

THE GATEWAY PUNDIT'S EAST CAPITOL DOOR OATH KEEPER CONSPIRACY

In a motion arguing that accused Oath Keeper Jason Dolan should be held without bail, the government accuses Dolan of inventing an alternative story to explain how the East doors of the Capitol got opened on January 6.

Many of these detention motions aren't all that convincing about the danger of the defendant; I find this one to be. The government shows the three gun cases that Dolan and fellow Floridian Kenneth Harrelson stashed at the Ballston Comfort Inn before the insurrection.



The government explains that Dolan spent a decade as a marksmanship instructor while serving as a Marine and that Dolan appears to have hidden at least two guns that his neighbor said he owned in advance of being arrested.

The motion describes that Dolan and Harrelson were “near” the Capitol on January 5, which the government suggests was, “likely to conduct surveillance for their operation the following day.”

It describes how, after busting into the Capitol, Dolan, Harrelson, and Kelly Meggs spent six minutes outside Nancy Pelosi's office (note,

I think the government misleadingly suggests this photo came from Harrelson or Meggs).



Hours later, Meggs talked about how “we” had looked for Pelosi.

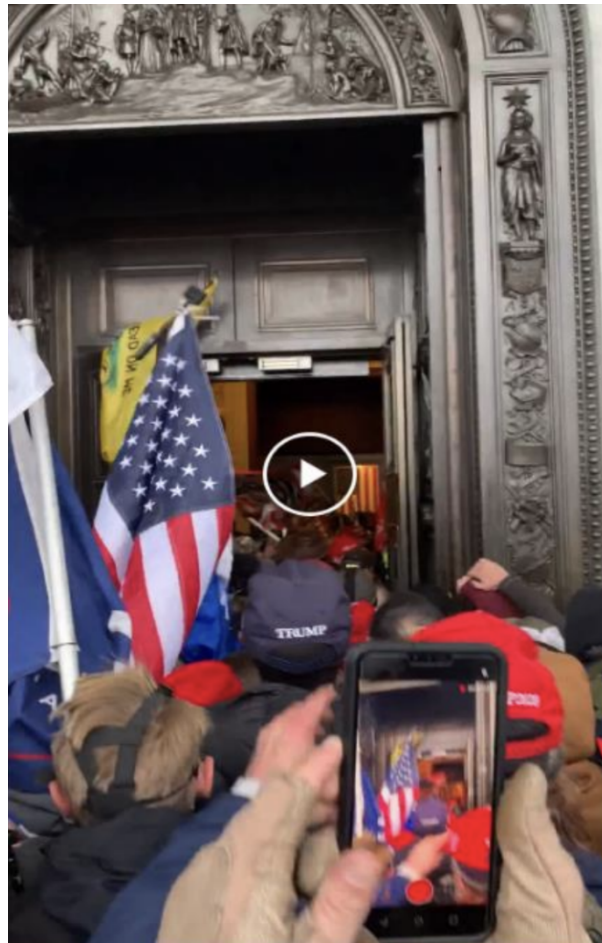


The government also shows that the attorney that Dolan shares with the former President, Michael Van der Veen, was wrong when he claimed there was no ongoing contact between Dolan and the Oath Keepers; Dolan and Harrelson were in communication via Signal leading up to Harrelson’s arrest.

But that’s not the most interesting part of the detention motion.

The government argues that Dolan is the source for this Gateway Pundit story, which was set up with the involvement of the Oath Keeper’s PR attorney, Kellye Sorelle (and so would constitute another recent contact with the Oath Keepers to prove Van der Veen wrong). They point

to this video seized from Harrelson's phone, showing the person in front of him, whom other pictures identify as Dolan, taking a picture of the just-opened East door.



That's almost exactly the picture that shows up in the Gateway Pundit article.



(Note, Gateway Pundit cropped that image, I didn't.)

That makes the intent of the Gateway Pundit story more interesting. It claims that the existing explanation for how the East doors got open is that a Marine Major "went inside and managed to run around and open up the doors."

Retired Marine: We're on the top level now – about 15 feet from the doors just before they opened up. People are yelling and screaming. Everyone's cheering, all kind of stuff. It's chaotic. But we're just kind of there. And then all of the sudden the doors open up from the inside. I have a picture taken about two seconds before the doors opened. And then I have a picture taken about six seconds later and the doors were open.

Jim Hoft: And they were not opened from the outside?

Retired Marine: They were opened from the inside. Now **one of the stories I read recently was that some Marine, some**

Marine Major, went inside and managed to run around and open up the doors. And I think that was on your website, as well. But here's what I can tell you about magnetic locks. If a door is locked by a mag lock it cannot be opened from the outside or the inside unless the person controlling that door opens that door by turning off the magnetic lock which those doors according to the photos I took are equipped with. [my emphasis]

The point of the story is to argue – based on the source's experience working at US Embassies overseas, which Dolan did – that it would be impossible to open doors secured by magnetic locks. That's not true: for safety reasons it has to be possible to open such doors from the inside, which is what the government claims did happen.

It's how Dolan inserts Marine Major Christopher Warnagiris into the story, claiming that Warnagiris opened the doors from the inside, that I find particularly interesting.

That's not what he is alleged to have done though. Warnagiris is alleged to be *the first person in* the East door, as if he knew – standing there on the Capitol steps fifteen feet in front of where Dolan was standing at the same time – that they would be opened.



Then Warnagiris prevented the cops from closing the doors once they had been opened, all the while helping others (which would hypothetically include the Stack that Dolan entered with) get in.



Without the tie to Warnagiris, this story would seem like nothing more than a ham-handed attempt to claim that the Stack could not have “broken” in, because to open the magnetic doors, someone would have had to have let them in. Maybe that’s all it is.

But the story serves as much to obscure what fellow Marine Warnagiris did as what Dolan and the rest of the stack did. Given that both Marines seemed to know those doors would open, I find that an interesting story to tell.