



WHY OATH KEEPERS?

By Elias Alias

Oath Keepers is a non-partisan association of currently serving military, reserves, National Guard, Veterans, Peace Officers, and Fire Fighters who will fulfill the Oath we swore, with the support of like minded citizens who take an Oath to stand with us, to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, so help us God. Our Oath is to the Constitution.

Our Motto: “*Not on our watch!*”

Our Slogan: “Guardians of the Republic”

Oath Keepers is a single-mission organization with a dual focus. Oath Keepers interacts with the Oath-Sworn, the Americans who fill the ranks of America’s military, firefighter, and Peace Officer personnel. We also are now focusing in our veterans communities. We educate men and women who swear that Oath, challenging them to learn the fine points of our Constitution and its history.

Oath Keepers’ primary purpose is very distinctly defined. It contains a three-step plan of action and initiative – we work to reach, teach, and inspire our troops, veterans, firefighters and cops to honor their Oath to the Constitution.

Pretty simple, that. Oath Keepers seeks to “*reach, teach, and inspire* all Oath ‘takers’ to become “Oath Keepers”. That kind of *teaching* requires that Oath Keepers first *reach* a willing soldier or peace officer or firefighter.

To get our soldiers’, firefighters’ and peace officers’ attention, Oath Keepers uses the Internet, public events, rallies, conventions and conferences, and we use full-feature services which facilitate a concise introduction to several key Oath Keepers doctrines, which include stressing that the Oath itself is sworn [or affirmed] as a sacred Oath to the U.S. Constitution. We also teach that the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice – the rulebook for our soldiers) makes it clear that no soldier is required to accept or follow or carry out an unlawful order. An unlawful order could be an order to violate citizens’ rights, or a State’s rights, for example. Indeed, a soldier who follows an unlawful order may find himself before a court-martial facing charges. One example of that is Lt. Calley of My Lai Massacre infamy.

Oath Keepers teaches that America’s basic reality is that the several sovereign States in compact created the Constitution, and the Constitution then created the Federal government. That means that the Constitution existed prior to the government it created. The Constitution is the active source of government in America. The Constitution is the people’s representation *of* the people *to* the government. It reflects the fact that the government was created by the people working through their several sovereign States, and is therefore the servant of the States, or of the people. The people’s Constitution is that to which the soldier

and peace officer vows the Oath. The Oath is not sworn to the government. The knowledge of that is what we strive to share with our focus groups.

An aspect of Oath Keepers' *teach* phase includes a published listing of ten unlawful orders which Oath Keepers swear [or affirm] they shall not obey. See them explained here –

<http://oathkeepers.org/oath/2009/03/03/declarati-on-of-orders-we-will-not-obey/>

By presenting the “ten unlawful orders”, Oath Keepers places an idea in the American psyche, which carries with it the realization that “*just following orders is no excuse*”, as the world learned at the Nuremberg Tribunals for Nazi war criminals.

Oath Keepers insists all military and peace officer and firefighter personnel impeccably follow all lawful orders. That is part of the Oath too. Oath Keepers shares America's pride in our military's history, our firefighters' history and in our peace officer history. Oath Keepers honors the traditions embodied in those services.

However, we also must realize the *possibility* that not all orders are necessarily lawful orders, as we saw in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina at New Orleans. Yet the UCMJ is clear in its pronouncement that ***military personnel are not required to follow an unlawful order.***

Therefore, the Oath Keepers message presents a direct challenge to authoritarian power, and exposes it to those whom an authoritarian government would order against the American people.

In addition to active Internet use, Oath Keepers uses a high-quality printed materials program designed by Oath Keepers leadership for distribution among Military and firefighter and Peace Officer personnel whom Oath Keepers

has reached. These materials are spread nationally by hand to hand friendly exchanges between Americans both in and out of uniform. We distribute videos. We do email blasts to more than twenty thousand email addresses. We march with Tea Party rallies, set up booths at gun shows, work directly with a wide variety of liberty-oriented groups and movements, do radio and television interviews, write educational columns, give live presentations, meet people and spread the word one-on-one all over grassroots America.

With the Internet, Oath Keepers has reached active duty military and peace officer personnel by the thousands, and now Oath Keepers has the printed word as well. With help from dedicated smart guys like Marti, Drew, and Mark, center-fire specialist Jim Ayala is creating a video capacity as an outreach tool. There are several versions of the Oath Keepers DVD in circulation. Oath Keepers has a solid brochure program which is very popular with grassroots America. Window decals, bumper stickers, shirts, hats and patches also reach out into society as well as onto military installations and into police and sheriff offices.

Stewart Rhodes in 2008 realized that trends and patterns exist, and that a ready template for authoritarian government is found in 20th Century history. Federal activity has turned from service to the American people to service of the people to the government. This pattern is no longer debatable, and is authoritarian in nature. For such reasons, Stewart contemplated how it could be possible for a police state form of government to be erected here in America, and one thing occurred to him with striking gravity.

Any U.S. soldier who would or could be commanded by a rogue government is trained to follow orders. Current government training exercises for military and peace officer personnel indicates they may be ordered to take action against the American people.

NORTHCOM is real, and its domestic combat troops are being trained at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, as we speak. Our soldiers must be reminded of their roots in our society and the meaning contained in the wording of their Oath of service. Seeing this as a challenge on behalf of the Republic, Stewart Rhodes consulted with his trusted military, peace officer, firefighter and veteran community friends and promptly founded Oath Keepers.

The first Oath Keepers muster was at Lexington Green on April 19, 2009 and we celebrate that date as our founding. It was a successful launch and the remainder of 2009 was spent by leadership trying to get hold of a swift growth in membership. We had a website to create. We had to choose a public forum system to move into and soon built our own, which is even now in May of 2011 being prepared for replacement by a much finer social network forum system. We had to incorporate, elect officers, jump through all the legal hoops, start State chapters, select State-level officers, write our by-laws and post them, develop our national communications system, produce our outreach materials, handle a snowballing membership, and many other pressing developments. 2009 was a very busy year for our band of grassroots officers in Oath Keepers national. See brief bios for most of our national officers here –

<http://oathkeepers.org/oath/bios/>

As you can see, Oath Keepers are grassroots Americans who have had careers in law enforcement, firefighting, and the military. Most of our Board members are retirees. Some of us, including myself, were one-hitch-only military and did not retire, but served in foreign wars. One thing we all share in common with all of our members across the nation is a keen respect for the Constitution and the way of traditional American life that document secures when acted up to properly. That, and the fact that we have all learned to work together, with each other, to fulfill the vision of Stewart Rhodes, which is to

remove the peace officer community, the veterans community, the military community, and the firefighter community from the control of any rogue government agency or department which would use them against the American people.

Oath Keepers held its first corporate meeting in Las Vegas in October of 2009. We combined the organizational legal meeting with a national conference over three days and held our first awards ceremony with a presentation of plaques.

By mid-2010 we were growing too fast again and had to scramble as Stewart Rhodes became an item on television shows. By July of 2010 we held a Board meeting in Bozeman, Montana and premiered in conjunction a Matrixx Productions movie by James Jaeger, “Cultural Marxism”.

<http://oathkeepers.org/oath/2010/06/21/cornerstone-matrixx-entertainment-oath-keepers-world-premiere-%E2%80%9Ccultural-marxism-the-corruption-of-america%E2%80%9D/?cp=1>

Also in July of 2010 Sheriff Richard Mack was elected to the Board of Directors for Oath Keepers and his operation has been a real asset. See Sheriff Mack’s website here –

<http://www.sheriffmack.com/index.php/books-by-richard-mack>

Through the winter of 2010/2011 Oath Keepers developed a new strategy to acknowledge America’s pending economic crisis and Stewart Rhodes saw a need to unite the millions of veterans across the nation. To do this Oath Keepers has just launched our Operation Sleeping Giant, which is directed at the veterans as a challenge in Oath keeping after active duty service. Check it out here – <http://www.operationsleepinggiant.com/>

Our purpose with Operation Sleeping Giant is to alert our veterans everywhere to the need for

their guidance in helping organize their communities' capabilities for preparedness at the local level. To assist this new drive Oath Keepers is promoting the works of Dr. Edwin Vieira, who is one of America's foremost Constitutionally-oriented historians, among other honors. Dr. Vieira reveals the proper correlation between sound money and the Constitutionally mandated lawful militia of the several States. Oath Keepers is challenging all veterans to study Dr. Vieira's remarkable works, starting with his course entitled "The Purse And The Sword". Get it here –

<http://www.heritageresearchinstitute.org/PurseSwordPage.htm> (free sample clips at link)

Oath Keepers is now working also with the Michael Boldin's Tenth Amendment Center, and with the Von Mises Institute's Thomas E. Woods, author of "Nullification", and Stewart Rhodes tours with their Nullify Now! program. Additionally Oath Keepers is working with Giordano Bruno's Alternative Market Project. Read about it here -

<http://oathkeepers.org/oath/2011/03/17/introducing-the-alternative-market-movement/>

Further, Oath Keepers embraces Larry Pratt's Gun Owners of America (GOA) organization, Gary Marbut's Montana Shooting Sports Association and Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO). We also promote the Fully Informed Jury Association which operates nationally from Helena, Montana. Discover their powerful message here –

<http://fija.org/>

Enjoy a LewRockwell.com feature article by one of FIJA's founders, Don Doig, and Stewart Rhodes, writing in tandem –

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig12/doig1.1.1.html>

Oath Keepers also has ties with, or maintains cooperative relations with, a number of other American liberty groups and organizations. These are too many to list here, but include the We The People Foundation For Constitutional Education, The John Birch Society, Chuck Baldwin's ministries, our official Oath Keepers Chaplain Reverend Garrett Lear and his outreach mission, Nelson Hultberg's Americans for a Free Republic, and many others. Being non-partisan and strictly Constitutionist, Oath Keepers is welcome in many circles, and Oath Keepers welcomes all Constitutional-oriented liberty groups and orgs.

As Oath Keepers marches forward on behalf of our Constitution and the Republic it founded we embrace also our patriotic American citizenry. Americans who have not served in the military, or on a fire department, or in law enforcement, are welcome to join Oath Keepers as Associate Members. Our troops and cops need to know that the American people support them and will stand for them if they are ever forced to refuse an unlawful order. Supporting the Oath Keepers mission by joining and then getting out there and approaching our cops and soldiers and firefighters to spread the message to them is very effective activism for any Constitutionalist. Associate members are a valued and needed force in Oath Keepers.

Support Oath Keepers. Join Oath Keepers. Work to reach and teach with Oath Keepers. Help Oath Keepers spread the word.

Salute!

Elias
May 2nd, 2011

<http://www.oathkeepers.org/oath/>