

# [***Secret Service Agents Corresponded With Oath Keepers Founder Stewart Rhodes, Report Says***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6913-WNJ1-JBCM-F1NV-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Byline:** Ty Roush, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** The agency previously denied any contact with Rhodes, who was sentenced earlier this year to 18 years in prison for his involvement in the January 6 riots.

**Body**

**Topline**

Secret Service agents corresponded with Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes as the group requested to provide security detail for supporters of President Donald Trump during a rally in late 2020, after the agency previously denied any contact with Rhodes, according to areportby the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

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Stewart Rhodes was sentenced to 18 years in prison earlier this year.

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**Key Facts**

An email from an unnamed Secret Service agent indicated they were contacted by the group, which said they hoped to provide protection and medical attention to Trump supporters if they come under attack by leftist groups during a rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in September 2020, CREWreported.

The agent who said they were the unofficial liaison to the Oath Keepers also noted they received a call from Rhodes, who had specific questions and wanted to liaison with our personnel.

Another agent also said they contacted Rhodes and other members of the Oath Keepers on September 16, 2020, while informing other agents the group s desire is to assist those attending the event make it to and from their cars safely while adding they are NOT there to demonstrate or push a political agenda.

A social media analysis was conducted by another agent, who said general searches revealed background information for Rhodes who denounced White Nationalist ideals while sharing his dislike for ANTIFA and the Oath Keepers, which claims it is a local community response team for natural or civil disorders.

A Facebook account associated with the Oath Keepers also contained pro-gun content, commentary on racism in the U.S., and news articles about ***politics***, the agent wrote.

The emails appear to contradict a previous statement by the Secret Service, which toldCNNthe agency does not have enough information to say whether a call between Rhodes and Secret Service agents ever took place.

**Tangent**

Rhodes has previously denied the group s ties to white nationalism,suggestingthe Oath Keepers were civic nationalist rather than white nationalists. The group previously worked alongside neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups including the National Socialist Movement and the Ku Klux Klan during the 2016 presidential election,accordingto**Politico**, as members were deployed at polling sites for intelligence-gathering. In 2014, the St. Louis County Police DepartmentrequestedOath Keepers stop patrolling the rooftops of businesses in Ferguson, Missouri, amid ongoing protests. The group returned a year later,indicatingit was protecting businesses and journalists during another protest, including a reporter from the far-right outlet InfoWars. That same year, Rhodes reportedlycalledfor former Sen. John McCain (R-Ari.) to be tried for treason and be hung by the neck until death.

**Key Background**

The Oath Keepers a nationwide right-wing militia group founded by Rhodes in 2009 islistedby the Southern Poverty Law Center as an extremist group with antigovernment ideals. John Zimmerman, who led the North Carolina faction of the Oath Keepers,testifiedin October that Rhodes was in contact with a Secret Service agent in an effort to provide security detail for Trump supporters. Rhodes allegedly told Zimmerman that Security Service agents advised him on what weapons were allowed near the Fayetteville rally. Several of the group s members have been convicted for their involvement in the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. A federal judgesentencedRhodes to 18 years in prison earlier this year after he was convicted on seditious conspiracy charges related to the attack, adding Rhodes was the one giving the orders. Rhodes who was not accused of entering the Capitol was the one organizing the teams that day, Judge Amit Mehta said.

**Further Reading**

Emails Reveal Secret Service Contacts With Oath Keepers(**CREW**)

Oath Keepers Founder Gets 18-Year Sentence For Seditious Conspiracy Longest Jan. 6 Sentence So Far(**Forbes**)

**Load-Date:** August 24, 2023

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