Twitter Thread by David Neiwert



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Thread: A 12-year flashback to the first time I ever heard of the Oath Keepers. It happened in 2009 when I was monitoring 'Patriot' movement chatter and came across a YouTube video by this man: An ex-Marine named Charles Dyer. You can see why it caught my attention.



2) Dyer's style was disturbing—combining a skull-mask imposed digitally and his fondness for 'inspirational,' anthemic music in the background—but his incendiary, violent rhetoric was especially worrisome. Watch this one to the end: 'You're damn right I'm a threat.'



3) This video and others I was seeing float around on the fringes of the suddenly burgeoning ‘Patriot’/militia far right made me concerned about their recruitment of military veterans. There were good reasons to be concerned.
https://t.co/MYXKlguB9F

4) As it happened, I raised the alarm at @crooksandliars only a month or so before Homeland Security issued its ill-fate warning about precisely that problem—which set off months of hysterical hyperbole from Fox News and the far right alike.
https://t.co/wsKvBMWse2

5) You may remember how that all turned out: The projection-fueled attack on DHS’s domestic-terrorism-monitoring section ended up gutting the section and sending the Obama administration into hunker-down/failure mode when it came to the radical right.
https://t.co/T1Tlo0RDCr

6) Dyer, who went by the online nom de plume ‘July4Patriot,’ especially caught my attention when, the next time I encountered him in an online video, he was giving a speech at a July 4, 2009, Tea Party event in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.



7) This corroborated what I had been seeing elsewhere: The Tea Party, marketed on Fox News and CNN and everywhere else as a nominally mainstream movement, was rapidly becoming a massive conduit for a revival of the ‘90s Patriot movement.
https://t.co/sHEK11j0I3

8) This trend became cemented over the following year, and eventually the Tea Party became wholly consumed by Patriot ideology, rhetoric, and agendas.
https://t.co/Cg2zd6ZmTy

9) At the Broken Arrow event, Dyer had talked about the group he represented: the Oath Keepers. He also described the “ten orders we will not obey,” which mostly reflected paranoid fears of black helicopters and concentration camps common among ‘Patriots.’

- 1. We will NOT obey any order 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.