

MAGA MILITIA

OATH KEEPER DATA LEAK REVEALS HUNDREDS OF POLICE, MILITARY, ELECTED OFFICIALS ON MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

The revelations come as the group's founder, Stewart Rhodes, and one of its attorneys stand indicted on conspiracy charges stemming from the Capitol riot.



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Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers, is seen on a screen during a House Select Committee hearing to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the US Capitol, in the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC on June 9, 2022. BY BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES.

Hundreds of law enforcement officers, elected officials, and US military personnel appeared on the membership rolls of the Oath Keepers, the far-right paramilitary group accused of helping orchestrate the Capitol riot, according to data leaked last year by the nonprofit whistleblower Distributed Denial of Secrets that was recently [reviewed by the Anti-Defamation League](#).

The ADL Center on Extremism, which reviewed more than 38,000 names associated with the group, said on Tuesday that it believed that more than 100 Oath Keepers currently serve in the US military, while 373 work in law enforcement agencies, including as sheriffs and police chiefs. The analysis also identified 81 figures associated with the group who are either running for public office or serving as elected officials. At the same time, the ADL cautioned that “an individual’s inclusion in the Oath Keeper database is not proof that they were or are still an Oath Keeper, that they hold or held all or some of Oath Keeper ideology or viewpoints, or that they ever actively participated in Oath Keeper activities.”

The Oath Keepers have long [placed an emphasis](#) on recruiting individuals with combat or policing experience, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Last October, BuzzFeed News [found](#) that active members of the police and military sought memberships shortly after the Capitol riot. A past version of the Oath Keepers’ website openly stated that memberships were [available](#) to “current and formerly serving military, police, and first responders.” Those who lacked such experience, as the group’s website stated, could apparently join as “associate members.”

After the ADL published its analysis, the [Associated Press](#) said it reached out to multiple people on the leaked Oath Keepers’ membership rolls who stated they had distanced themselves from the group years ago. **Shawn Mobley**, sheriff in Otero County, Colorado, [told](#) the outlet that the Oath Keepers’ views were “far too extreme,” noting its involvement in the Bundy ranch standoff as one of the concerns he had about the group. Still, ever since the Oath Keepers’ founding in 2009, the Oath Keepers has promoted an extreme anti-government approach, as the authors of the ADL report note. “Even for those who claimed to have left the organization when it began to employ more aggressive tactics in 2014,” they wrote, “it is important to remember that the Oath Keepers have espoused extremism since their founding, and this fact was not enough to deter these individuals from signing up.”

Tuesday’s report provides yet another behind-the-scenes glimpse into a group that has continuously garnered national attention over its alleged role in conspiring to attack the Capitol on January 6. **Stewart Rhodes**, the founder of the Oath Keepers, is [heading to trial](#) later this month for seditious conspiracy and other charges connected to the insurrection. He was among 11 figures connected to the group who were [indicted](#) in January in connection to last year’s riot, with four codefendants set to stand trial alongside Rhodes in the coming weeks. On Tuesday, Rhodes [fired](#) two of his attorneys over concerns that they were building an inadequate defense. **Edward L. Tarpley Jr.**, Rhode’s new attorney, [stated](#) in a court filing this week that Rhodes “had a complete, or near-complete breakdown of communication