

OATH KEEPERS: DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

Over the past few months I've warned that there's an economic/political "perfect storm" brewing and I've urged you to get ready by stocking up on firearms, ammo, food and knowledge, and relocating to a free state. And as Denny Hansen pointed out in his June *Briefing Room*, we are increasingly hearing rumors of extensive government preparations for "civil unrest."

Many are justly suspicious that men like Eric Holder and Rahm Emanuel would take advantage of any emergency to attempt to disarm us. In response to such concerns, over 20 states have passed or considered resolutions asserting sovereignty and warning the federal government not to cross certain lines in the sand.

People are starting to discuss a possible revolution on the horizon. Inevitably the question pops up: "Would the troops obey orders to disarm fellow Americans?"

How many will keep their oath to defend the Constitution? How many

understand it? Those of us who served in the military know that there are dedicated patriots in the ranks who will not obey unconstitutional (and thus illegal) and immoral orders. But we also know, from conversations with active-duty military, that many mistakenly believe they must follow any order the President issues.

I recently founded an organization called Oath Keepers (www.oath-keepers.blogspot.com), an association of military, veterans, and peace officers whose mission is to ensure that our brothers in arms fully understand their oath and will not "just follow orders." As part of that mission, we have drawn our own line in the sand.

DECLARATION OF ORDERS WE WILL NOT OBEY

1. *We will not obey any order to disarm the American people.*

The attempt to disarm the people on April 19, 1775 was the spark of open conflict in the American Revolution. That

vile attempt was an act of war, and the American people fought back in justified, righteous self-defense of their natural rights. Any such order today would also be an act of war against the American people, and thus an act of treason.

2. *We will not obey any order to conduct warrantless searches of the American people, their homes, vehicles, papers or effects—such as warrantless house-to-house searches for weapons or persons.*


One of the causes of the American Revolution was the use of warrantless searches known as "writs of assistance." It was to prevent a repeat of such violations that the Fourth Amendment was written. We expect warrantless searches of homes and vehicles, under some pretext, to be the means used to attempt to disarm the people. We will not obey.

3. *We will not obey any order to detain American citizens as "unlawful enemy combatants" or to subject them to trial by military tribunal.*



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Another cause of the American Revolution was the denial of the right to jury trial, the use of admiralty courts (military tribunals) instead, and the application of the laws of war to the colonists. That is why the Article III Treason Clause establishes the only constitutional form of trial for an American not serving in the military who is accused of making war on his own nation. Such a trial for treason must be before a *civilian* jury, not a tribunal.

The international laws of war do not trump our Bill of Rights. Any attempt to apply the laws of war to American civilians, under any pretext, such as against domestic "militia" groups the government brands "domestic terrorists," is an act of war and treason.

4. We will not obey orders to impose martial law or a "state of emergency" on a state, or to enter with force into a state, without the express consent and invitation of that state's legislature and governor.

One of the causes of the American Revolution was the attempt "to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power" by disbanding the

Massachusetts legislature and appointing General Gage as military governor. The attempt to disarm the people of Massachusetts during that martial law sparked our Revolution. Accordingly, the power to impose martial law—the absolute rule over the people by a military officer, with his will alone being law—is nowhere enumerated in our Constitution. Further, it is the militia of a state and of the several states that the Constitution contemplates being used in any context, during any emergency within a state, not the standing army.

The imposition of martial law by the national government over a state and its people, treating them as an occupied enemy nation, is an act of war.

5. We will not obey orders to invade and subjugate any state that asserts its sovereignty and declares the national government to be in violation of the compact by which that state entered the Union.

In response to the obscene growth of federal power and to the absurdly totalitarian claimed powers of the Executive, upwards of 20 states are considering, have considered, or have

passed courageous resolutions affirming states' rights and sovereignty.

Those resolutions follow in the honored and revered footsteps of Jefferson and Madison in their Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions. Ours is a dual sovereignty system, with the people of each state retaining all powers not granted to the national government they created, and thus the people of each state reserve to themselves the right to judge when the national government they created has voided the compact between the states by asserting powers never granted.

Upon the declaration by a state that such a breach has occurred, we will not obey orders to force that state to submit to the national government.

6. We will not obey any order to blockade American cities, thus turning them into giant detention camps.

Two of the causes of the American Revolution were the blockade of Boston Harbor and the occupying of that city by the British military under martial law. Once hostilities began, the people of Boston were tricked into turning in their arms in exchange for safe passage, but were then

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forbidden to leave. That confinement of the residents of an entire city was an act of war. Any modern order to disarm and confine the people of an American city will be an act of war and treason.

7. *We will not obey any order to force American citizens into any form of detention camps under any pretext.*

Mass forced internment into concentration camps was a hallmark of every fascist and communist dictatorship in the 20th century. Whenever a government makes war on its own people, it treats them like an occupied enemy population and uses the internment of women and children to break the will of the men fighting for their liberty. Such detention without charges or trial would be an act of war against the American people, regardless of the pretext used.

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" during any emergency or under any other pretext.*

During the American Revolution, the British government enlisted the aid of Hessian mercenaries in an attempt to subjugate the rebellious American people.

Throughout history, repressive regimes have used foreign troops and mercenaries who have no bonds with the people. We will oppose such troops as invading enemies and will treat all who request, invite, and aid those foreign troops as the traitors they are.

9. *We will not obey any orders to confiscate the property of the American people, including food and other essential supplies, under any emergency pretext whatsoever.*

One of the causes of the American Revolution was the seizure and forfeiture of American ships, goods and supplies in violation of the people's natural right to their property. The final spark of the Revolution was the attempt by the government to seize powder and cannon stores at Concord. In particular, deprivation of food has long been a weapon of war and oppression, with millions intentionally starved to death by fascist and communist governments in the 20th century alone. Accordingly, we will not obey or facilitate orders to confiscate food and other essential supplies from the people.

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.

Without freedom of speech, the people will have no recourse but to arms. Without freedom of speech and conscience, there is no freedom. We will not obey or support any orders to suppress or violate the rights of the people to speak, associate, assemble, communicate or petition government for the redress of grievances.

The above list is not exhaustive, but we do consider those items to be clear tripwires, forming our "line in the sand," and if we receive such orders, we will not obey them. We are encouraging all active-duty military and police to join us in taking this stand.

No tyranny can come to America so long as we refuse to follow unconstitutional orders, and that is why our motto is "Not on our watch!" We hope it never comes to it, but we are resolved that we will fulfill our oaths as guardians of the Republic. If that terrible day does arrive, not only will we *not* fire upon our fellow Americans who righteously resist such egregious violations of their God-given rights, we will join them in fighting against those who dare attempt to enslave them. ●

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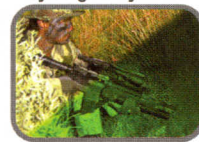
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