbi.gov/archives/oklahomacity/press-releases/2010/ok020210.htm>

⁴⁸ <https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2011/oct/22/courthouse-takeover-defendant-is-tearful/>

⁴⁹ Jackson, Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group.

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Matthew Fairfield: In 2010, Fairfield, a local chapter president of the Oath Keepers' branch in Ohio, was arrested on numerous criminal charges, including the possession of explosives (a live napalm incendiary device) and child pornography.⁵⁰ Fairfield was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Jon Ritzheimer: A participant in the Malheur Refuge Occupation, Ritzheimer pleaded guilty to one count of conspiring to impede officers of the United States and was sentenced to one year and one day of imprisonment in November 2017.⁵¹ Notably, in 2015 and prior to his participation in the occupation, Ritzheimer had threatened to arrest Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow for her political endorsement of the Iranian nuclear agreement.⁵²

Charles Dyer: Known as July4Patriot on YouTube, where he often appeared wearing a skull mask similar to that of the kind popularized by the neo-fascist group Atomwaffen Division, Charles Dyer was charged, convicted, and sentenced in 2010 to 30 years in prison for sexual assault of his six-year-old daughter.⁵³ During a law enforcement search of his residence, sheriff's deputies found a Colt M-203 grenade launcher reportedly identified as one that had been stolen from a California military base in 2006. Notably, Dyer repeatedly promoted the Oath Keepers while in the Marine Corps before he left in 2009 after being brought up on charges of uttering "disloyal" statements.⁵⁴ Dyer was also filmed during a militia training saying the following:

"Join the military? Depends on what you want to do with it. Me? I'm going to use my training and become one of those domestic terrorists that you're so afraid of from the DHS reports."⁵⁵

The following is a list of notable Oath Keepers' mobilizations in the years leading up to January 6 that skirted the line of insurrectionary political violence and acts of domestic terrorism:

Bundy Ranch Standoff (Spring 2014): Rhodes and armed members of the Oath Keepers responded to a call to action issued by Nevada cattle rancher Cliven Bundy over cattle grazing rights and fears of confiscation of the cattle by the Bureau of Land Management. The incident became widely known for an image depicting a militia member pointing a long-barreled rifle at federal officers from behind cover on an overpass. The Bundy Ranch Standoff was a significant event for anti-government militias across the United States with multiple groups, including the Oath Keepers, attending.⁵⁶

Ferguson, MO Protests (Fall 2014): Armed members of the Oath Keepers established rooftop surveillance posts and patrolled the streets of Ferguson, Missouri, during civil unrest connected to the fatal shooting of Michael Brown by a white police officer.⁵⁷ The police chief at the time said that their

⁵⁰ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/oath-keepers>

⁵¹ https://www.oregonlive.com/oregon-standoff/2016/08/oregon_standoff_defendant_jon_1.html; USA v. Jon Ritzheimer, "Judgment in a Criminal Case," District of Oregon, 2017.

⁵² <https://talkingpointsmemo.com/muckraker/jon-ritzheimer-debbie-stabenow-threat>

⁵³ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/fbi-manhunt-armed-marine-charles-dyer-ends-peacefully/story?id=14379442>; <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2012/04/20/oklahoma-oath-keeper-convicted-6-year-old-daughters-rape>

⁵⁴ <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2010/01/patriot-hero-dyer-july4patriot-goes-down/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/oath-keepers>

⁵⁶ <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2014/04/23/back-bundy-ranch-more-militiamen-gather-things-get-crazier>

⁵⁷ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/oath-keepers-guard-fergusons-streets-rooftops-drawing-police/story?id=27303096>

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presence was “both unnecessary and inflammatory.”⁵⁸ In an interview, Rhodes claimed that the Oath Keepers had members with contacts in the local police and that the police “didn’t do their job.”⁵⁹

Sugar Pine Mine Standoff (Spring 2015): The Sugar Pine Mine standoff occurred in Josephine County, Oregon. The Josephine County Oath Keepers involvement was determined by informal vote within the local chapter membership assembled at a meeting addressing the Sugar Pine Mine miners’ worries over federal action against their mine.⁶⁰ Armed members of the Oath Keepers, led by the Oregon-based Josephine County branch, established a security perimeter to “secure the mine” and prevent purported intimidation by the federal Bureau of Land Management agents during ongoing negotiations in court related to the mine’s regulatory adherence.⁶¹

Occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (Winter 2015-2016): The Josephine County Oath Keepers branch and individual members from elsewhere in the United States established an armed security buffer between the federal authorities and the occupiers led by Ammon Bundy (son of aforementioned Cliven Bundy). While Rhodes declined to issue a call to action in support of the occupation, what he wrote on the Oath Keepers website at the time suggested he viewed the occupation as a potential catalyst to a conflict with the federal government: “If this situation goes south, and the Obama Admin turns this into another Waco, the crap WILL hit the fan nationwide, since there are no more free Wacos – not anymore – and you will have your hands full right where you are, and in reaction, the first thing you should do is organize town and county militias for mutual defense. And that is something we will all need sooner or later. So, start laying the groundwork for that now. Today.”⁶²

Rhodes’ Rhetoric Ahead of the January 6th Insurrection

Examples of the Oath Keepers violent and insurrectionary rhetoric, including its calls to action, have been widely available and shared by the organization across its newsletter, forum, website, social media, and through partner entities since its founding. To that end, it is unlikely that members who have received or engaged with its content in any way would be unaware of the escalating rhetoric from Rhodes and the organization in the lead up to the Stop the Steal demonstration and subsequent storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. Additionally, the Oath Keepers have engaged in activism related to election fraud conspiracies since the run-up to the 2016 presidential election.

In January 2017, Oath Keepers launched a security operation, “Operation Defend J20,” to supposedly prevent violence from anti-Trump demonstrators during President Trump’s inauguration in Washington, D.C. In November 2020, Rhodes was particularly outspoken and vehement in the rhetoric he used to speak about the election.

That month, Rhodes led a “Stop the Steal” rally in Purcellville, Virginia. And in a foreshadowing of the events on January 6, 2021, Rhodes was a guest on Alex Jones’ InfoWars, where in a prolonged discussion

⁵⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ferguson-oath-keepers-idUSKCN0QG0SG20150811>

⁵⁹ <https://www.vice.com/en/article/av48bg/leader-of-oath-keepers-says-the-group-is-in-ferguson-to-protect-the-weak-1201>

⁶⁰ <https://www.hcn.org/issues/48.2/showdown-at-sugar-pine-mine>

⁶¹ Jackson, Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group; “Hundreds of Volunteers Needed at the Sugar Pine Mine Security Operation in Oregon,” Way Back Machine, Oath Keepers website, originally posted May 1, 2015.

⁶² “Note from Stewart Rhodes, founder and president of Oath Keepers,” Oath Keepers website, January 10, 2016.

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on the “Stop the Steal” conspiracy theory, he spoke with fiery rhetoric about the need to mobilize against the “deep state” to save the American republic.⁶³ On the show, he advocated for Trump to “invoke the Insurrection act ... to suppress the deep state,” claiming that the Oath Keepers had “men already stationed outside DC as a nuclear option. In case they attempt to remove the President illegally, we will step in and stop it. We’re gonna be there to also help secure the coming rally this Saturday and your caravan coming in” and “We will be inside DC and we’ll be on the outside of DC, armed, if the President calls us up” and “if we don’t there will be no more republic.” On November 15, 2020, Stewart Rhodes stated:

“I think about half this country won’t recognize Biden as legitimate. They won’t recognize this election. What that means is that everything that comes out of his mouth will be considered not of any force or effect, anything he signs into law we won’t recognize as legitimate. We’ll be very much like the founding fathers. We’ll end up nullifying and resisting.”⁶⁴

Also in November 2020, self-declared members of the Oath Keepers appeared outside the private residence of Georgia’s Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.⁶⁵ The appearance occurred in the midst of death threats over Raffensperger’s refusal to accommodate President Trump’s request for Raffensperger to “find” votes and overturn the election results in Georgia.⁶⁶

At the pro-Trump “Jericho March” in Washington, D.C., on December 12, 2020, Rhodes gave a speech to the crowd, calling on President Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act to remain in power, threatening that if he did not do so, the Oath Keepers would be forced to engage in a “‘much more desperate [and] much more bloody war’ to ensure that outcome.”⁶⁷

According to court records, Person One (now publicly known as Stewart Rhodes) posted an article on the Oath Keepers website on January 4, 2021, encouraging members of the group and affiliates to go to Washington D.C., for the planned events on January 5 and 6, 2021:

It is CRITICAL that all patriots who can be in DC get to DC to stand tall in support of President Trump’s fight to defeat the enemies foreign and domestic who are attempting a coup, through the massive vote fraud and related attacks on our Republic. We Oath Keepers are honor-bound and eager to be there in strength to do our part.”⁶⁸

January 6th Insurrection

The federal indictment against the Oath Keepers, and guilty pleas from the defendants, makes clear that within the group there was clear coordination and planning —not just for traveling to Washington, D.C., and not just for anticipating clashes with antifa (far-left leaning militant groups)—but to prevent Congress from fulfilling a constitutional requirement. The evidence set forth by the government alleges that Oath Keepers engaged in a well-organized conspiracy to physically prevent the certification of what

⁶³ The Alex Jones show, Banned, November 10, 2020.

⁶⁴ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-election-2020/oath-keepers-militia-donald-trump-joe-biden-2020-election-b1723323.html>

⁶⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-trump-georgia-threats/>

⁶⁶ <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/579679-raffensperger-trump-request-to-find-votes-was-a-threat>

⁶⁷ <https://www.adl.org/blog/pro-trump-rallies-in-dc-attract-extremists-erupt-into-violence>

⁶⁸ USA v. Thomas Caldwell et al., “Sixth Superseding Indictment,” District of Columbia, 2021.

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they perceived to be a fraudulent election and a harbinger of America's demise as a democratic country.⁶⁹ Ironically, the very conspiracy Oath Keepers are accused of perpetrating targeted the heart of the American democratic process they claimed to have been acting to protect.

As shown above, the broader rhetoric from Rhodes and the Oath Keepers leading into January 6th left little doubt as to their intention and ideological views related to the election and the transfer of power. Characterizing it as an existential crisis, Rhodes mobilized a dedicated core of individuals and positioned his organization to be the physical spearhead for "resisting" the Biden administration's lawful assumption of the Executive Branch. Additionally, and most alarmingly, evidence provided by the US Department of Justice during the seditious conspiracy trial against the Oath Keepers explicitly shows coordinated plans and follow through on those plans to have firearms in place on January 6th for utilization. The clear intent behind the firearms cache (also known as a "Quick Reaction Force or QRF") was to use them towards a goal of preventing President Joe Biden from assuming his lawfully elected duty as President and Commander in Chief. In my expert opinion, the Oath Keepers' alleged seditious conspiracy related to January 6, 2021 is an acute manifestation of the group's longstanding views that the use of force against the US government is not only justified but desired to alter the political dynamic in the US federal system. In simpler terms, the group sought to overthrow the US government by force or violence.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I will reiterate multiple points. First, it is my expert opinion that the Oath Keepers is an active organization, principally because there is no formal statement of dissolution for the Oath Keepers organization. Second, the Oath Keepers group is an anti-government, anti-authority, right-wing extremist organization that directly sought to overthrow the US government on January 6, 2021 by force. And lastly, the group has a long and public history of incendiary rhetoric that has crossed the line into incitement, as well as a long history of direct actions of insurrectionary and violent nature against the US government.

⁶⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/fifth-superseding-indictment-unsealed-oath-keeper-conspiracy-case-related-jan-6-capitol>; USA v. Thomas Caldwell et al., "Sixth Superseding Indictment," District of Columbia, 2021.

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Appendix 1

1. We will NOT obey orders to disarm the American people.
2. We will NOT obey orders to conduct warrantless searches of the American people.
3. We will NOT obey orders to detain American citizens as “unlawful enemy combatants” or to subject them to military tribunal.
4. We will NOT obey orders to impose martial law or a “state of emergency” on a state.
5. We will NOT obey orders to invade and subjugate any state that asserts its sovereignty.
6. We will NOT obey any order to blockade American cities, thus turning them into giant concentration camps.
7. We will NOT obey any order to force American citizens into any form of detention camps under any pretext.
8. We will NOT obey orders to assist or support the use of any foreign troops on U.S. soil against the American people to “keep the peace” or to “maintain control.”
9. We will NOT obey any orders to confiscate the property of the American people, including food and other essential supplies.
10. We will NOT obey any orders which infringe on the right of the people to free speech, to peaceably assemble, and to petition their government for a redress of grievances.

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EXHIBIT 1

MATTHEW S. KRINER

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Short Bio

Mr. Kriner has nearly a decade of experience researching and analyzing US domestic violent extremism, transnational far-right extremism, and radicalization. Matt is a consultant for the US Department of State, and briefs US, Canadian, and UK law enforcement agencies on far-right violent extremism and militant accelerationism. Matt has also consulted with the Center for New American Security (CNAS) on policy recommendations related to extremism in law enforcement and the military. Matt's research has been featured in several academic and media publications, including the CTC Sentinel, Perspectives on Terrorism, RAND Blog, GNET, and Slate. With Alex Newhouse and Jon Lewis, Matt is under contract to publish the first academic book on militant accelerationism titled "Delivering Doomsday: How Accelerationists Seek to Tear Down the West." He holds a Master's in Government from the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy, and Strategy at Reichman University (formerly IDC Herzilya), Israel's first private university.

Research & Analysis Experience

Managing Director, Accelerationism Research Consortium (ARC)

December 2021 – Present

- Manage the Accelerationism Research Consortium.
- Oversee Research Fellow and working group research products and strategic engagements with external partners.

Senior Research Scholar, Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism (CTEC)

Washington, DC, October 2021 – Present

- Manage the Accelerationism Threat Assessment and Radicalization Initiative research program.
- Serve as subject matter expert on accelerationism, far-right extremism, and more for tech sector engagements.
- Design and edit CTEC media publications and research reports.
- Coordinate data acquisition, management, and stewardship.

Intelligence Analyst, Thomson Reuters Special Services

Washington, DC, September 2019 – October 2021

- Led a task force supporting FBI on the January 6th Insurrection, leveraging proprietary data sources and OSINT techniques to investigate suspects and leads provided by the client.
- Produced a white paper, and briefed, on Boogaloo movement for US government law enforcement agencies.
- Developed client outreach program for domestic extremism capabilities.
- Designed a research program to parse lexical threat indicators in extremist forums and dialogue using natural language processing and machine learning applications.
- Designed an innovative risk terrain modeling and risk indicator analytical program for US domestic extremist activity.
- Designed analytical training programs for social listening, physical threat assessments, forensic video analysis, and social media analysis using proprietary and open-source tools.
- Served as liaison for US government law enforcement agencies including FBI, DOJ, DHS, and DOD.
- Regularly produced reports and briefings tailored to US government law enforcement and commercial clients on criminal and violent extremist activity.
- Coordinated and vetted third party data provider partnerships.

Senior Intelligence Analyst/Program Manager, Control Risks – Embed at Uber's Global Security Operations Center

Washington, DC, November 2018 – September 2019

- Led team of 15 analysts using open and proprietary sources to conduct data-driven analysis on the impact of active and emerging threats to Uber's operations, Executive Team, marketplaces, research & development division, and more.
- Refined open-source intelligence training protocols as well as database entry and maintenance best practices.
- Overhauled Uber's risk indicator regimes within proprietary platforms and tools and provided strategic and technical guidance on data visualization of trends.
- Oversaw analytical projects and reports related to emerging geopolitical developments that could impact Uber's global operations, including state actors (e.g., China), disease outbreaks, political discourse of opposition political movements, and more.
- Led task force dedicated to utilizing social listening tools to monitor real-time public discourse and demonstrations directed at Uber's IPO pre-launch road show.
- Coordinated an initiative across teams and areas of business to streamline incident response resources.
- Triaged incident-specific alerts and coordination of rapid turnaround incident notifications.
- Responsible for composing daily, weekly, and monthly security reports and briefing client security senior leadership concerning applicable global security developments.

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Research Fellow, Valens Global

Washington, DC, February 2018 – September 2018

- Drafted threat assessments and open-source intelligence reports on foreign terrorist fighters and domestic extremist movements for Federal Government clients and Non-Profits, such as the ADL.
- Drafted research papers on topics such as applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in national security environments.
- Collected, mapped, and coded global jihadist organizations for machine learning research initiative on behalf of the Office of Naval Research.
- Conducted open-source research and analysis pertaining to extremist movements, hate groups, and foreign terrorist organizations' activities and actions globally.
- Designed research proposal for monitoring and evaluation of state-led disinformation campaigns on general populaces, as well as targeted influence campaigns on domestic extremist movements.

Graduate Research Assistant, Reichman University (Formerly, IDC Herzliya)

Herzliya, IL, October 2016 – February 2018

- Conducted original CVE research on activities within the Israeli settler population's far-right extremist organizations and networks.
- Identified informal networks across the Israeli settler community and the Israeli government for advisor's book.
- Contributed to and edited manuscripts for submission to journals, academic workshops, and conference presentations.
- Coordinated academic workshop on radicalization at the International Center for Counter-Terrorism's (ICT) annual conference.

Director of Political Affairs, Consulate General of Israel

Atlanta, GA June 2012 – January 2014

- Advised Consul General on developing trends within U.S. national, regional and local politics.
- Served as primary liaison for six Southern states' government and law enforcement agencies.
- Briefed U.S. Congressional officials, and state and federal law enforcement agents throughout the Southeast on Israel's contemporary military and political challenges; including but not limited to Iran's nuclear capability, sanctions evasions, state-sponsored terrorist organizations, and more.
- Facilitated bilateral international cooperation between U.S.-based non-profits, federal, state, and local governments and their Israeli counterparts.
- Hired and managed a rotating team of research interns.

Education

MA in Government: Counterterrorism & Homeland Security, Reichman University (Formerly IDC Herzliya) (2018)

- Program was a PhD prep track with heavy focus on qualitative and quantitative research design and modeling.
- Conducted extensive research on the role of emotional mechanisms in radicalization, particularly in respect to organizational narratives used for recruitment, culminating in a publication with *Perspectives on Terrorism*.
- Thesis research used unique survey data and a dual mediation model via SPSS and Stata to evaluate the effect of perceived threats on anti-democratic sentiments within Israeli settler community.

BA in International Affairs: Diplomatic & International Service, Kennesaw State University (2012)

- Focus on geopolitical security and history

Publications & Media Appearances

- The Weaponization of Conspiracy Theories: A Growing National Security Threat, January 6th Select Committee, July 2022, https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/sites/www.middlebury.edu.institute/files/2022-07/Center%20on%20Terrorism%2C%20Extremism%2C%20and%20Counterterrorism%20-%20Statement%20for%20the%20Record_0.pdf?fv=90gEQB1
- Toppling Tyranny: Understanding the Militia Movement's Role in the January 6th Insurrection and Beyond, January 6th Select Committee, July 2022, <https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/sites/www.middlebury.edu.institute/files/2022-07/Understanding%20the%20Militia%20Movement%27s%20Role%20in%20J6.pdf?fv=Kmf2uzRZ>
- Militant Accelerationist Coalitions: A Case Study in Neo-Fascist Accelerationist Coalition Building Online, ARC, July 2022, https://www.middlebury.edu/institute/sites/www.middlebury.edu.institute/files/2022-06/REDACTED%20CTEC_TAT%20Accelerationism%20Report%20.pdf?fv=zvPnbbzC
- The Diagon Movement And Militant Accelerationism, ARC, June 2022, <https://www.accresearch.org/reports-1/the-diagon-movement-and-militant-accelerationism>
- An Introduction to Militant Accelerationism, ARC, May 2022, <https://www.accresearch.org/shortanalysis/an-introduction-to-militant-accelerationism>
- Understanding Accelerationist Narratives: The Great Replacement Theory, GNET Insights, May 2022, <https://gnet-research.org/2022/05/30/understanding-accelerationist-narratives-the-great-replacement-theory/>
- Understanding Accelerationist Narratives: The Boogaloo, GNET Insights, November 2021, <https://gnet-research.org/2021/11/18/understanding-accelerationist-narratives-the-boogaloo/>

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- Understanding Accelerationist Narratives: ‘There Is No Political Solution’, GNET Insights, September 2021, <https://gnet-research.org/2021/09/02/understanding-accelerationist-narratives-there-is-no-political-solution/>
- Pride & Prejudice: The Violent Evolution of the Proud Boys, CTC Sentinel, July 2021, <https://ctc.usma.edu/pride-prejudice-the-violent-evolution-of-the-proud-boys/>
- The Evolution of the Boogaloo Movement, CTC Sentinel, February 2021, <https://ctc.usma.edu/the-evolution-of-the-boogaloo-movement/>
- Eclectic Boogaloo, Slate, August 2020, <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/08/boogaloos-growth-memes-blm.html>
- Tackling Terrorism’s Taboo: Shame, Perspectives on Terrorism, Volume 12:2, April, 2018. <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/binaries/content/assets/customsites/perspectives-on-terrorism/2018/2018-02/02-tackling-terrorisms-taboo-shame---matthew-kriner.pdf>
- Islamic State and Al Qaeda Battle for Preeminence, RealClearDefense, June 2016, https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2016/06/09/islamic_state_and_al-qaeda_battle_for_preeminence_109430.html