

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	)	
	)	
	)	<b>No. 1:21-cr-28 (APM)</b>
<b>v.</b>	)	
	)	
	)	
<b>THOMAS EDWARD CALDWELL</b>	)	

**GOVERNMENT’S OPPOSITION TO  
DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DETENTION**

The United States respectfully files this memorandum in opposition to Defendant Thomas Edward Caldwell’s motion for reconsideration of detention. Defendant Caldwell’s motion fails to show information that was both unknown to him at the time of the detention hearing and would have a material bearing on the detention question. To the contrary, the motion argues that the government has misstated or mischaracterized evidence, when the government has relied largely on the defendant’s own words, and those words show on their face that Defendant Caldwell plotted with his co-conspirators to stop the certification of the Electoral College vote, prepared to use violence if necessary, stormed the Capitol, and then, in the aftermath, concealed or destroyed evidence of his involvement in these offenses. For these reasons, the Court should maintain the order that the defendant be detained pending trial.

**I. Background**

On January 19, 2021, Defendant Caldwell was arrested on a complaint charging him with conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 (a felony); conspiracy to impede or injure an officer, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 372 (a felony); destruction of government property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1361 (a felony); obstruction of an official proceeding, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2) (a felony); entering a restricted building without lawful authority, in violation of

18 U.S.C. § 1752(a) (a misdemeanor); and violent entry on Capitol grounds, in violation of 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2) (a felony). Defendant Caldwell made his initial appearance in the Western District of Virginia on January 19, and he was detained pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 3142(f)(2)(B).

On January 27, 2021, a federal grand jury in Washington, D.C., indicted Defendant Caldwell, and co-defendants Donovan Crowl and Jessica Watkins with conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371; obstruction of an official proceeding, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2); destruction of government property and aiding and abetting, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1361, 2; and entering a restricted building without lawful authority, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)-(b). On February 12, 2021, this Court held a hearing on Defendant Caldwell’s motion for review of detention order. This Court maintained Defendant Caldwell’s detention status. On February 19, 2021, the grand jury returned a superseding indictment that added the charge of obstruction – tampering with documents, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(1), against Defendant Caldwell, for his deletion or unsending of certain Facebook content that appeared related to the attack on the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

On March 2, 2021, Defendant Caldwell filed the instant motion for reconsideration of detention.

## **II. Legal Standard**

Defendant Caldwell styles his pleading as a motion to reconsider an interlocutory order, but the government would submit that he has more accurately filed a motion to “reopen” the detention hearing under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f). *See See United States v. Lee*, 451 F. Supp. 3d 1, 5 (D.D.C. 2020). Under § 3142(f), a defendant must show “information that was not known to the movant at the time of the hearing and that has a material bearing” on the underlying detention question.

### **III. Argument**

Here, Defendant Caldwell contends that now that defense counsel has entered his appearance, consulted with his client, and reviewed discovery, the defense can present a version of facts that would materially impact this Court's detention decision. He raises three main categories of new information that, from his perspective, should significantly change the Court's view of the strength of the government's case and the risk that he poses to the community: (1) evidence that he says suggests the attack on the Capitol was not planned as far in advance as the Court may have understood from the facts presented at the February 12 hearing; (2) evidence that he claims undermines the government's assertions about the existence of a "quick reaction force" that would provide weapons to the members of the conspiracy if they were needed; and (3) evidence that, in his view, shows he did not conceal or destroy evidence in the aftermath of the attack. The evidence cited in the defendant's motion does not undermine the evidence previously presented to this Court: that Defendant Caldwell joined a conspiracy to stop Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote; that he took overt acts in furtherance of this conspiracy, by helping to coordinate lodging and maps for his co-conspirators, among other steps; that the maps he provided were meant to direct the "quick reaction force" to the fastest route to the Capitol in the event the co-conspirators needed their "heavy" weapons; and that Defendant Caldwell took steps after the attack to cover up his involvement. For these reasons, there has not been a significant change to the factual findings that underpinned this Court's decision to maintain the detention order, and the Court should deny Defendant Caldwell's motion for reconsideration.

**a. The Evidence of the Conspiracy**

None of the new information presented in Defendant Caldwell's motion negates that he conspired with others to stop Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote, took steps to aid this conspiracy, and then participated in the storming of the Capitol itself. The defense begins its motion by pointing to several alleged misstatements made by the government in interpreting text and social media messages sent by Defendant Caldwell and his co-conspirators: namely, "that Caldwell was 1) a Commander in the Oath Keepers, 2) a member of the Oath Keepers, and 3) that he stormed the inside of the Capitol." (ECF No. 53 at 9.) Putting aside that the defendant mischaracterizes the government's arguments, this Court did not rely on any of these alleged misstatements in maintaining the detention order on February 12, 2021.

The only two references to Defendant Caldwell as a "Commander" in the affidavit in support of the complaint and warrant for Caldwell's arrest (hereafter "affidavit") come from co-defendant Donovan Crowl, who refers to Caldwell as "Commander" in a message he sends him, and W-1, who told law enforcement that, around January 14<sup>th</sup>, that co-defendant Watkins had left Ohio to go stay in Virginia with someone whom W-1 knew as "Tom" or "Commander Tom." Nowhere did the affidavit assert that Caldwell was "a Commander in the Oath Keepers." But the evidence does establish that he plays a leadership role within the Oath Keepers.

As the government told the Court at the hearing on February 12, while the government has not found evidence that Defendant Caldwell was a dues-paying member of the Oath Keepers, the government has proffered evidence, and the indictment alleges, that Defendant Caldwell was an affiliate and supporter of the Oath Keepers. For example, the government has provided the Court with a message Defendant Caldwell sent on November 26, stating, "Tom Caldwell here in Virginia. Yes I did give a call the other day primarily to tell you it was a memorable experience

with you and the other Oath Keepers in d.c. Another Maga march is scheduled for Saturday 12 December. Not sure what if anything [Person One] has in mind but I will be there . . . .” (ECF No. 18 at 4.) Similarly, on December 23, Defendant Caldwell explained, “I picked up Signal which is a free app that is encrypted talk and text. Thats how I do some secure comms with the Oathkeepers.” (ECF No. 18 at 7.) Additionally, on January 8, 2021, Caldwell sent a Signal message in which he stated, “I have been on the Oathkeepers intel net for months now.”<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps most significantly, the government has proffered, and the indictment alleges, that Defendant Caldwell played a leadership role in planning the events of January 6, 2021: by (1) finding lodging just outside Washington, D.C., for himself, co-defendant Watkins, co-defendant Crowl, and a third co-conspirator, Person Three, whom Caldwell said would be serving as part of the “quick reaction force” to support the operations on January 6 (ECF No. 18 at 7-9); (2) distributing maps to the quick reaction force to help it find the quickest route to the Capitol, should its services be required (*id.* at 9); and (3) by discussing whether it would be possible to recruit people with boats to join the plan, so that they could participate in the quick reaction force and ferry “the heavy weapons” across the Potomac River, should that become necessary during the events of January 6 (*id.* at 9).

With respect to whether Defendant Caldwell stormed inside of the Capitol, the government told the Court on February 12 that it has not found video or photographs that show Defendant Caldwell inside the Capitol. The government *has* found photographs that Defendant Caldwell sent to others along with messages that show how Defendant Caldwell described his conduct in his own words:

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<sup>1</sup> The entirety of this lengthy message is attached to this pleading as Exhibit 1, as it contains, in Caldwell’s own words, a description of his actions on January 6.

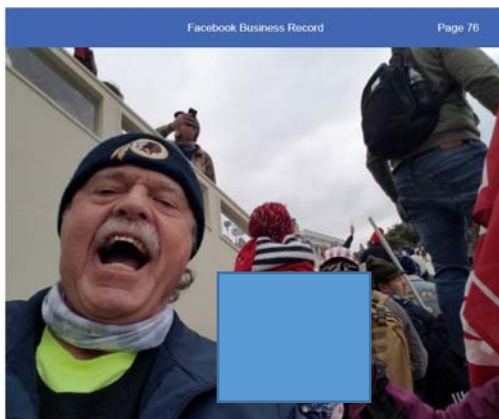


Photo ID 163745165108641

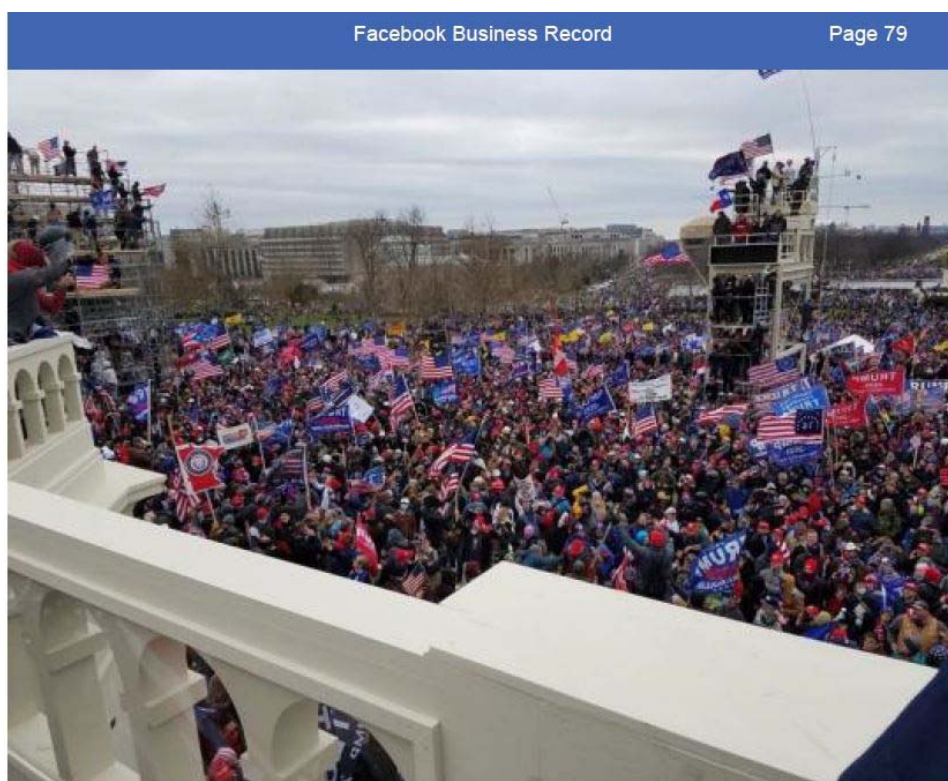


Photo ID 436479544165599

**Author** Tom Caldwell (Facebook: 100044379276273)  
**Sent** 2021-01-07 00:49:36 UTC  
**Body** Us storming the castle. Please share [redacted] was right with me! I am such an instigator! [redacted] was ready for it man! Didn't even mind the tear gas.

**Author** Tom Caldwell (Facebook: 100044379276273)  
**Sent** 2021-01-07 00:51:49 UTC  
**Body** Proud boys scuffled with cops and drove them inside to hide. Breached the doors. One guy made it all the way to the house floor, another to Pelosi's office. A good time.

Although the defense correctly notes that the indictment removed time stamps—which identified where in a podcast recording certain Zello communications made by co-defendant

Watkins occurred—that had been included in the original affidavit, the defense fails to explain how that removal alters the detention analysis. At the hearing on February 12 before this Court, the government did not suggest when, exactly, it believed that Watkins spoke the words it quoted from the Zello chat. Defendant Caldwell suggests in his motion that those words were likely spoken in the morning, before the riot began, because it is not as noisy in the background as a subsequent communication, in which co-defendant Watkins says, “We are in the mezzanine. We are in the main dome right now. We are rocking it. They are throwing grenades, they are fricking shooting people with paint balls. But we are in here.” (ECF No. 53 at 13.) The reporter who obtained the Zello recording,<sup>2</sup> however, said that these excerpts were what he heard on the Zello channel “as I was watching the Capitol riot unfold on my TV.” Given that information and the context, it seems likely that Watkins was marching to or outside the Capitol when she uttered, “We have a good group. We have about 30-40 of us. We are sticking together and sticking to the plan.” In other words, the march to the Capitol was part of or at least consistent with “the plan.” It is thus equally concerning when, later in the recording, an unknown male instructed over the channel, “You are executing citizen’s arrest. Arrest this assembly, we have probable cause for acts of treason, election fraud.”

The evidence of Defendant Caldwell’s role and intent in planning this offense comes from his own words, in messages quoted in the indictment and the government’s opposition to the defendant’s first motion for review of detention order:

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<sup>2</sup> The government has not obtained a copy of the recording from Zello. Excerpts from the recording obtained by the reporter can be listened to in the podcast available here: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/segments/zello-tapes-walkie-talkie-app-used-during-insurrection-on-the-media>. The government has obtained records from Zello confirming that such a channel existed and that Watkins was a member. Based on the one known Zello account the government has found for Defendant Caldwell, Defendant Caldwell does not appear to be a member of the channel. The one Zello user account that the government has found for Defendant Caldwell is/was a member of only one Zello channel, called “OK DC Op,” which Defendant Caldwell’s account joined on November 13, 2020.



- On December 30, Defendant Caldwell exchanged a number of messages with co-Defendant Watkins, and he noted that he was in contact with and was recommending possible lodging ideas for an individual (Person Three) who was “committed to being the quick reaction force and bringing the tools if something goes to hell. That way the boys don’t have to try to schlep weps on the bus. He’ll bring them in his truck day before.” (ECF No. 18 at 7-8.)
- On December 31, Defendant Caldwell posted to Facebook: “It begins for real Jan 5 and 6 on Washington D.C. when we mobilize in the streets. Let them try to certify some crud on capitol hill with a million or more patriots in the streets. This kettle is set to boil....”
- On January 1, Defendant Caldwell exchanged a number of messages with co-defendant Crowl, in which he stated, “I will probably do pre-strike on the 5th though there are things going on that day. Maybe can do some night hunting. Oathkeeper friends from North Carolina are taking commercial buses up early in the morning on the 6th and back same night. [Person Three] will have the goodies in case things go bad and we need to get heavy.” (ECF No. 18 at 8-9.)
- On January 2, Defendant Caldwell and co-defendant Crowl continued to exchange messages about the hotel where they planned to stay in Arlington, Virginia, and Defendant Caldwell told co-defendant Crowl: “This is a good location and would allow us to hunt at night if we wanted to. I don’t know if [Person One] has even gotten out his call to arms but its a little friggin late. This is one we are doing on our own. We will link up with the north carolina crew.”
- On January 8, after the attack, in response to co-defendant Crowl sending him a message stating, “Love the hell outta you, Tom,” Defendant Caldwell responded: “You, too, my dear friend. We stormed the gates of corruption together (although on opposite sides of the building) so between that and our first meeting and getting to know you since I can say we will always be brothers!”



The messages cited by Defendant Caldwell (pp. 14-15) negate neither probable cause for the offenses charged nor Defendant Caldwell's dangerousness. As the defense notes in its motion, shortly after the attack on the Capitol, Defendant Caldwell messaged one contact:

Did you see us storm the Capitol today? [Person Two] is exhausted and will give you the long version later but suffice to say I am a rabble rouser of the first order and when provoked and attacked by the cops for no reason as we were peacefully assembled it was instinct to snatch up my American flag and race for the capitol steps while the patriot stereos were blasting the song "we're not gonna take it" and we were screaming along as one. I will send you now a sequence of pics as we get nearer, climb through the construction and scaffolding meant to stop us, up the stairway where they were shooting tear gas and the grins after we were in as well as the view looking out from the balcony.

Defendant Caldwell messaged another friend:

Hell yeah! [Person Two] and I rolled with the Oathkeepers and some other militia. Heard the President then marched to Capitol Hill. Started addressing the like minded folks around us. Cops out of nowhere started throwing flash bang grenades and then tear gassed a kid's group. No shit. Then we heard that Pence fucked us. We had over a million people here. Then the lying media said Trump supporters were breaking through barricades so I said if we're going to get blamed, might as well do it so I grabbed up my American flag and said let's take the damn capitol so people started surging forward and climbing the scaffolding outside so I said let's storm the place and hang the traitors. Everybody thought that was a good idea so we did. They threw some gas at it but we climbed the steps after breaking 2 rows of barricades, when got on the parapets and the people in front of me broke through the doors and started duking it out with the pigs who broke and ran. Then we started stealing the cops riot shields and throwing fire extinguishers through windows. It was a great time. I will send you some sequence pictures

Defendant Caldwell later texted the same person:

This is the view from the west balcony after we broke through all of the construction and made it upstairs and inside. Came out and [Person Two] helped people rinse tear gas out of their eyes. If we'd had guns I guarantee we would have killed 100 politicians. They ran off and were spirited away through their underground tunnels like the rats they were.

Defendant Caldwell's own words thus belie his claim that he did not discuss or plan storming the Capitol until the moments before he did so. Moreover, Caldwell's focus on whether or when he or those with whom he was communicating intended to force his way inside the Capitol is beside

the point. He is alleged to have conspired with others to “to stop, delay, and hinder Congress’s certification of the Electoral College vote.” He is not charged with conspiring to storm the Capitol. The fact that he and others forced entry into the Capitol building or the restricted grounds outside are overt acts in furtherance of the conspiracy regardless of when they formed the intent to take these actions.

Evidence that the government will disclose to the defense this week—a Signal chat called “DC OP: Jan 6 21”—shows that individuals, including those alleged to have conspired with the defendant, were actively planning to use force and violence. The participants in this chat include: Person One, Kelly Meggs, Jessica Watkins, and regional Oath Keeper leaders from multiple states across the country. To date, there is no evidence that Caldwell participated in the chat, but the investigation is ongoing. The chat discusses members and affiliates of the Oath Keepers coming to Washington, D.C., for the events of January 5-6, 2021, to provide security to speakers and VIPs at the events. There is no discussion of forcibly entering the Capitol until January 6, 2021. However, there is talk about being prepared for violence. Person One warns the group, “DO NOT bring in anything that can get you arrested. Leave that outside DC.” He goes on to say, “We will have several well equipped QRFs outside DC. And there are many, many others, from other groups, who will be watching and waiting on the outside in case of worst case scenarios.” Person One also says, “Highly recommend a C or D cell flashlight if you have one. Collapsible Batons are a grey area in the law. I bring one. But I’m willing to take that risk because I love em. Good hard gloves, eye pro, helmet. In a pinch you can grab Mechanix gloves and a batters helmet from Walmart. Bring something to put on your noggin. Antifa likes brikes.”

These messages echo the words of Person One in the call for action<sup>3</sup> he posted to the Oath Keepers website on January 4, 2021, in which he stated: “It is CRITICAL that all patriots who can be in DC get to DC to stand tall in support of President Trump’s fight to defeat the enemies foreign and domestic who are attempting a coup, through the massive vote fraud and related attacks on our Republic. We Oath Keepers are both honor-bound and eager to be there in strength to do our part,” including “prepar[ing] to do whatever must be done to honor our oaths[.]” (ECF No. 18 at 2.) These statements and messages all show that the co-conspirators joined together to stop Congress’s certification of the Electoral College vote, and they were prepared to use violence, if necessary, to effect this purpose. It does not matter whether they planned to use this violence to support the president when he invoked the insurrection act or to attack the Capitol if the vice president allowed the certification to go forward—under either scenario, they were plotting to use violence to support the unlawful obstruction of a Congressional proceeding.<sup>4</sup>

The Signal chat referenced above shows that the group—which included at least two individuals alleged to have conspired with Caldwell—was activating a plan to use force on January 6. At approximately 1:38 p.m., Person One wrote, “All I see Trump doing is complaining. I see no intent by him to do anything. So the patriots are taking it into their own hands. They’ve had enough.” At 2:14 p.m., an individual leading the coordination of the security details run by the Oath Keepers on January 5-6 stated, “The have taken ground at the capital[.] We need to regroup

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://oathkeepers.org/2021/01/oath-keepers-deploying-to-dc-to-protect-events-speakers-attendees-on-jan-5-6-time-to-stand/> (last accessed on February 9, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> In this light, the message cited by Defendant Caldwell that he wrote on November 26 (ECF No. 53 at 16), in which he predicted that “if President Trump is cheated out of office,” but nonetheless were able to stay in the White House, Antifa would rise up in opposition, and they would need to use violence to counter Antifa, supports the government’s evidence and theory of the case: that the co-conspirators plotted to stop the certification of the Electoral College vote and were prepared to use violence, if necessary, to achieve this goal.

any members who are not on mission.” Person One then reposted that message and instructed the group: “Come to South Side of Capitol on steps” and then sent a photograph showing the southeast side of the Capitol. At 2:41 p.m., Person One posted another photograph showing the southeast side of the Capitol with the caption, “South side of US Capitol. Patriots pounding on doors[.]” At approximately 2:40 p.m., the individuals in the “stack,” to include co-defendants Kelly and Connie Meggs, Jessica Watkins, Graydon Young, Laura Steele, Donovan Crowl, and Sandra Parker, forcibly entered the Capitol through the Rotunda door in the center of the east side of the building. On the other side of the Capitol, at 2:48 p.m., Defendant Caldwell wrote to his Facebook contacts, “We are surging forward. Doors breached.”

Kelly Meggs has denied that any one in particular made the decision or gave the command for the group to enter the building. One additional charged member of the group has denied knowing that Person One was on the Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021. However, publicly available photographs and video show someone consistent in appearance with Person One on the east side of the Capitol on the afternoon of January 6, 2021. At one point, around 4:00 p.m.—as many rioters were exiting the Capitol—a large group that included co-defendants Kelly Meggs, Connie Meggs, Graydon Young, Laura Steele, other members of the stack, and other individuals wearing “Oath Keepers” clothing and insignia who also stormed the Capitol gathered around Person One and stood around waiting for at least ten minutes in that location.

**b. The Evidence of the Quick Reaction Force**

Defendant Caldwell asserts that “the Government overstated concerns regarding Defendant Caldwell’s references to a ‘Quick Reaction Force.’” (ECF No. 53 at 17.) The defendant’s belated effort to sanitize, if not parody, the quick reaction force is in stark contrast to his and others’ words about it leading up to January 6. On December 30, Defendant Caldwell sent a message to co-defendant Watkins in which he stated that Person Three “is committed to being the quick reaction force and bringing the tools if something goes to hell. That way the boys don’t have to try to schlep weps on the bus. He’ll bring them in his truck the day before.” (ECF No. 18 at 8.) Defendant Caldwell also suggested that Person Three was going to stay at the same hotel where he and co-defendants Watkins and Crowl would be staying. Records from that hotel show that three rooms were reserved in Person Three’s name. One of those three rooms was paid for by a credit card in Person Three’s name; the other two rooms were paid for by a credit card in co-defendant Kelly Meggs’ name.

Additionally, as noted in its opposition to Defendant Caldwell’s first motion to reconsider detention, evidence shows that Defendant Caldwell sent a text message on January 3, 2021, to a member of the “Three Percenters” group, in which he asked, “[H]ow many people either in the militia or not (who are still supportive of our efforts to save the Republic) have a boat on a trailer that could handle a Potomac crossing? If we had someone standing by at a dock ramp (one near the Pentagon for sure) we could have our Quick Response Team with the heavy weapons standing by, quickly load them and ferry them across the river to our waiting arms.” (ECF No. 18 at 9.) On the same day, Defendant Caldwell sent a message through Signal to Person Three, in which he said, “I’m calling it a night. Got feelers out in the boat idea, will finish new map tomorrow. Early

wake up full day tomorrow. Sleep well, bro: CAG is on the case!” On January 4, 2021, Defendant Caldwell sent a series of maps to one of the individuals who had agreed to serve as the “quick reaction force.” In an email with the subject line “NEW MAPS RELATIVE TO HOTEL AND INGRESS FOR QRF,” for example, Defendant Caldwell sent some maps which, he advised his co-conspirator, “walk you from the hotel into D.C. and east toward the target[.]” (ECF No. 18 at 9.)

The government does not dispute Defendant Caldwell’s assertions about the age of Person Three, but the government questions why that fact would impede Person Three from driving weapons to the Capitol to aid the co-conspirators if requested. The evidence to date strongly supports the conclusion that Defendant Caldwell was actively working with at least two people to have some number of individuals on standby, armed with “heavy weapons,” and prepared to quickly get them to the team operating within the District on January 6 if they were needed.<sup>5</sup> This evidence supports detention.

**c. The Evidence of Obstruction/Tampering With Documents**

Finally, Defendant Caldwell’s new counsel states that prior counsel failed to challenge the government’s evidence of obstruction and asks this Court to reconsider the order of detention on the basis of the arguments and facts he now presents. These facts and arguments should not give this Court pause about detaining defendant pursuant to the authority under 18 U.S.C. §3142(f)(2)(B) for cases that involve “a serious risk that such person will obstruct or attempt to

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<sup>5</sup> The government is also investigating whether there were additional quick reaction force teams, besides the one led by Person Three, supporting the co-conspirators’ efforts on January 6. In his January 4th post to the Oath Keepers website, Person One also stated, “As we have done on all recent DC Ops, we will also have well armed and equipped QRF teams on standby, outside DC, in the event of a worst case scenario, where the President calls us up as part of the militia to to assist him inside DC. We don’t expect a need for him to call on us for that at this time, but we stand ready if he does (and we also stand ready to answer the call to serve as militia anytime in the future, and anywhere in our nation, if he does invoke the Insurrection Act).”

obstruct justice, or threaten, injure, or intimidate, or attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate, a prospective witness or juror.”

There is strong evidence that Defendant Caldwell made efforts to obstruct justice by tampering with evidence. First, the government has contended that Defendant Caldwell deleted Facebook content relevant to his involvement and the involvement of his co-conspirators in the attack on the Capitol. One example provided by the government was a video that Defendant Caldwell sent to co-defendant Crowl a few days after the attack and then “unsent” or deleted. The following is a screenshot of the portion of this exchange from Facebook records:

**Author** Donovan Crowl (Facebook: 100003473512615)  
**Sent** 2021-01-08 01:46:49 UTC  
**Body** Hey Brother, we are just about to Ben and Sandie's. Had a good trip. We are gonna have dinner then bunk there tonight. Can you send me that last video again in a text msg.? I'm having trouble sharing it already.

**Author** Tom Caldwell (Facebook: 100044379276273)  
**Sent** 2021-01-08 01:53:05 UTC  
**Removed by** 2021-01-14 17:29:24 UTC  
**Sender**  
**Body** Tom unsend a message

**Author** Tom Caldwell (Facebook: 100044379276273)  
**Sent** 2021-01-08 01:55:45 UTC  
**Removed by** 2021-01-14 17:29:41 UTC  
**Sender**  
**Body** Tom unsend a message

**Author** Donovan Crowl (Facebook: 100003473512615)  
**Sent** 2021-01-08 01:58:40 UTC  
**Body** Thank you Sir. Love the hell outta you Tom.

**Author** Tom Caldwell (Facebook: 100044379276273)  
**Sent** 2021-01-08 03:13:58 UTC  
**Body** You, too, my dear friend! We stormed the gates of corruption together (although on opposite sides of the building) so between that and our first meeting and getting to know you since I can say we will always be brothers!

Defendant Caldwell quotes a website which states that “Facebook Messenger allow users only 10 minutes to un-send their messages.” The government is confirming whether that information is accurate; however, the Facebook records above state that the messages were “Removed by Sender”



on January 14, 2021, at 17:29 UTC (or 12:29 EST). That is the same day co-defendants Watkins and Crowl left Ohio to travel to Defendant Caldwell's residence in Virginia.

Also that day, Defendant Caldwell sent messages to co-defendant Crowl directing him to conceal his travel to Defendant Caldwell's home, writing, "Don't forget to double back an exit or two at least twice to make sure not followed." In light of that comment, it is reasonable to interpret the subsequent message—"Bring full battle rattle to stash here if you want"—as being an offer for co-defendant Crowl (and perhaps also co-defendant Watkins) to hide the "battle rattle" that they wore while storming the Capitol at Defendant Caldwell's home.

The defense references Defendant Caldwell's history<sup>6</sup> of military and government service to support its suggestion that Defendant Caldwell would never attempt to obstruct justice. The government agrees that someone with experience in those positions should know better, but the evidence suggests quite the contrary. On January 9, 2021, in response to co-defendant Watkins lamenting the way the media was covering her participation in the events of January 6, Defendant Caldwell stated, "Fear not. One asshole had that on a blog, I copied it. Can't even find the blog today but it was just a thumbnail crested by the prick most likely. Wish I had written his name down. Anyway probably very few others saw it and it is nowhere on the news2share site from which it is taken. If any shit should ever come down, you were with me all the time and I'll swear to it." To her credit, co-defendant Watkins replied, "There's too much evidence contrary. Perjury bad, lol. I won't worry then..." Defendant Caldwell responded, "Please don't. What we did was righteous."

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<sup>6</sup> The government erred in representing the defendant's criminal history at the initial detention hearing in the Western District of Virginia. *See* ECF No. 10-1 at 20 ("[Defendant Caldwell] does have minimal criminal history and that appears that -- all I am aware of is that it appears to be several traffic matters that are in fugitive status, but that is the only evidence that I have regarding his criminal history."). Fortunately, that error played no part in the detention analysis conducted by the judge in the Western District of Virginia and was never presented to this Court.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

For all these reasons, the government submits that Defendant Caldwell has not presented information that constitutes “a significant change in the law or facts since the submission of the issue [of whether Defendant Caldwell should be detained] to the Court.” *Slough*, 61 F. Supp. 3d at 108. Defendant’s motion for reconsideration of detention should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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Dated: March 8, 2021

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 8, 2021, I sent a copy of the foregoing via the Court's electronic filing system to counsel for the defendant.



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KATHRYN L. RAKOCZY  
Assistant United States Attorney

**EXHIBIT 1**

Signal message sent by Defendant Caldwell on January 8, 2021,

Obtained from Defendant Caldwell's phone

Okay, I am only going to share this with a handful. Please don't share this. I want select friends to know the truth. Short story. I have been on the Oathkeepers intel net for months now. We had reports of antifa bussed in from new york with police escort. We had video. Mayor bowser of d.c. put them up at taxpayer expense. antifa comms nets were being monitored by us and others. They were told to (and they did) "dress as trump people". Their armed people (WE were not armed since it is illegal in d.c.) were told to identify each other by wearing their trump red hats backwards. You will see that in some video. PEACEFUL 1.2 million people assembling not so much for trump as for our freedoms and our country which are gone now because of the phony votes. It was glee and singing patriotic songs and prayers and meeting people from all over and then we marched to the capitol. I was on the west side and my back was killing me so I sat on the edge of a dry fountain to the left of the grant statue. Most of my Oathkeeper pals went to the other side of the capitol because it was so darn crowded where I was. They were giving me live go-pro feeds from their side. We identified 2 antifa on our side and kicked the crap out of them, taking two 38 caliber pistols from them and giving the people and guns to the cops. I guess they let them go because there was no arrest record. On the other side, antifa guys jumped on a swat vehicle and were trying to damage it. At that time, the cops were standing side by side with the oathkeepers and proud boys and oath keepers literally dragged the antifa people down off the vehicle. I saw this with my own eyes on the go pro. The crowd moved up the steps of the east side to the doors of the capitol and were chanting (the usual: this is our house, stop the steal, save our country). The cops actually

LET IN about a dozen people. One was the lady shot in the neck and killed by Pence's secret service detail. So the shot was fired and it echoed like hell they tell me outside. THEN cops appeared and started shooting flashbangs. On my side at about the same time, we saw an ambulance rushing up to the capitol (I guess for the gal who was already dead) and the cops appeared on the parapet where they usually do the inauguration and they fired tear gas into a crowd of children who had come to the rally. THEN they fired rubber shotgun rounds into the crowd. Understand that we were all pretty much nut to butt, there were so many patriots. Now people are pissed. Kids are crying, people are trying to wash their eyes out with water, etc. People were trying to help those injured by the shotgun pellets fired point blank. This happened on the west side. I saw it all. Then we get word from people watching on t.v. and calling/texting protestors that Pence has punked out. THEN the news reports that Trump terrorists have broken through police barricades. That was NOT happening on my side. I spoke with my friend Donovan on the other side (who actually appears in some videos I have seen) more like yelling into the phone really and he said we ain't doing shit. But the crowds on both sides are now saying oh, yeah? If we're going to be accused, then suck on this, so they surged forward. On my side another round of indiscriminate tear gas shots. I gotta say, I was carrying my American flag and I got up on that fountain and I said let's go. Patriots forward! And people were screaming it and we surged forward. I will never forget the feeling. And [Person Two] I said . . . do you want to go and [Person Two] said something like let's go! Hell yeah! Some of the crowd just packed in but the small group I was with surged forward. A patriot with a sound system started playing "we're not gonna take it!" a song by Twisted Sister full blast and at least a half a million people were singing it at the top of their lungs. Surreal! Clouds of tear gas ahead, I told [Person Two] to hold onto my belt and our little band pushed forward to the steps but things were blocked by construction and the

scaffolding they put up for preps for inauguration so we tore our way through and had to climb through the maze of scaffolding. I will send you a series of pictures I took as we got closer and clawed our way through. We got to the level where they do the inauguration and I gotta say it was exhilarating to stand there with thousands, some even hanging from the scaffolding, waving my American flag and [Person Two] waving the flag singing America the beautiful and the Star spangled banner with hundred of thousands of people I didn't know. Meantime, on the other side, oathkeepers had pushed through the doors open 3 sets of doors as you go in that side and actually made it to the rotunda. They took some videos and chatted with some guards who were very cool and told them they could hang out but couldn't go to any of the offices or the house chambers. So that was all agreed although some people apparently in ones and two's made it to the house floor and to Pelosi's office but that was just a statement. On my side the cops showed up on a level above us with riot guns and about this time I had left [Person Two] and [name omitted] one of our other pals by the railing about 20 yards back and I went over to the steps which people were using to get inside but it was so packed I couldn't get on the steps and there was no railing so that looked dangerous as hell. And I screamed at the cops to come down and get their asses whipped by an old cripple for shooting at innocent protestors. I wish I had been the cause, but after enough screaming from the people the cops left and hid in the building. I am such a stinker! So now, the oathkeepers and almost all the other normal protestors exited the other side of the capitol. On my side more singing and protestors were coming out from the capitol onto our level carrying police riot shields they had taken from an office inside the door. Nice souvenir I guess. Took some more pictures, then climbed over railings and handed each other down to other protestors over balconies, etc., to exit since all the steps were still crammed with people who wanted to get up there. Later I saw videos of stuff on the other side where cops started pepper spraying and shooting more tear

gas. None of my friends were in the line of fire and I do not know how many people were antifa in that mess. Honestly, and it hit me at the time, I believe standing there and waving the flag of the country I love and sacrificed so much for as my back was killing me (looks like a 3<sup>rd</sup> operation is scheduled for little old me) it was the high-water mark for the attempt to stop the socialists from destroying the republic. Now that the President has abandoned us we will never be free again and we will never have an honest election again. I feel that evil has succeeded but short of armed insurrection I think we have done all that we could have. I am glad I was there and that I did what I did. I did not hurt anyone, I did not break anything and I did not know anyone who did or see anyone who did. did see cops hurting unarmed peaceful protestors just like the brown shirts and the gestapo used to do. It was a hell of a day in d.c. God help us all as they tear down our country.