

THE FBI'S PROUD BOY INFORMANT SHOWED UP LATE

The Proud Boys charged with the most serious assaults on January 6 – including (at a minimum) Dan “Milkshake” Scott and Christopher Worrell – are not charged with conspiracy, though both could easily have been included as co-conspirators. Nor is Ryan Samsel, who is not known to be a Proud Boy but spoke to Joe Biggs just before he kicked off the entire riot by allegedly knocking over a cop and giving her a concussion (this may change, especially since, after a long delay, DOJ charged Samsel individually in an indictment that, either via the assignment wheel or because it was identified as a case related to the Proud Boys leadership indictment, got assigned to Judge Tim Kelly). While Dominic Pezzola is charged with assault for stealing the riot shield he used to break into the Capitol and Billy Chrestman is charged with threatening to assault a cop, their co-defendants are not implicated in those assaults, except insofar as they are overt acts in a conspiracy.

That’s why I find this detail from NYT’s blockbuster report on what a Proud Boy informant who showed up late to the January 6 riot and then entered the Capitol has told the FBI about the investigation rather interesting.

At the same time, the new information is likely to complicate the government’s efforts to prove the high-profile conspiracy charges it has brought against several members of the Proud Boys.

On Jan. 6, and for months after, the records show, the informant, who was affiliated with a Midwest chapter of the Proud Boys, denied that the group intended to use violence that day.

[snip]

On the eve of the attack, the records show, the informant said that the group had no plans to engage in violence the next day except to defend itself from potential assaults from leftist activists – a narrative the Proud Boys have often used to excuse their own violent behavior.

The government has never accused the Proud Boy conspirators of planning to use violence themselves, though there is evidence they knew their incitement could spark violence among “normies.” There’s even evidence that Ethan Nordean tried to rein in one attack (though only after he had presumably witnessed other assaults on cops).

That is, that claim is utterly irrelevant to the government’s conspiracy cases against the Proud Boys.

And yet the NYT offered it as one reason this informant’s report might, “complicate the government’s efforts to prove the high-profile conspiracy charges it has brought against several members of the Proud Boys.”

To be sure, there is one way this informant might undermine the existing conspiracy charges.

The informant’s interview reports affirmatively claim that he knew of no plans to storm the Capitol, nor did he hear any talk of the electoral college certification in his travels that day.

In lengthy interviews, the records say, he also denied that the extremist organization planned in advance to storm the Capitol.

[snip]

But statements from the informant appear to counter the government’s assertion that the Proud Boys organized for an

offensive assault on the Capitol intended to stop the peaceful transition from Mr. Trump to Mr. Biden.

On the eve of the attack, the records show, the informant said that the group had no plans to engage in violence the next day except to defend itself from potential assaults from leftist activists – a narrative the Proud Boys have often used to excuse their own violent behavior.

Then, during an interview in April, the informant again told his handlers that Proud Boys leaders gave explicit orders to maintain a defensive posture on Jan. 6. At another point in the interview, he said that he never heard any discussion that day about stopping the Electoral College process.

The records show that, after driving to Washington and checking into an Airbnb in Virginia on Jan. 5, the informant spent most of Jan. 6 with other Proud Boys, **including some who have been charged in the attack.** While the informant mentioned seeing Proud Boys leaders that day, like Ethan Nordean, who has also been charged, there is no indication that he was directly involved with any Proud Boys in leadership positions.

In a detailed account of his activities contained in the records, the informant, who was part of a group chat of other Proud Boys, described meeting up with scores of men from chapters around the country at 10 a.m. on Jan. 6 at the Washington Monument and eventually marching to the Capitol. He said that when he arrived, **throng**s of people were **already streaming past the first barrier outside the building, which, he later learned, was taken down by one of his Proud Boy acquaintances and a young**

woman with him. [my emphasis]

This guy's testimony absolutely poses a challenge to prosecutors prosecuting the Proud Boys this guy was actually interacting with.

That said, the NYT does not say whether he was interacting with those charged with conspiracy or even obstruction (still-active Proud Boys, like Jeremy Grace, have been charged only with trespassing). Even if he was interacting with people charged with conspiracy, the fact that he showed up late and (claimed that he) did not know that some of his own acquaintances were going to breach the barriers until after the fact would, at most, show that he wasn't privy to the plans of lower level cells.

But the way in which DOJ has charged the Proud Boy side of the conspiracies is with one leadership conspiracy, and four subconspiracies that are effectively cells that allegedly worked together to achieve smaller objectives: to breach the West door, to breach the North door, and to keep the Visitor Center gates open (the NYT misses one of the charged Proud Boy conspiracies, against the Klein brothers, for opening a North door to the building, which has acquired more tactical import with the charging of Ben Martin).

Oath Keeper (17)	Proud Boy Media (2)	Proud Boy Leadership (4)	Proud Boy Kansas (8)	Proud Boy North Door (2)	Proud Boy Front Door (3)	31er SeCal (8)
Kelly Meggs Jessica Wilkins Thomas Caldwell Donovan Crowl Sandra Parker Bernie Parker Laura Stearn Corrie Meggs Kenneth Harrison Roberto Minula Joshua James Jonathan Weldon Joseph Hacklett Jason Dolan William Isaacs David Monrochel Brian Ulrich	Nicholas Ortiz Nicholas DeCarlo	Ethan Nordman Joe Biggs Zachary Raht Charles Donohoe	William Chestman Louis Enrique Colon Felicia Konold Cory Konold Christopher Kuehne Ryan Ashlock	Jonathan Klein Matthew Klein	Dominic Pezzola William Pope Matthew Greene	Alan Hostetter Russell Taylor Eric Scott Warner Felipe "Tony" Martinez Derek Korman Ronald Mele
Graydon Young Mark Grose Caleb Berry						
18 USC 371: 1) To stop, delay, or hinder Congress's certification of the Electoral College vote.						
	2) To obstruct and interfere with law officers engaged in their official duties to protect the Capitol and its occupants from those who had unlawfully advanced onto Capitol grounds.					18 USC 1512(k) conspiracy to obstruct, influence, and impede the Certification of the Electoral College vote
Encourage attendance (a)		Encourage attendance (a)				Encourage attendance §37
Advertise to raise funds and recruit (c)		Advertise to raise funds (b)				
Bring paramilitary gear (f)		Bring paramilitary gear (c)	Bring paramilitary gear (c)			Bring weapons §44-46
Travel to DC (g)	Travel to DC (d)	Travel to DC (a)	Travel to DC (b)	Travel to DC (a)		Travel to DC §47-55
Coordinate before Jan 6 (b)	Coordinate in advance (b)	Coordinate before Jan 6 (f)	March with Proud Boys (e)		Coordinate travel (a)	Plan to travel to DC §25-37
Use comms on Jan 6 (k)		Use comms on Jan 6 (g)	Atfx orange tape (d)		Obtain and use comms (b)	CA Patriots Telegram §38-46, radio §58
Storm past barricades (j)	Storm past barricades (e)	Dismantle barricades (h)	Storm past barricades (i)	Force open doors (e)	Dismantle barricades (e)	Participation in riot §59-72
					Dismantle barricades, Break into Capitol (d) (f)	

Two main things matter to the viability of the larger Proud Boys conspiracy: First, whether the four charged in the leadership conspiracy did have an advance plan. And second, whether their conspiracy interlocks with the Dominic Pezzola

conspiracy that ended up breaching the front door of the Capitol and with it exposed Pezzola, his co-conspirators, and by association, the Proud Boy leaders to terrorism enhancements.

The second point is one that the Proud Boy leaders are contesting aggressively. We have yet to see evidence proving a tie between those two conspiracies. But we also have yet to see *any* evidence from the December rally at which the ties to Pezzola appear to have been forged. Meanwhile, William Pepe is disclaiming knowing the others, suggesting a possible weakness in that conspiracy charge.

As to the first, what we've seen in public evidence is that, in the wake of the Enrique Tarrío arrest on January 4, the four leaders attempted to regroup, and then, on the night before the riot, Joe Biggs and Ethan Nordean met with unnamed people and finalized a plan in seeming coordination with Tarrío, and *avoided speaking of it even on their limited leadership Telegram chat.*

On January 4, when Tarrío arrived in DC for the riot, he was arrested for his attack on the Black Church in December, whereupon he was found with weapons that are unlawful in DC. In the wake of Tarrío's arrest, Ethan Nordean was supposed to be in charge of the operation. But around 9:08PM the day before the riot (these texts reflect Nordean's Washington state time zone, so add three hours), someone said he had not heard from Nordean in hours.

From: 586406520 YutYut Cowbunga

Guys are asking

1/5/2021 6:07:04 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126d6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/S
hared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881FB/telegram-data/account-
8138261883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x2D8E6FAD (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: REDACTED

Supposed to be Rufio

1/5/2021 6:08:15 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126d6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/S
hared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881FB/telegram-data/account-
8138261883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x2D027F76 (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 586406520 YutYut Cowbunga

Only him?

1/5/2021 6:08:24 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126d6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/S
hared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881FB/telegram-data/account-
8138261883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x2D027F06 (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: REDACTED

Have not heard from him in hours though

1/5/2021 6:08:41 PM(UTC-8)

Minutes later, Biggs explained that “we just had a meeting w[i]th a lot of guys” and “info should be coming out.” While redacted in these texts, the superseding indictment describes that he also notes he had just spoken with Tarrío.

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs

We just had a meeting with a lot of guys. Info should be coming out

1/5/2021 6:17:24 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126d6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D
0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881FB/telegram-data/account-8138261883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x233D75FF
(Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs

Just spoke with RED

1/5/2021 6:17:32 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126d6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/S
hared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881FB/telegram-data/account-
8138261883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x233D7DCE (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs

Here's my number REDACT

1/5/2021 6:18:12 PM(UTC-8)

He further explained that he was with Nordean and “we have a plan.”

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs
I was able to rally everyone here together who came where I said
1/5/2021 6:20:30 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x2207F86D (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: REDACTED
REDACTED
1/5/2021 6:20:37 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x2207FAD1 (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs
We have a plan. I'm with rufio
1/5/2021 6:20:37 PM(UTC-8)

Biggs then says he gave Tarrío a plan.

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs
I gave RED a plan. The one I told the guys and he said he had one.
1/5/2021 6:22:31 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x296A45DB (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 454128414 Captain Trump
I'm in dc now, so if you guys need any help with anything, lmk.
1/5/2021 6:23:29 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x232A6F8E (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: REDACTED
Is he back in Florida?
1/5/2021 6:23:30 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x232A6ECC (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs
Attachments:

Size: 0
(Empty File)
1/5/2021 6:23:53 PM(UTC-8)

Source Info:
e577462c3126f6117148d47ebb1077cdcd3691e_files_full.zip/private/var/mobile/Containers/Shared/AppGroup/237A30D0-FE61-47D7-84D1-511A2D9881F8/telegram-data/account-8136281883108468013/postbox/db/db_sqllite : 0x232A66DC (Size: 873086976 bytes)

From: 654712116 Joe Bigs
He's still in Baltimore
1/5/2021 6:24:08 PM(UTC-8)

Ethan Nordean may have been in charge on January 6. But Biggs seems to have been the one working most closely with Tarrío, through whom at least some of the inter-militia coordination worked.

There's little question they had a plan to do something (and that that plan did not include attending the Trump rally which was the primary

innocent reason for Trump supporters to show up to DC that day). The question is what kind of evidence DOJ has substantiating that plan, especially after claimed efforts to flip Zach Rehl collapsed. (Nordean has also said he'll move to suppress these texts because his spouse consented to the breach of his phone, which led FBI to obtain them, but it's likely the FBI has a second set of the texts in any case.)

But it also is likely the case that the place to look for that evidence is not with a low-level Proud Boy who showed up late to insurrection, but with the others with whom Nordean and Biggs were meeting the night before the riot. And there's no indication that these people were all Proud Boys, and in fact good reason to suspect they weren't.

In the weeks before the riot, Kelly Meggs repeatedly talked about a Florida-based intra-militia alliance.

In the days after both the DC even[t] and an event involving Stone in Florida, Oath Keeper Kelly Meggs claimed he organized a Florida-based "alliance" between the Oath Keepers, Proud Boys, and 3%ers.

Author Kelly Meggs (Facebook: 1517304829)
Sent 2020-12-19 15:22:53 UTC
Body Well we are ready for the rioters , this week I organized an alliance between Oath Keepers , Florida 3%ers , and Proud Boys . We have decided to work together and shut this shit down

On Christmas Eve, Meggs specifically tied protection at the January rally, probably of Stone, and coordination with a Proud Boy, almost certainly Tarrío, in the same text.

Author Kelly Meggs (Facebook: 1517304829)
Sent 2020-12-25 00:45:18 UTC
Body You can hang with us we will probably be guarding [redacted] or someone during the day but then at night we have orchestrated a plan with the proud boys . I've been communicating with [redacted] the leader . We are gonna March with them for a while then fall back to the back of the crowd and turn off . Then we will have the proud boys get in front of them the cops will get between antifa and proud boys .
We will come in behind antifa and beat the hell out of them

And in the days after, the Southern California

3%ers laid out a Stop the Steal affiliated plan to surround the Capitol.

Spread the word to other CALIFORNIA Patriots to join us as we March into the Capitol Jan 6. The Plan right now is to meet up at two occasions and locations: 1. Jan 5th 2pm at the Supreme Court steps for a rally. (Myself, Alan, [and others] will be speaking) 2. Jan 6th early 7am meet in front of the Kimpton George Hotel...we will leave at 7:30am sharp and March (15 mins) to the Capital [sic] to meet up with the stop the steal organization and surround the capital. [sic] There will be speakers there and we will be part of the large effort for the "Wild Rally" that Trump has asked us all to be part of. [my emphasis]

Not only is this what happened on January 6, but Joe Biggs seemed to know that key Stop the Steal figures, including his former employer Alex Jones, would open up a second front of this attack and arrived to take part in it, entering the Capitol a second time virtually in tandem with the Meggs-led Stack.

This is one reason I keep presenting all these conspiracies together: because there's good reason the Proud Boy conspiracies don't just intersect with each other, but that the Proud Boy conspiracies intersect, in the person of Joe Biggs and others, with each other.

There are many reasons that the report of an FBI handler not understanding that his or her Proud Boy informant was describing the breach of the Capitol as it happened is important.

After meeting his fellow Proud Boys at the Washington Monument that morning, the informant described his path to the Capitol grounds where he saw barriers knocked down and Trump supporters streaming into the building, the records show. At one point, his handler appeared

not to grasp that the building had been breached, the records show, and asked the informant to keep him in the loop – especially if there was any violence.

But, except to limited degree to which his testimony affects the case against the Proud Boys with whom he actually interacted, this report primarily provides yet more proof that the FBI, trained by Billy Barr not to investigate any subjects Trump claimed as his own tribe, had no conception of what they were looking at on January 6, not even as the Proud Boys led an attack on the Capitol.

The government has not yet publicly shown all of its evidence that the Proud Boy leaders, alone or in concert with other militias and Stop the Steal organizers, had a plan to attack the Capitol on January 6. Unless something disrupts the case, we won't see that until next summer.

But one thing we know from the available evidence is that low-level Proud Boys who showed up late to insurrection are not the place to look for that plan.