

THE NEW RECRUITS ON THE FRONT LINE ON JANUARY 6

In addition to adding six more people to the Oath Keeper conspiracy indictment originally charged against Jessica Watkins, DOJ added some new overt acts. Among others, it added training.

Indictment	Superseding
The purpose of the conspiracy was to stop, delay, and hinder Congress's certification of the Electoral College vote.	
Agreeing to participate in and taking steps to plan an operation to interfere with the official Congressional proceeding on January 6, 2021 (the "January 6 operation"); (a)	Agreeing to participate in and taking steps to plan an operation to interfere with the official Congressional proceeding to certify the vote of the Electoral College after the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election on January 6, 2021 (the "January 6 operation"); (a)
	Attending or scheduling trainings to teach and learn paramilitary combat tactics in advance of the January 6 operation; (b)
Using social media, text messaging, and messaging applications to send incendiary messages aimed at recruiting as large a following as possible to go to Washington, D.C., to support the January 6 operation; (b)	Using websites, social media, text messaging, and messaging applications to recruit other individuals to travel to Washington, D.C., to support the January 6 operation; (c)
Coordinating in advance with others, including members of the Oath Keepers from other regions, and joining forces with these individuals and groups to further the January 6 operation; (c)	Coordinating in advance with others, including members of the Oath Keepers from other regions, and joining forces with these individuals and groups to further the January 6 operation; (d)
Using a walkie-talkie-like application, and creating a channel on it named Stop the Steal J6, to make plans for and to communicate during the January 6 operation; (d)	Using a walkie-talkie-like application, and creating a channel on it named "Stop the Steal J6," to develop plans and later communicate during the January 6 operation; (k)
Traveling to and meeting up in Virginia, and continuing together into Washington, D.C., for the January 6 operation; (e)	Traveling to Washington, D.C., for the January 6 operation; (e)
Bringing and contributing paramilitary gear and supplies for the January 6 operation; (f)	Bringing and contributing paramilitary gear and supplies-including camouflage combat uniforms, tactical vests with plates, helmets, eye protection, and radio equipment-for the January 6 operation; (f)
	Traveling into Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021, while wearing clothes with the Oath Keepers insignia; (g)
	Changing into paramilitary gear-including helmets-before participating in the January 6 operation; (h)
	Moving together in a military "stack" formation while utilizing hand signals to maintain communication and coordination while advancing toward the Capitol as part of the January 6 operation; (i)
Forcibly storming past exterior barricades, Capitol Police, and other law enforcement officers, and entering the Capitol complex in furtherance of the January 6 operation; (g)	Forcibly storming past exterior barricades, Capitol Police, and other law enforcement officers, and entering the Capitol complex in executing the January 6 operation; (j)
After January 6, 2021, concealing evidence of their involvement in the January 6 operation and attack on the Capitol. (h)	

Training and recruitment were always part of Watkins' alleged actions:

On November 9, 2020, WATKINS, the self-described "C.O. [Commanding Officer] of the Ohio State Regular Militia," sent text messages to a number of individuals who had expressed interest in joining the Ohio State Regular Militia. In these messages, WATKINS mentioned, among other things, that the militia had a week-long "Basic Training class coming up in the beginning of January," and WATKINS told one recruit, "I need you fighting fit by inauguration." WATKINS told another individual, "It's a military style basic, here in Ohio, with a Marine Drill Sergeant running it. An hour north of Columbus Ohio[.]"

On November 9, 2020, WATKINS asked a recruit if he could "download an App called Zello" and stated, "We all use Zello though for operations."

On November 17, 2020, when a recruit

asked WATKINS for her predictions for 2021 , WATKINS replied, among other statements:

I can't predict. I don't underestimate the resolve of the Deep State. Biden may still yet be our President. If he is, our way of life as we know it is over. Our Republic would be over. Then it is our duty as Americans to fight, kill and die for our rights.

and:

[I]f Biden get the steal, none of us have a chance in my mind. We already have our neck in the noose. They just haven't kicked the chair yet.

The original indictment also described Donovan Crowl attending a training session in December.

On December 12-13,2020, CROWL attended a training camp in North Carolina.

The superseding indictment adds to these details. It includes descriptions of how 54-year old Graydon Young and his 52-year old sister Laura Steele joined the Oath Keepers.

31. On December 3, 2020, YOUNG emailed the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers with a membership application and wrote, "looking to get involved in helping. . ."

33. On December 19, 2020, YOUNG wrote to a Facebook group: "Please check out Oath Keepers as a means to get more involved. Recruiting is under way. DM me if you want more info."

38. On December 26, 2020, YOUNG wrote an email to a Florida company that conducts training on firearms and combat. YOUNG wrote, in part, "I trained with you not

long ago. Since then I have joined Oath Keepers. I recommended your training to the team. To that effect, four of us would like to train with you, specifically in your UTM rifle class.”

52. On January 3, 2021, STEELE emailed the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers with a membership application and wrote, “My brother, Graydon Young told me to submit my application this route to expedite the process.” Later in the day, STEELE emailed KELLY MEGGS and wrote, “My brother, Graydon Young told me to send the application to you so I can be verified for the Events this coming Tuesday and Wednesday.” The following day, STEELE sent an email to an Oath Keepers address, copying both YOUNG and KELLY MEGGS, attaching her Florida Oath Keepers membership application and vetting form, and writing, “I was just requested to send my documents to this email.”

And the arrest affidavit for the Parkers describe them discussing joining Watkins’ militia because their own had largely dissolved.

On December 27, 2020, Bennie Parker texted Watkins, “I may have to see what it takes to join your militia, ours is about gone.” Also on December 27, 202, Bennie Parker texted Watkins, “Yes and you and Sandi and I are like minded you guy [sic] aren’t that far away”

Effectively, that means that the organized stack (also included as an overt act in the superseding indictment) included at least three people – ~~Crowl~~, Steele, Young, and Sandi Parker – who had just joined either Watkins’ militia or the Oath Keepers generally (Bennie, who’s 70, is not known to have entered the Capitol).

For all that it attracted media attention for

that organized stack, the Oath Keepers weren't as instrumental to the launch of the coup attempt as the Proud Boys.

But there, too, the militia was relying on new recruits. Dominic Pezzola claims (not entirely convincingly) that the insurrection was just his second action with the Proud Boys (though his first was the December MAGA March, where he was in close proximity to Roger Stone's Oath Keeper body guard Robert Minuta).

Of more interest are the details Felicia Konold shared about her experience leading the mob.



She did a Snapchat video gleefully describing how much power she had exercised.

I'm watching the new guys

Fuuuck

Dude, I can't even put into words. I. I. Never.

I never could [unintelligible] have imagined having that much of an influence on the events that unfolded today.

[Laughs]

Dude, people were willing to follow. You fucking lead, and everyone had my back, due, everyone, fucking wall, legit, in the air, up against the fence, [unintelligible], three lines of police, fence, me, not even on the ground, my

feet weren't even on the ground, all my boys, behind me, holding me up in the air, pushing back.

[Laughs]

We fucking did it.

Her arrest affidavit also quotes her on saying she was, "recruited into a fucking chapter from Kansas City," complete with a challenge coin. The government's detention memo for William Chrestman describes that he, "readily recruited two individuals from Arizona [Felicia and her brother Cory] to join the group of Kansas City Proud Boys, who then participated in the crime spree on U.S. Capitol grounds." (It's likely the case against Chrestman relies on an FBI interview of Konold, which has not been publicly cited.)

And it didn't stop there. Experts have talked, abstractly, about how January 6 served as a recruiting boon for right wing terrorists. That's shown tangibly in a detail from Royce Lamberth's opinion *Zip Tie Guy Eric Munchel* granting the government's motion for his detention. Even as images from Munchel's antics in the Senate had attracted close focus and on the same day the government obtained a warrant for his arrest, *Zip Tie Guy* reached out – via Signal – to the Proud Boys in an effort to join up.

There is also no evidence that Munchel is a member of any violent groups, though the government has presented evidence that Munchel was in contact with a member of the Proud Boys after January 6 and was interested in joining the group. See *Signal Chat Tr.* (Jan. 9-10, 2021).

On top of being an explicit attempt to prevent Joe Biden from assuming the presidency, January 6 was also a recruitment bonanza, providing both a goal in advance to work towards, but also a

networking opportunity permitting in-person recruitment.

The insurrectionists breached the Capitol with flagpoles and bullhorns. And some of the key players leading that breach were recent recruits to the organized militia leading the way. Meanwhile, Stewart Rhodes, Joe Biggs, and Ethan Nordean were watching from relative safety.

Update: I've fixed the Stack numbers; I think Crowl may have been training rather than being trained at the came in North Carolina in December.