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TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION
OF DONALD J. TRUMP,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: ATF PERSONNEL 2

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in the Aspen Conference Room,
O'Neill House Office Building, commencing at 1:33 p.m.

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Appearances:

For the TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION
OF DONALD J. TRUMP:

- ██████████ SENIOR COUNSEL
- ██████████ SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER
- ██████████ DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR
- ██████████ SENIOR ADVISOR
- ██████████ SENIOR COUNSEL
- ██████████ SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER
- ██████████, MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL
- ██████████, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
- ██████████, MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

For the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE:

- ██████████, SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

For the ATF:

1 [REDACTED], SPECIAL COUNSEL

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██████████ We are now on the record.

Today is November 26th, 2024, and this is a transcribed interview of
ATF Personnel 2.

House Resolution 1367 directed this task force to investigate the facts and
circumstances of the attempted assassination of Donald J. Trump on July 13th, 2024, in
Butler, Pennsylvania. Pursuant to House Resolution 1367, Chairman Kelly and Ranking
Member Crow have requested this interview as part of the task force's investigation.

Can the witness please state their name and spell their last name for the record?

ATF Personnel 2. Yes. ATF Personnel 2.

██████████ Thank you, ATF Personnel 2.

My name is ██████████ and I'm senior counsel with the task force majority.

I want to thank you for coming in today for this interview. The task force
recognizes and appreciates that you're here with us voluntarily today, so thank you.

ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

██████████ You're allowed to have an attorney present to advise you during this
interview. Do you have an attorney representing you in a personal capacity with you
today?

ATF Personnel 2. No, I do not.

██████████ Is there an attorney present representing the ATF today?

ATF Personnel 2. Yes, ██████████ and ██████████.

██████████ ██████████ for the ATF.

██████████ Thank you.

And DOJ?

Ms. ██████████ ██████████ for the Department of Justice.

1 [REDACTED] Thank you.

2 There are no Members of Congress present here today, but if they should come by
3 they will identify themselves for the record, introduce themselves to you, ATF Personnel
4 2, and they have the right to ask questions as they see fit.

5 ATF Personnel 2. Okay.

6 [REDACTED] Next, starting -- we'll have some additional members on the
7 computer. But starting with the majority and then the minority, can the additional staff
8 members please introduce themselves with their name, title, and affiliation?

9 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] senior professional staff member, task force majority.

10 [REDACTED] senior counsel with the task force majority, has stepped out,
11 but she will also be here.

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the deputy staff director for the majority.

13 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], investigative counsel for the minority.

14 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], investigative counsel for the minority. And

15 [REDACTED] will be here, potentially. He's our staff director.

16 [REDACTED] And the folks joining us remotely today?

17 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] senior advisor to the task force majority.

18 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], senior professional staff member, task force
19 majority.

20 [REDACTED] Thank you all.

21 And, ATF Personnel 2, before we begin, I'd like to just go over the ground rules for
22 today's interview. The way the interview will proceed is as follows.

23 The majority and minority staff will alternate asking you questions 45 minutes per
24 side per round until each side is finished with their questioning. The majority staff will
25 begin and proceed for 45 minutes, and then the minority staff will have 45 minutes to ask

1 you questions.

2 If either side is in the middle of a specific line of questions, they may choose to
3 end just a few minutes past 45 minutes to ensure completion of that specific line of
4 questioning, including any pertinent follow-ups.

5 In this interview, while one staff member for each side may lead the questioning,
6 additional staff may ask you questions. And there's a court reporter taking down
7 everything I say and everything you say to make a written record of this interview.

8 For the record to be clear, please wait until the staff member questioning you has
9 finished each question before you begin your answer, and the staff member will wait until
10 you finish your response before proceeding to the next question.

11 Further, to ensure that the court reporter can properly record this interview,
12 please speak clearly, concisely, and slowly. Also, the court reporter cannot record
13 nonverbal answers, such as nodding or shaking your head, so it's important to answer
14 each question with an audible verbal response.

15 Do you understand?

16 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

17 [REDACTED] We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and
18 truthful manner possible, so we will take our time. If you have any questions or do not
19 fully understand the question, please let us know, and we will attempt to clarify, add
20 context to, or rephrase our questions.

21 Do you understand?

22 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

23 [REDACTED] If we ask about specific conversations or events in the past and you
24 are unable to recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the substance of
25 those conversations or events to the best of your recollection. If you recall only a part

1 of a conversation or event, you should give us your best recollection of those events or
2 parts of conversations that you do recall.

3 Do you understand?

4 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

5 [REDACTED] And although you are here voluntarily and we will not swear you in
6 today, you are not under oath, you are required, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001, to answer
7 questions from Congress truthfully, and this also applies to questions posed by
8 congressional staff in an interview.

9 Do you understand?

10 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

11 [REDACTED] And if at any time you knowingly make false statements, you could
12 be subject to criminal prosecution.

13 Do you understand?

14 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

15 [REDACTED] And is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful testimony
16 in today's interview?

17 ATF Personnel 2. No.

18 [REDACTED] And please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any
19 statement today, that assertion must apply to the rules of the U.S. House of
20 Representatives. For the chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony or
21 statements, witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted
22 and the reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or
23 appearance.

24 Do you understand?

25 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

1 [REDACTED] And, finally, I'd just like to note that the content of what we discuss
2 today is confidential. We ask that you not speak about what we discuss here today in
3 this interview to any outside individual in order to preserve the integrity of this
4 investigation.

5 For these same reasons, any exhibits that are used today will be provided to the
6 court reporter so that they may go in the official transcript, and any copies of those
7 exhibits will be returned to us when we wrap up.

8 We plan to take a five-minute break at the end of each 45 minutes of questioning,
9 but if you need a longer break than that, ATF Personnel 2, or before that, please let us
10 know and we will be happy to accommodate you. However, to the extent that there is a
11 pending question, we would ask that you finish answering the question before we take a
12 break.

13 Do you understand?

14 ATF Personnel 2. Yes.

15 [REDACTED] Do you have any other questions, sir, before we begin?

16 ATF Personnel 2. No, ma'am.

17 [REDACTED] The time is now 1:39 p.m. Majority staff will begin its questioning.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY [REDACTED]

20 Q To start, ATF Personnel 2, how long have you worked for the ATF?

21 A Eight years -- approximately eight years. Prior to that, I was a deputy with
22 the U.S. Marshals Service for eight years, and prior to that I was a member of the U.S.
23 National Guard, U.S. Army National Guard, where I served one year in Operation Iraqi
24 Freedom III in Iraq.

25 Q Thank you for your service, sir.

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q What is your present role with the ATF?

3 A [REDACTED] with the Pittsburgh Field Office.

4 Q And how long have you been in that role?

5 A One -- or, I'm sorry, eight years.

6 Q What are your daily responsibilities in your present role?

7 A Investigate violations and enforce violations of Federal firearms, explosives,
8 and arson laws.

9 Q Okay. And in your role as [REDACTED], can you describe for us, are you
10 primarily responding to sites, or are you conducting investigations? Is it a mix of the
11 two?

12 A Primarily, when there's a critical incident and I'm available, I'll respond.
13 Primarily, it's firearms trafficking and violent crime involving firearms.

14 Q And are you -- or how often are you on call, sir?

15 A We have an issued government phone. All the time, 24/7.

16 Q And can you please describe generally your chain of command?

17 A Yes. In Pittsburgh there's a Group 1 and Group 2. I'm assigned to Group
18 1. There's a supervisor assigned to Group 1; there's a supervisor assigned to Group 2.

19 Q Who is the supervisor for Group 1?

20 A Group 1 was [REDACTED]. He recently retired. And Group 2 at the time
21 was [REDACTED]. He recently retired as well.

22 Q Who took over for [REDACTED]?

23 A There's an acting Group 1 supervisor, [REDACTED], and then there's an
24 acting Group 2 supervisor right now till they fill the position officially. I actually don't
25 recall who the Group 2 acting supervisor is.

1 Q Okay. What kind of training or certification do you receive or do you
2 maintain to serve in your role with ATF?

3 A Yes. There's CITP in FLETC, which is Criminal Investigator Training Program,
4 you go through that initially, and then the ATF portion of the academy.

5 Q And can you just briefly go over what the ATF portion of the academy
6 consists of?

7 A Yes. There's a lot of classroom on explosives, firearms, identifications.
8 Physical fitness. There's a lot of physical activity. There's a lot of demonstrations on
9 explosives and firearms, a lot of firearms qualification and proficiency training.

10 Q Would you consider yourself an expert in firearms, explosives, neither, both?

11 A I went to a separate school for a firearm nexus expert for courtroom
12 testimony. Other than that, it's generally -- I didn't go to any explosives training. I
13 have training and experience from the military on explosives.

14 Q And can you just specify, which office are you presently assigned to or do
15 you work out of?

16 A Pittsburgh Field Office.

17 Q Okay. Are there any explosives sort of specialists or bomb squad techs that
18 work out of the Pittsburgh office?

19 A Not that I'm aware of. Not now. I think they're looking for another
20 applicant to go through that training.

21 Q Do you know if the Philadelphia Field Office has any sort of explosives
22 technicians or bomb squad techs?

23 A I don't know. I'm not sure if there's someone assigned to that, one of
24 those positions right now.

25 Q If the Pittsburgh Field Office needs any assistance with explosives or, you

1 know, bomb squad capability, what do you all do?

2 A State and locals. Allegheny County Bomb Squad. We're now -- our office
3 is in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which primarily covers Pittsburgh. The
4 Pennsylvania State Police has a bomb squad. So it's State and local assets initially.

5 Q Thank you.

6 We're just going to jump sort of right into July 13th, sir.

7 Prior to the campaign event at the Butler Farm Show grounds, did the ATF conduct
8 any briefing with regard to President-elect Trump's visit, anything regarding ATF's
9 preparedness in case it needed to be called in, or critical incident response services?

10 A Not that I'm aware of. I wasn't a part in any briefings or notified prior to
11 that.

12 Q Was anyone in your office kind of talking about the rally or any requests for
13 ATF services?

14 A Not that I heard. I was actually on leave at the time. But, no, nothing
15 that I was a part of or that I heard other than what's on the news.

16 Q You bring me to my next question, on July 13th.

17 So you mentioned you were on leave?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Does that mean you were still sort of expected to be available in the event
20 there was an emergency?

21 A That's on the agent if you're on leave. I guess you could say that's kind of
22 your call. If you're available, you're close, you can respond, which I was, and I did
23 respond.

24 Q And can you please describe for us, how did that alert sort of go out? And
25 if you could sort of go into, you know, when you first received sort of the option to

1 respond and what sort of occurred?

2 A Yes. So agents, supervisors, we have issued radios, issued cell phones.
3 And primarily when we're not executing some sort of enforcement activity, it's cell phone
4 phone calls or text messages.

5 You know, at the time I was on leave I didn't have -- off-duty hours, I don't have
6 my issued radio, and that's how we communicated.

7 Q Okay. And then in terms of critical incident response that day, were you
8 made aware that that had been initiated and were you given any details? By whom?
9 And if you could go into that.

10 A Yes. It got pushed out: Any and all available personnel who were
11 available please sound off and let us know your status if you can respond.

12 Q Okay. And that was just an agency-wide? Did that come via cell phone,
13 email?

14 A No. That was via cell phone within our field office. Group 1 and Group 2
15 it would have been. I don't recall exactly who was on that -- you know, in that
16 communication or notified.

17 Q And then you responded that you were available? Is that correct?

18 A Yes. That's right.

19 Q So who specifically dispatched you to the Butler Farm Show grounds or gave
20 you your next instructions?

21 A So when I initially responded -- I never went to the Butler County
22 Fairgrounds. So that was hours afterwards, at what point I was diverted and told,
23 instructed to go to the Bethel Park Police Department. So I was never at the
24 fairgrounds.

25 Q Okay. Can you just give us kind of general time, if you can recall, sort of

1 when you responded that you were available to then when you were told -- and if you
2 could, by whom -- to then report to the Bethel Park Police Department?

3 A Yes. It was -- I want to say it was around 6 or 7 p.m. on the 13th I initiated
4 my response. I went to my house, I got my government vehicle. And while I was
5 driving, I was told to be on standby and to respond to the Bethel Park Police Department.

6 En route to the Bethel Park Police Department, I was notified that the shooter was
7 identified via Urgent Trace. I had limited information at the time I was driving, but I did
8 what I was told, and I went to the Bethel Park Police Department.

9 Q Okay. And how long did you stay at the police department before you left
10 to go to the [REDACTED] residence?

11 A Maybe 20 or 30 minutes, approximately. I would say approximately 30
12 minutes.

13 Q Okay. And who instructed you to leave the police department and go to
14 the [REDACTED] residence?

15 A The command post -- again, I didn't know all the information they had at the
16 time. It really wasn't relevant or important for me at the time knowing what I had -- you
17 know, my task -- what I needed to do.

18 But I was instructed at some point while we were at the Bethel Park Police
19 Department to go initiate covert surveillance on the residence.

20 Q Who gave you those instructions, sir?

21 A The Group 2 supervisor that was at the command post.

22 Q What's that individual's name, if you can recall?

23 [REDACTED] You can answer.

24 ATF Personnel 2. Okay. Sorry.

25 [REDACTED] was at the command post. That's Group 2 supervisor.

1 BY [REDACTED]

2 Q Did [REDACTED] give you any other instructions except to go to the home
3 and start conducting covert surveillance?

4 A No. It was just to initiate surveillance covertly. Just what we saw,
5 anything we learned while we were down there, to relay that information up to the
6 command post.

7 Q Who else was with you in terms of responding or arriving to the home to
8 conduct that surveillance?

9 A Yes. There were three other ATF agents, myself and three others. There
10 were on surveillance a few State troopers. I'm trying to think if -- I don't recall if Bethel
11 Park -- I know at some point Bethel Park assisted, some of the police officers, but I don't
12 recall if they were on surveillance with us.

13 Q Okay. Were the three other individuals with you special agents?

14 A Yes, they were ATF special agents.

15 Q Okay. Now, when you arrive to the home to conduct covert surveillance,
16 did you see any suspicious vehicles, anything sort of out of the ordinary when you arrived
17 to the home?

18 A No. My vantage point, I was on the 3-4 corner, we refer to it as. If you're
19 facing the house from the street that the house is on, I was on the back right corner on an
20 adjacent road. So I could only see the right rear of the residence.

21 There was a light on in the house, maybe a few lights on. I couldn't see the
22 driveway because it was on the other side of the house. It was relayed to me from one
23 of our other ATF surveillance units there was a vehicle in the driveway, I remember.

24 Other than that, it was quiet. Just a few lights on in the house.

25 Q Okay. Were you given any information or background as the situation was

1 sort of unfolding when you responded to the home? Were you given any sort of live
2 updates or anything like that as to additional information about the residence or Thomas
3 Crooks?

4 A Yes. It was relayed to me from the command post that that was his
5 residence and that his family, his [REDACTED] lived there, or at least should have
6 when we were there.

7 And then at some point while I was on surveillance, it was relayed to me that the
8 [REDACTED] called the communications center earlier that day to report his [REDACTED] missing.

9 Q And by the communications center, can you clarify what that is?

10 A Yes. It was the dispatch center. So when he got -- when he -- the
11 shooter's [REDACTED] called, it gets routed to a communications center. That's where the call
12 is recorded, and that's where -- depending on what's needed on their end to respond or
13 to assist, the [REDACTED], when he called that communication center, I believe it covered that
14 area. It would have been routed to that communications center that would provide
15 assets and law enforcement to that area, to that location.

16 Q Had you spoken to the FBI at any point sort of while you were conducting
17 covert surveillance any time up until that juncture?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. Did you at any time speak with the ATF agent who was present at
20 the rally in his personal capacity?

21 A Yes -- during that time?

22 Q Yes.

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. But you've spoken to him since July 13th?

25 A I work with him in the office. You know, that he was there at some point.

1 I learned all that after the fact, though, in role in this when I was at the house.

2 Q So we're going to move, sir, to sort of once ATF agents sort of approached
3 the home.

4 How long were you conducting this sort of covert surveillance before you were
5 instructed to approach the home?

6 A Approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

7 Q Is it accurate that ATF first sort of approached the home at 11:40 p.m., to the
8 best of your recollection?

9 A That sounds right. Approximately, sure, yes, yes.

10 Q And were you aware that ATF was going to be the first agency to sort of
11 approach the residence and respond to the home?

12 A Yes. That was my understanding based on the fact that we initiated the
13 surveillance, we were the first law enforcement agency to initiate surveillance on this
14 residence, and then the command post advised us to go ahead and make our approach,
15 to attempt contact.

16 Other than us and PSP, who was on surveillance with us, Bethel Park, PSP, ATF, we
17 were at the Bethel Park Police Department, we all briefly discussed our plan or our
18 intentions, how we wanted to wait for a command post to give us instructions. We
19 were the only ones that knew what was going on down around the house.

20 Q And how many agents at this point sort of collectively were there, were
21 supposed to or going to respond to the home?

22 A It was myself and three other ATF agents in the Pittsburgh Field Office.
23 There were -- I don't -- I don't recall exactly how many. There were a few State
24 troopers, I'll say, PA State troopers, and there was -- I apologize. I'm trying to think
25 here.

1 There was one or two Bethel Park Police officers that went up to the residence
2 with us. There was a handful of us. But ATF and PSP troopers together.

3 Q Were you given a reason why you were instructed to approach the home?
4 Was there anything that had occurred that you felt it was now okay to respond to the
5 house? Do you know what triggered that response to approach the home?

6

A

7

8 He relayed the information back to the command post.

9 And at some point in that, they -- again, I wasn't privy to all the information they
10 had at the time up north, to go over and to attempt -- make contact at the residence.

11 Q Okay. And just one last question before we sort of go into your response at
12 the residence.

13 Is it normal for the ATF to respond before the FBI does?

14 A Normal for that to happen?

15 Q Correct, in that sort of situation.

16 A I've never been in that type of situation. I would say typically our office
17 respond pretty quickly. We're pretty on top of things.

18 You know, again, I wasn't in a situation like that before. We responded to law
19 enforcement involved shootings.

20 Keep going. Sorry.

21 ATF Personnel 2. Oh, sorry.

22 I was going to say, at that time did you understand your assignment
23 as assisting the FBI with an investigation, or did you believe that the ATF had its own
24 investigation that you were conducting at that time?

25 ATF Personnel 2. I didn't know those details. I did what I was instructed, as far

1 as the surveillance and to keep eyes on the residence and wait further instruction. I
2 didn't ask, you know, who was conducting, who was running the investigation up north.
3 I had limited information from up north.

4 [REDACTED] Okay.

5

BY [REDACTED]

6 Q Okay. So let's move to sort of you approach the residence. What
7 happens then?

8 A Yes. As we, the three other ATF agents, myself and a mixture of State
9 troopers -- and, again, I apologize if there was a Bethel Park Police officer or not there
10 with us -- we made our approach up to the residence, there was a porch light on.

11 If you're facing a small single family red brick home, on the left where the
12 driveway was, as we were walking up onto the front steps, the [REDACTED] opened the door,
13 the screen door, and the first thing he said to us was, "Is it true? Did [REDACTED] shoot
14 Trump?" You know, said, "What makes you say that?" This all happened in seconds.
15 And he said, "The news called me." I said, "You mind if we go into your house, talk to
16 you? You know, is that okay?"

17 He gave consent. He invited us in his house. We went into his house.

18 Q Thank you.

19 And when you had sort of entered the residence, where were the [REDACTED]?

20 A Yes. When we go through that door where we first made entry with the
21 [REDACTED], we walked into the kitchen, small kitchen, and off to the right was the living room.

22 And as this unfolded, again, as he said that and invited us in, for law enforcement
23 safety, just like we would normally serve any warrant, "Is there anyone else in the
24 house?" He said, "My [REDACTED] in the living room and my cat." She was sitting in the
25 living room on the chair. We said hello.

1 And, again, all of this, it happened within 20 seconds. "Is there anyone else in
2 the house?" "No, there's no one else in the house." "Sir, do you mind if we do what's
3 called a protective sweep, just to walk around the residence? We're not searching.
4 Just want to make sure there's no one else in here." He said, "I consent. Go ahead,
5 look around the house."

6 Q Thank you.

7 Just to quickly kind of go back to the initial statement that [REDACTED] made
8 about, "Did [REDACTED] try to shoot Trump?" was there anything else said after that? Did he
9 ask any other questions, anything else that occurred during that brief exchange?

10 A I don't recall if he asked anything else in that moment. Again, that was
11 very brief. I don't recall if he asked anything else in that moment, I'll say.

12 Q Did you find it odd that, you know, he had indicated that, you know, there
13 was something with respect to the news making contact or informing him of these
14 details?

15 A I guess initially I was just surprised that he knew that so quickly. And his
16 response saying, "The news called me," I guess you could say maybe made a little more
17 sense.

18 Q So he gave permission to come into the home. You then arranged to sort
19 of begin a protective sweep.

20 Now, if you could, ATF Personnel 2, are you working in sort of a supervisory
21 capacity at this point, are you telling other agents what to do? Can you just sort of go
22 into what's going on in the home with the ATF agents and who's doing what?

23 A The other agents I was with and the troopers, we do things like this almost
24 daily. So everyone kind of knew the next steps and what our plan was.

25 It was a small house. We were all right there. When I said a protective sweep,

1 "Do you mind if we go look around?" everyone kind of knew what we were going to do
2 briefly.

3 And, you know, myself and another trooper going down the hallway, for example,
4 the other agents and officers knew that they weren't going to go down there because we
5 were going down there. You know, they looked wherever else they looked.

6 Again, only where someone could hide or launch an attack. No one was looking
7 for paperwork or searching for evidence at that moment.

8 So, no, it wasn't another pause and say, "Hey, guys, he gave consent, let's go down
9 here. You go down there." So there was -- that didn't happen initially, no.

10 Q So the ATF's role was not to sort of collect evidence in the home or anything
11 like that, it was just to conduct a protective sweep for what?

12 A In that moment?

13 Q Yes.

14 A To make sure no one else was in the residence that could harm us or the
15 family.

16 Q [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]

18 A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

20 ATF Personnel 2. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

22 ATF Personnel 2. [REDACTED]

23 BY [REDACTED]

24 Q Just moving in, sir, if you could please describe just the general disposition of
25 the home when you arrived, any dynamic conditions that you observed. What was the

1 state of the kitchen? If you could, please.

2 A Yeah. When we went into the kitchen, I didn't really look around at this
3 time. I glanced in the kitchen. It was wide open. I could clearly see -- immediately
4 see that no one was in there.

5 Living room, when you made a right off the kitchen, there was a television that
6 was on.

7 [REDACTED], was sitting on the chair right to my right. The couch
8 was to the right. Again, [REDACTED] was standing there talking to us. No one else was
9 sitting there.

10 Living room had one of those small plastic foldout tables like you see at a picnic.
11 There was a laptop and a phone. Again, I could clearly see it sitting there.

12 As you made a right into the living room, you look straight down the hallway -- it's
13 a short hallway, it's a smaller house -- there was a bedroom and a restroom. There were
14 two bedrooms and a restroom down this short hallway.

15 Q Did you notice or observe any kind of signs of cleanup, any kind of soapy
16 water or dishrags or anything like that?

17 A No.

18 Q And then, while conducting the search, where were Mr. Crooks' [REDACTED]
19 located?

20 A They stayed in the living room.

21 Q So we're going to move now sort of to Mr. Crooks' bedroom and anything
22 that you observed while you were inside the home.

23 Can you please sort of describe for us, you know, just sort of the state of the
24 bedroom, what you observed?

25 A Yes. I was the first one to go down the hallway, and I made a right -- a

1 trooper was with me right behind me -- into the first bedroom on the right. Later we
2 learned it was the shooter's bedroom.

3 As soon as I broke the threshold of the bedroom door, right at my feet was a
4 .50-caliber ammunition can, a military grade ammunition can, with a white wire coming
5 out of it. Immediately -- my training and experience almost immediately, you know, this
6 is a possible IED.

7 I looked to my left, and in the closet there was a one-gallon clear jug that said
8 nitromethane on it. Again, within seconds, we said, "Okay, everyone evacuate the
9 house."

10 Q Okay. Thank you very much, sir. We're going to just sort of break that
11 down.

12 You indicated you broke the threshold. The door was closed, locked?

13 A The door was open.

14 Q The door was open, and you walked through?

15 A I apologize. Yes, when I say I broke the threshold, I stepped into the room.

16 Q Okay. And then that is when you see the ammo can, and that is located at
17 the foot of Mr. Crooks's bed?

18 A That's right.

19 Q Was Mr. Crooks's bed made? What was the general cleanliness state of the
20 bedroom?

21 A Yes, the bed was made. There weren't a lot of things in there. It was
22 made. It was fairly organized. And, again, we only stayed there for seconds.

23 BY [REDACTED]

24 Q Were the lights on or off when you entered the bedroom?

25 A In the bedroom? I recall -- I'm pretty sure the lights were out in this

1 bedroom, yeah.

2 Q So that's sort of why you didn't see the ammo can until you stepped in,
3 because you turned the lights on, I assume? Is that correct?

4 A Yes. No one turned the lights on.

5 Q Okay.

6 A No. I mean, you could see the can. I made that right, right into the -- off
7 the small -- the short hallway. As soon as I made the right into the bedroom, it was
8 sitting there.

9 BY [REDACTED]

10 Q So it was clearly visible, sir, if you stepped into the bedroom?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And as to what you witnessed in the closet, that was ammonium nitrate, a
13 jug of that?

14 A Nitromethane.

15 Q Nitromethane, excuse me.

16 Was that in clear or open view in the closet?

17 A Yes, it was. And it had a label on it in black print that said nitromethane.

18 Q We're going to sort of pause on those chemicals for a moment.

19 Did you recover any USB drives, additional cell phones, anything like that from
20 Mr. Crooks's bedroom, or did you see any?

21 A No. I didn't go into [REDACTED] bedroom. I don't know where that was
22 located. But no.

23 [REDACTED] I'm sorry. Could you just clarify, because there's [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]?

25 ATF Personnel 2. Oh, I apologize.

1 ██████████ Thomas Crooks.

2 ██████████ Yeah. The shooter.

3 ATF Personnel 2. I'm sorry.

4 BY ██████████

5 Q The shooter.

6 A The shooter. I apologize.

7 No. Didn't recover anything. The whole time we were at the house, I never
8 retrieved anything for evidence -- evidentiary purposes.

9 Q Are there any other chemicals you found in Mr. Thomas Crooks's bedroom
10 other than nitromethane?

11 A Again, I didn't search the bedroom. This was all what was in plain view.
12 And when we saw what we believed to be an explosive, we left. So, no, I didn't search.

13 Q In your sort of experience, does nitromethane have an odor?

14 A Yes, it does.

15 Q Were you surprised sort of, I guess, when you entered the house that
16 Mr. Crooks's ██████████ had not, you know, mentioned anything about an odor, or did you,
17 yourself, smell an odor when you stepped into the bedroom?

18 A I didn't smell anything, no, no. Nitromethane is a racing fuel.

19 Q Okay.

20 A So if you can imagine what that smells like.

21 No, I did not smell anything.

22 Q Did you think that in terms of building an IED that, with the smell that
23 nitromethane gives off, that if someone were to be constructing such an explosive in the
24 home that an odor would emanate?

25 A You would think so. It would, it should, depending on the stage of

1 completion of this explosive.

2 I don't know the stage of completion it was in. Again, I saw it was a closed lid in
3 a .50-caliber ammunition can with a wire coming out of it. So I don't know the stage it
4 was in.

5 Q Okay. Did you take any photographs of Thomas Crooks's bedroom?

6 A I did. Once we left the residence and we initiated an interview with
7 [REDACTED], waiting for the bomb squad to actually get there after we notified the
8 command center, I went back into the house after we got consent and interviewed
9 [REDACTED] for approximately an hour.

10 I went back in with the bomb squad, and I took approximately 30 overall
11 photographs.

12 Q We're going to just break down that timeline a bit more.

13 You were the one to call in the Allegheny County Police Department bomb squad?
14 Can you just clarify for us?

15 A We contacted -- we, the other agents -- I don't recall if I called or one of the
16 other agents, we're working together in this situation -- command center. We told them
17 what we saw, what we had at the time, where we were. They spooled up the assets,
18 the bomb squad coming down to us to respond.

19 Apparently, the bomb squad that arrived to our scene was already up at the Butler
20 fairgrounds.

21 Q So you didn't seek to contact ATF explosives personnel to respond? You
22 went immediately with Allegheny?

23 A All of our communication and everything we learned got routed through,
24 and our first phone call was the command post. And they determined what assets, who
25 they were going to call to assist us.

1 Q Thank you.

2 [REDACTED] So just to be clear, that was [REDACTED] who would have been
3 making those decisions then?

4 ATF Personnel 2. Yes. Again, sir, I wasn't there. I know that he was there
5 and, you know, he was the person we pushed our information to. And where it went
6 from him, I don't know.

7 [REDACTED] Thank you.

8 BY [REDACTED]

9 Q Again, in your sort of professional expertise, nitromethane, is this a chemical
10 that's easily purchased online?

11 A Yes. You can purchase nitromethane at different stores and things like
12 that. It's a racing fuel.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Some people use it for remote control cars, for other things like that. It's a
15 common thing that you could buy if you wanted to.

16 Q So you exit the home. Allegheny County Bomb Squad is called.

17 What are you doing at this point? You're waiting outside the home with Thomas
18 Crooks's [REDACTED]. Is that accurate?

19 A Yes. So, I guess to backtrack, when we saw what we believed to be the IED,
20 all law enforcement, along with [REDACTED], we evacuated the residence. We
21 established a secure perimeter at a safe distance. [REDACTED], we asked them
22 to sit in two chairs. We provided them with water, if they wanted anything to eat.

23 I participated in the perimeter, the security perimeter, and after we were all
24 waiting -- we knew that we were going to be waiting for a long time.

25 At one point myself and [REDACTED] (ph) went over to [REDACTED] and

1 initiated contact again and asked them to be interviewed.

2 And so we interviewed them while we were waiting. Like I said, I think, earlier,
3 maybe an hour -- a little over an hour.

4 Q And as you're conducting this interview, did you record that interview with
5 Thomas Crooks's [REDACTED]?

6 A Yes. They consented to audio recording.

7 Q And is there anything of note that, you know, you'd like to kind of share that
8 his [REDACTED] said during that interview that sort of would be important?

9 A No. Just like we do in interviews, we didn't volunteer too much
10 information, and we wanted them to kind of open the doors and give us information that
11 would allow us to follow up with questions like we normally do.

12 Generally, it was just, "What makes your [REDACTED] tick? What does he like to do?"
13 Kind of get an idea of their family, how long they've lived at the address, any siblings.
14 Does he have a wife? Is he engaged? Does he have kids? Where does he work?
15 His cell number. What vehicle does he drive?

16 Sorry. I'm just trying to think. It was a long interview, and I'm just kind of
17 throwing things out there.

18 What does he do for fun? One of the things was shooting a rifle at the local
19 range. He liked building things.

20 I apologize. I'm trying to think of some --

21 [REDACTED] When talking about did he like to build things, did they ever say that
22 he had an interest in building explosives?

23 ATF Personnel 2. They didn't, no. No. I recall them mentioning he built a
24 computer at one point.

25 [REDACTED] And who conducted that interview with you? You said there was

1 one other ATF agent. Was there anyone from FBI, State or local?

2 ATF Personnel 2. At some point, two FBI agents joined in on the interview.

3 BY [REDACTED]

4 Q And did they mention any surprise or can you just, you know, sort of
5 describe whether they were sort of shocked at what was going on, or did they say
6 anything as to whether Thomas Crooks had been talking about President-elect Trump?

7 A No. They were, I would say, fairly common, my experience, given the
8 circumstances. I didn't give them too much information. They volunteered a lot of
9 information just like I mentioned before, generally.

10 I didn't get into politics. He kind of opened that door and made a comment how
11 his [REDACTED] would go back and forth and kind of argue both sides. He mentioned Trump and
12 Biden. This is how he described it.

13 But he said that he never really indicated that he liked one or the other more than
14 the other one, that his [REDACTED] was always right in arguments. He loved to debate things.
15 He was a history buff.

16 I apologize. Did that answer your question?

17 Q Yes. Thank you.

18 A Okay.

19 Q Did his [REDACTED] bring up any of Thomas Crooks's associates?

20 A He didn't have any friends. He kept to himself. I mean, I tried to ask any
21 names of close friends, things like that, to try to jog his memory. I mean, no, he didn't
22 know of any of his friends.

23 Did he have any girlfriends? No girlfriends. And I recall his [REDACTED] saying, "At
24 one point I asked him if he was gay," I believe he said, and his [REDACTED] got defensive. And so
25 he said, "No, I don't know anything about my [REDACTED]," basically.

1 Q Did he mention any coworkers or any relationships that Thomas Crooks had
2 at work?

3 A No. And I believe we tried to touch on that. No. He didn't -- he said
4 that his [REDACTED] didn't talk about anything, didn't talk about friends, didn't really talk about
5 work.

6 Q And now just sort of moving.

7 Do you recall what time the bomb squad arrived to remove the IED from the
8 bedroom?

9 A Around midnight, I would say?

10 Q And you went back inside with the bomb squad. Is that correct?

11 A That's correct. So the interview was going on while we were waiting for
12 the bomb squad to arrive. They arrived.

13 I'd have to refer to the reports if it was when we were finishing up the interview.
14 I believe it was when we concluded the interview when the bomb squad ultimately
15 arrived and notified all law enforcement personnel, and the bomb squad did what they
16 do.

17 After they cleared the residence, they gave us information that they retrieved the
18 device, I believe, and that they were going to render it safe.

19 Q Okay. And do you know if they turned that evidence over to the FBI?

20 A I don't.

21 Q Okay. Why did you go back in with the bomb squad? Is that typical of
22 your duties?

23 A Well, in this situation the command post is dealing with what they had going
24 on up there. We're down at the address. It was intel gathering. We needed, you
25 know, to get in the house. He gave us consent. To stand outside and just wait, I mean,

1 there could be something that's very useful and pertinent to the command center up
2 north.

3 So the bomb squad, as they were donning their equipment again to go back in, I
4 walked down the street, and I approached one of the bomb techs. And I said, "Are you
5 guys going back in the house?" He said, "Yes, we are." I said, "Do you mind if we go
6 with you?" He said, "Yeah, come on in."

7 So then myself and a few other agents went back inside with them.

8 Q And how long was the bomb squad approximately in the home?

9 A The second time?

10 Q Yes.

11 A Approximately 20 or 30 minutes.

12 Q Okay. Was anything else discovered, anything else sort of of note during
13 that second trip inside?

14 A No. Nothing -- nothing relevant. I took photographs, just general overall
15 photographs. My intention for doing that was note-taking, basically. So if later on,
16 thinking the command post had some questions or, "Did you see this in the house or did
17 you notice this?" I at least preserved some photographs inside the residence.

18 Q Okay. So sort of with some minutes we have left, can you just describe for
19 us, ATF Personnel 2, what then happened sort of after the second bomb squad goes in,
20 what then occurs for the remainder of the evening?

21 A Yes. Once we were in there the second time with the bomb squad, I took
22 those photographs. We left the residence with the bomb squad. And that was really
23 the end of our involvement.

24 We -- at least I stayed there for probably another two or three hours to assist if
25 needed. That was the end of my involvement.

1 Q Until what time would you say you remained at the residence?

2 A Yeah. Out on the perimeter, with a lot of other State and local assets, I
3 believe I got relieved around maybe 5 a.m., 5:30.

4 Q Were you interviewed by the FBI or any other law enforcement on the
5 scene?

6 A No.

7 Q Did you provide a statement to the FBI or any other sort of Federal agency
8 after?

9 A No.

10 Q Have you been interviewed by the ATF as sort of part of any internal sort of
11 after-action report or investigation?

12 A No.

13 Q Did you have any sort of debriefs with the immediate team of agents that
14 responded to the home with you?

15 A No. An official debrief or anything like that, an after-action review, no. It
16 was just a brief conversation. We were all there together.

17 Q Have you at any time been sort of coached by the DOJ or ATF or any other
18 member of the Federal Government about your interview before this task force here
19 today?

20 A No.

21 BY [REDACTED]

22 Q Okay. So you took, you said, maybe 30-ish photos. The IED was rendered
23 safe.

24 Was there anything else removed from the home by you or other ATF agents that
25 you're aware of?

1 A No. I didn't remove anything. I didn't see anybody else remove anything
2 that I was aware of, that I saw. But I don't believe that anything was removed. At
3 least by myself, I didn't.

4 Q And when you left about 5 a.m., is that when the rest of the ATF personnel
5 that were on site left, to your knowledge, roughly?

6 A To my knowledge, yeah, I don't know. I would say around that time. I
7 mean, one or two of them could have been tasked with staying there. Someone may
8 have been released early. But I'm not sure.

9 Q Do you know, did a different agency then take over the house as an active
10 scene, or was it completely released back to the family at that point?

11 A I don't know. I wasn't a part of that conversation.

12 ██████████ Thank you. That's all I have.

13

BY ██████████

14 Q Was there any evidence of -- I shouldn't say evidence. Was there -- was it
15 clear that there was hoarding behavior or anything like that at the residence?

16 A Down in the basement -- hoarding, no, that I observed that was apparent to
17 me. I would say maybe prepping. You've heard of preppers. There was a few cases
18 of water, which I have a few cases of water at my house.

19 Q Sure. Like a natural disaster --

20 A Yeah. There were a few five-gallon buckets on shelves down in the
21 basement, I do recall, that appeared to me that was maybe rice or something like that
22 some prepper would store. But as far as hoarding, no.

23 Q And was there further inspection of the kitchen after the initial protective
24 sweep?

25 A Just spin around, a glance through. Again, I took photographs, overall

1 photographs. But there wasn't much in the kitchen to really look at, I would say, so no.

2 BY [REDACTED]

3 Q Just back to -- last question -- Thomas Crooks's bedroom. Can you just
4 clarify what electronics you initially observed?

5 A Yes. There was a computer and a cell phone on that collapsible table in the
6 living room. In his bedroom -- again, in all these rooms, we weren't in there searching,
7 moving anything, anything like that -- I do recall there was a 3D printer. I'm familiar
8 with 3D printers. That's kind of an emerging trend right now. It was a big 3D printer,
9 one thing I do recall.

10 Q And was that 3D printer in Thomas Crooks's bedroom?

11 A Again, I apologize. I'm pretty certain that's where it was, yes.

12 Q And so there was a computer and a cell phone on a collapsible table in
13 Mr. Thomas Crooks's bedroom?

14 A No, in the living room.

15 Q In the living room.

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q And then the 3D printer you observed in Thomas Crooks's bedroom?

18 A Yes.

19 Q You did not observe any sort of thumb drives or additional cell phones on
20 the bed?

21 A I did not.

22 [REDACTED] Did you enter his [REDACTED] bedroom?

23 ATF Personnel 2. I would have taken overall photographs. You know, I don't
24 recall his [REDACTED]'s bedroom.

25 [REDACTED] Okay. So no technology that you recall?

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EXAMINATION

BY [REDACTED]

Q With your background, did you have experience working with PSP or local law enforcement in the Butler County area?

A No. I apologize. You're saying at the time of the event?

Q Prior to the event, had you previously worked with law enforcement in the Butler County area?

A And I apologize. You mean like on other cases?

Q Yes.

A Yes, there were some Butler -- a few Butler troopers that I've worked other cases with, but not that many, and it's been a while.

Q When you say Butler troopers, is that PSP or Butler County officers?

A There's a Butler -- Butler barracks in Butler, Pennsylvania. So some of the troopers from there.

Q So PSP. So not local law enforcement?

A Correct.

Q Are you familiar with the ATF's procedures for responding to bomb threats?

A Like the policy, the procedures?

Q I guess, to the extent someone from ATF is tasked with reporting to -- a suspicious IED, what steps would they take?

A Yes. Secure the area, move everybody back as quickly and as safely as possible, and contact the State or local bomb squad.

Q Does it change with regards to whether it's a public area or private property?

A No, it's the same.

Q And you mentioned reaching out to the local bomb squad. Why not call

1 ATF bomb at Pittsburgh?

2 A There's not a bomb tech in Pittsburgh. And for ATF to spool up a bomb
3 tech from another field office or the closest field office, it wouldn't be efficient and safe.
4 It's easier.

5 Q So for the Pittsburgh area, it sounds like you guys don't typically respond to
6 IEDs because you don't have someone locally. Is that right?

7 A Correct, yeah.

8 Q Are you familiar with the procedure for processing a firearm?

9 A Processing a firearm?

10 Q Yes.

11 A Yes.

12 Q So what steps do you typically take?

13 A First step, safety, make sure the firearm is safe. If in the moment we're
14 going to preserve it for prints or DNA, we put gloves on. We still have to make sure the
15 firearm is safe. It would go into a paper bag and get tagged.

16 Q And for the purposes of tracing, when would you pull the serial number?

17 A Every firearm we recover, the year, make, the model, serial number on the
18 firearm. We'll write that down before it gets bagged and tagged, I'll say.

19 When we get back to the office, we have eTrace, and that's where we -- it's a
20 program on our computers where we input that information and it gets sent
21 electronically to our tracing center.

22 Q And what's the turnaround to get back that information?

23 A Criminal cases, daily cases, State and local have access -- law enforcement
24 have access to ATF eTrace. In my experience, unless it's an urgent trace request, it could
25 take a month or two, sometimes a few weeks. It's typically a few weeks at a minimum,

1 yeah.

2 Q And for this matter, it's your understanding that it was urgent, and you guys
3 received it faster?

4 A Yes, very quickly. Yes.

5 Q Was it about 30 minutes, do you recall?

6 A I don't recall. I don't know how long from the time it was -- the firearm was
7 recovered and it actually came back with the trace. I don't -- yeah, I'm not sure.

8 Q When you process firearms for prints and/or DNA, do you send it to the ATF
9 lab?

10 A We use the Allegheny County Crime Lab. So if the investigation is in
11 Allegheny County, we have access to their BEAST program, and we go use the Allegheny
12 County Crime Lab.

13 Q Do they have the same certification as the ATF lab?

14 A I don't know. I presume it does.

15 Q About how long would it take for you to get back those results?

16 A Results when I submit a firearm to Allegheny County Crime Lab?

17 Q Yes, for DNA or prints.

18 A A long time. Depending on -- it's case-dependent. If it's a homicide or a
19 missing person, something like that, they'll speed -- they'll put your case up ahead, and
20 they'll start processing that a lot faster.

21 I've never personally had something like that. In my experience, you know, a
22 couple of months, a month or so.

23 Q You mentioned that you were initially sent out to the police department. Is
24 that right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Around what time did you get there?

2 A I would say 10 or 10:30 p.m. on the 13th.

3 Q Okay. And you said that you went to the [REDACTED] residence about 30
4 minutes later?

5 A Yes, to establish surveillance.

6 Q The surveillance would have started around 10 p.m., right?

7 A Around there -- around then. I can't be exact, but around 10 p.m. or so.

8 Q Were you the most senior agent on scene when you arrived?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And for the purposes of giving out orders and understanding what steps you
11 would take, why does that matter?

12 A So we were -- we, myself and the other three ATF agents -- we were getting
13 instructed and guidance from the command post. So I wasn't the one pushing. I was
14 relaying information when I was communicating with [REDACTED] with the command
15 post. So I wasn't making calls on scene.

1

2 [2:32 p.m.]

3

BY [REDACTED]

4

Q One of the ROIs mentioned that some agents were asked to report to [REDACTED]

5

[REDACTED] in Butler. Do you know what that's about?

6

A I don't.

7

Q Okay.

8

And you say you were never at the fairgrounds, right?

9

A Correct.

10

Q So, when you get to the neighborhood for the residence, what are you told

11

your instructions are? Is it just to do surveillance? Anything else?

12

A Correct, initially, yes, just to do surveillance on the residence.

13

Q And what were you told about any searches of the residence?

14

A It wasn't even brought up. You know, it was just, initiate surveillance and

15

relay any information to the command post.

16

Q And then at some point someone tells you, hey, go into the residence?

17

A Correct.

18

Q And what -- can you recall the substance of that conversation, whatever

19

directions you were given?

20

A No. Again, there were a lot of moving parts in this situation. It was,

21

establish surveillance and report back to us, relay and pass that information. And that's

22

what we did initially.

23

Q When you go into the house, are you told to just do, like, a security check,

24

just a sweep?

25

A No. So that was myself and the other agents' call, together, down there on

1 scene. So things like that, it was, make your approach, try to make contact, and let us
2 know what you learn, what you find out.

3 Q Did you have to coordinate with PSP or local law enforcement for this role?

4 A No. Some of the troopers were with us.

5 Q When you were conducting the surveillance?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How do you know?

8 A We were talking to them. We always communicate. So, when we are on
9 surveillance, we're always talking to each other. You know, if someone sees
10 something -- this is an example -- a car leaves or someone's coming, we communicate
11 with each other to let each other know.

12 Q I think you mentioned earlier you were able to see lights in the house. How
13 clearly could you see into the house, if at all?

14 A Yes. I couldn't see into the house.

15 Q Were there lights?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you know if any of the four, including yourself -- I guess, if any of the
18 other three agents were able to see inside?

19 A I don't recall them saying, you know, that they could see inside, see any
20 movement, see anyone walking around. I think I'd remember that, if they would've said,
21 "I see someone walking around," because I recall, when we made our approach and made
22 contact, we didn't know if anyone else was inside or if anyone was there.

23 Q A few questions about once you get inside. But before I do, did you have
24 anything to do with the review of Crooks's vehicle?

25 A I'm sorry. Can you say that -- the question?

1 Q Crooks's vehicle, the Hyundai Elantra, did you have anything to do with
2 finding it, searching it, anything like that?

3 A Oh, no. Huh-uh.

4 Q There was another vehicle suspected, a 1999 Chevrolet van. Did you have
5 anything to do with that search?

6 A No.

7 Q Were there any vehicles that you played a role with observing or searching?

8 A No.

9 Q Were there any other persons outside of the [REDACTED] that you would
10 have interviewed?

11 A No.

12 Q So, for the purposes of July 13th and the incident, your role was limited to
13 the surveillance and then the eventual entering into the residence and conversations with
14 his [REDACTED]?

15 A That's right.

16 Q So you guys are outside for about an hour; is that right? Forty-five minutes
17 to an hour?

18 A For surveillance initially?

19 Q Yeah.

20 A Yes, about that.

21 Q Have you had experience with having to surveil a house in the past?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And for what purposes would you have to surveil a house?

24 A To gather intelligence, depending on what we were there for. For example,
25 with the Marshals Service, if we were conducting surveillance to apprehend a fugitive, we

1 want to see people coming and going. Gather intelligence is --

2 Q And -- I'm sorry.

3 A Yeah. No, that's it.

4 Q I think you mentioned before you had not been in this situation before.

5 Have you been in a situation in which there was an active shooter that you were
6 responding to?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And did you go to that person's residence?

9 A I was actually on surveillance -- responded while the shooter was actively
10 shooting, and unfortunately I had to get involved with that. It was in Pittsburgh.

11 Q And, in that situation, did you guys -- how soon did you go into the
12 residence?

13 A In the situation -- the active-shooter situation?

14 Q Yes.

15 A I never went in. Actually, similar circumstances. A bomb squad with a
16 robot went in, I believe. That residence I didn't go in.

17 Q Assuming you were present, did you have a sense of, did they also wait, like,
18 45 minutes to an hour, or was it faster?

19 A And, I apologize, just so we're talking -- you're talking about the
20 active-shooter situation?

21 Q Right.

22 A It was hours.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Yeah.

25 Q And in those situations in which -- and we're talking about a political event;

1 someone just tried to assassinate a former President who's now the
2 President-elect -- was there any concern about preserving evidence?

3 A Was there any concern about it?

4 Q And to put it another way, was there any concern about whoever was inside
5 destroying evidence?

6 A Yes, of course. Yeah. I mean, we secured the residence. We wanted to
7 make sure, you know, no civilians went inside the residence. That's why we established
8 a security perimeter and no one was allowed to enter or exit other than law enforcement.

9 Q And I think you mentioned that you went back in with the bomb squad to
10 see if there was anything of use for the command post. Is that right?

11 A That's right, yeah.

12 Q So what was the thinking during the initial sweep? Like, why not do a
13 more -- a closer look at each room during your initial sweep?

14 A Well, we didn't have consent. We didn't talk to the [REDACTED] other than, you
15 know, was there anyone else home, just to glance, make it safe for us.

16 So it would've been the interview -- in my experience, I anticipated we would've
17 interviewed them and talked to them in the house, until we saw the explosive.

18 Q So the consent you received was limited to, like, a protective sweep?

19 A Initially, yes.

20 Q Did you guys obtain a search warrant that night?

21 A I did not. I wasn't aware of any, you know. If there was one obtained, I
22 don't know.

23 Q Do you recall an interview with any of Trump's friends -- I
24 mean -- "Trump's" -- Crooks's friends? Pardon me.

25 A No.

1 Q Which of the ROIs were yours? Do you recall which numbers you would
2 have put in?

3 A I don't recall the numbers. I wrote one for my initial response and
4 then -- my initial response and then the sweep when we went back in and took
5 photographs, I believe.

6 Q And you mentioned the [REDACTED] asking about whether his [REDACTED] was involved.
7 Do you recall what the [REDACTED] would've said?

8 A You're saying when they -- during the interview?

9 Q Yes.

10 A Oh, I apologize. You're saying when we first walked up to the residence?

11 Q Right.

12 A The [REDACTED] was sitting in the living room at the time. That all occurred as
13 he opened the screen door on the porch from the kitchen. So, as that unfolded in those
14 brief seconds, I didn't even know [REDACTED] was sitting in there. So, no, she didn't say
15 anything that I heard.

16 Q Were the [REDACTED] considered to be persons of interest at all? Were they
17 suspects?

18 A It wasn't relayed to me that there was information about that from the
19 command post. In my mind at the time, I didn't think that or know -- I didn't know. So
20 I didn't treat it like that. It was a make contact and determine that, if that was the case.

21 Q And you mentioned, when going into Crooks's room, that you saw what
22 appeared to be an IED pretty quickly.

23 A Yes.

24 Q Were you able to see it from the hallway?

25 A Yes. If you walk down the hallway and you look right -- let's say you're

1 going down the hallway -- to the right, you'd see it there from the hallway.

2 Q And was the door open?

3 A The door was open.

4 Q So you didn't have to do anything. You're walking; without touching
5 anything, you look and you could see it?

6 A Yes.

7 [REDACTED] Do you have any questions?

8 [REDACTED] A few.

9 All right. A couple quick things.

10 First of all, our staff director has walked in.

11 Director, do you want to --

12 [REDACTED] [REDACTED], minority staff director.

13 ATF Personnel 2. Hi, sir.

14 BY [REDACTED]

15 Q Got it. Brilliant.

16 So I just -- help me clarify -- I may have been a bad listener on this -- the timeline
17 of that night. I know things may be foggy or hazy here or there.

18 Can you just walk me through from when you first heard about it, the general
19 times, especially in that 10:00-10:30 timeframe? But start it when you first heard about
20 the event.

21 A When I first heard about the event that day?

22 Q Yeah.

23 A 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., when I was on vacation.

24 Q Yep.

25 A That's when I first heard about it, approximately.

1 En route, I got a few more details. When I say "en route," to my house to get my
2 government vehicle --

3 Q Yep.

4 A -- until about 10:00 or 10:30, when I arrived at the Bethel Park Police
5 Department, approximately.

6 From Bethel Park Police Department, we were there -- "we," again, ATF, other ATF
7 agents -- 20 or 30 minutes or so. Were instructed to go initiate surveillance 10:30 or
8 11:00.

9 Went on surveillance for -- was on surveillance for about an hour, hour or so.
10 Was instructed to make our approach and attempt to make contact with the residents
11 maybe around midnight or so.

12 Q Can I just recap that real quick?

13 A Sure.

14 Q You're on vacation. Go get your govvie vehicle.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q En route, told the Bethel Park Police Station. You get there about 10
17 o'clock?

18 A Approximately.

19 Q You're there for 20, 30 minutes?

20 A Yep.

21 Q You go to the [REDACTED] home?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q That takes about another 30 minutes?

24 A Yes.

25 Q From the Bethel Police Department?

1 A Yes.

2 Q You get there 11:00-ish?

3 A Approximately.

4 Q You're outside for 45 minutes or an hour?

5 A Approximately.

6 Q And that's when you initiate contact with [REDACTED].

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Got it.

9 And, then, how long -- and, again, I'm sure you said this, but how long were you in
10 the home before you found the improvised explosive device and cleared everyone out?

11 A A few minutes.

12 Q Got it.

13 And then you were outside for approximately how long?

14 A Approximately an hour.

15 Q And that's -- during that time is when you're conducting the majority of the
16 interview? All of the interview? How much of the interview was done?

17 A All of the interview.

18 Q Okay.

19 And then you go back in after an hour, around 1 o'clock? Is that right?

20 A Approximately.

21 Q Okay.

22 And then just take me, time-wise -- I don't need to get into the details, but just
23 time-wise, what happens from there?

24 A Yeah. So, when we concluded the interview after the bomb squad got
25 there and then ultimately went back in the house with the bomb squad on the final

1 sweep, we were in the house for -- again, approximate -- 20 or 30 minutes -- 20 minutes
2 or so.

3 Q Okay. What time did you leave the house, about?

4 A Approximately 1:00, 1:30.

5 Q Fair enough.

6 All right. A couple quick -- the bomb squad, you said, was from Allegheny
7 County?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay.

10 And then there was also a discussion at the end of our colleagues' time about the
11 weapons in the [REDACTED] closet? Is that right? Is that what I heard?

12 A Yes. I recall, in the shooter's room, on the floor, there was a pistol belt
13 with a holster, like a tactical pistol belt. There wasn't a pistol in it.

14 I'm trying to remember -- and, again, the photographs would be helpful, but -- if
15 the safes -- I believe the safes were in the [REDACTED]-room closet.

16 Q Got it.

17 And so I was unclear -- so you go into the closet. Safe open? Safe closed?

18 How did you see the weapons, then, from your perspective?

19 A I think there were some weapons, separate --

20 Q Got it.

21 A -- that weren't all in the safes.

22 Q Got it.

23 A The safe doors weren't open. I don't know if they were locked or not.

24 There were a few things sitting on top of the safe, I remember. And, if I recall -- again, I
25 apologize; the pictures would refresh my memory -- there were some items sitting on top

1 of the safes. If you're looking in the closet, that's where some of the safes were.

2 Q Got it.

3 Did it look scattered about, haphazard? Or was it sort of, hey, this is a
4 normal -- relatively normal circumstance in terms of, someone has guns, this is where
5 they would put them, in the closet?

6 A Relatively normal.

7 Q All right.

8 A In my experience, a lot of people put firearms and whatnot in their closet.

9 Q Got it.

10 I just have a couple other questions about the interview with the [REDACTED], in
11 particular about Thomas Crooks.

12 First of all, you said, I believe, that he liked talking about politics and generally
13 debating. Is that right?

14 A Yes. According to his [REDACTED], who was telling us about him, yeah.

15 Q Got it. But that he wasn't particularly ideological one way or the other?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Did he express -- to your recollection, did the father, when talking about the
18 [REDACTED], say he had any particular pro-Trump, anti-Trump, anything along those lines
19 regarding the event in particular?

20 A No, he didn't indicate either way. You know, it wasn't like he voluntarily
21 said, "Look, yeah, my" -- this is an example -- "my Trump didn't" -- or, I'm sorry -- "[REDACTED]
22 didn't like Trump. [REDACTED] really liked Biden." I guess I was kind of expecting that to be
23 brought up that way, but --

24 Q Sure.

25 A -- it wasn't.

1 Q In any of the discussions with [REDACTED], anything you saw -- let
2 me first ask, when they said, "Hey" -- when you come to the front door and they said, you
3 know, "Was [REDACTED] involved" -- is that right?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Was it -- did you get a sense that, "We kind of thought he might be"? Or
6 was it just, "We know there has been a shooting, and now there are a bunch of law
7 enforcement officers at our house, so we presume" -- they're making that connection?
8 Or was there more than that?

9 A Very quickly, that -- we were kind of taken aback by that as we were walking
10 up. I assumed that they were going to be shocked that we were there, but -- and then
11 when he said, "The news called me," it made more sense in that moment, that he was
12 notified.

13 Q Got it.

14 A So then he wasn't surprised we were there.

15 Q Yeah.

16 And I'm asking, you know, looking back on this, was there anything about the
17 interaction that was kind of, "Hey, we're not surprised" beyond -- and it may be hard to
18 disaggregate this, but was it something where, knowing [REDACTED], now looking back at it,
19 we're not surprised? Or just, we can kind of put two and two together, that [REDACTED]
20 probably involved, at this point?

21 A Um --

22 Q And maybe a better way to phrase this: Is there anything from your
23 interviews with them that showed that they maybe had a notion that [REDACTED] would've
24 been involved in something like this or would've gone down this road?

25 A You know, everyone handles situations different. Obviously, this is

1 something very different --

2 Q Sure.

3 A -- than a lot of people would come across or deal with.

4 They were concerned. They were curious. They wanted answers. They
5 wanted confirmation about what they heard, supposedly, from the news.

6 I would be speculating. I don't --

7 Q Yeah. Fair enough.

8 And the last thing I have is just, was there anything from their demeanor or
9 anything from their interactions that seemed off in terms of -- obviously, this is a unique
10 event and everyone may react differently, but were their reactions in any way surprising
11 to you based on the totality of the circumstances?

12 A They weren't animated. You know, I'll say, they weren't freaking out, they
13 weren't crying, they weren't screaming and yelling. They were very compliant and
14 polite. We asked them to sit down on the street at a safe distance.

15 And even during the interview -- you know, we open it up for questions -- we said,
16 you know, "Do you guys have any questions for us?" And [REDACTED], who really didn't
17 say much at all throughout the whole interview -- throughout all this, said, "[REDACTED]
18 really dead?" And we said, "Yes, [REDACTED] is deceased."

19 She started to get upset and started to cry. And [REDACTED] put his hand out and
20 said, you know, "It's okay. It's not true until we see the body," I believe is what he said,
21 something to that effect.

22 Q Huh.

23 A They sat there the whole time. You know, they -- [REDACTED] pretty much
24 talked to us the whole time, I would say, on his side of things, ran the interview. [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED] sat there and didn't say much, for the most part.

1 Q Got it.

2 And so nothing -- the last question -- nothing you recall about sort of speculating
3 on why this happened or how this could've happened, from their perspective?

4 A No. They didn't really offer anything. Again, like you said, they
5 didn't -- they weren't very surprised. They didn't volunteer and say, [REDACTED] was acting
6 like this, for example, or acting like that, like, either way. So --

7 Q Thank you. Those were all the questions I have.

8 BY [REDACTED]

9 Q You said that you expected them to maybe talk about pro-Biden or
10 pro-Trump or some sort of political position.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Did you ask about it?

13 A Little followup things, like, you know, for example, "Okay, so it wasn't like he
14 liked Trump more or Biden more?" type of things.

15 And, you know, he just said that [REDACTED] was always right in these arguments, he
16 was a history buff, and he always liked to argue both sides. That he never really got an
17 indication -- at least I don't recall [REDACTED] saying, no, no, no -- again, an example -- [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] really likes Trump, or vice versa -- or Biden. He really didn't indicate that either way.

19 Q And I think I heard you earlier, but to confirm, you said the bomb squad for
20 Allegheny County, they were the same ones that were at the Butler Farm Grounds? Is
21 that right?

22 A If I said that -- I don't know where they came from. It took them a while to
23 get there. Maybe that was more of an assumption, and I apologize. I don't know
24 where they were.

25 Q I could be mistaken, so don't apologize at all. So you're not sure who was

1 at the Butler Farm Grounds?

2 A I'm not sure, no.

3 [REDACTED] Well, sir, that's all that I have. Thank you for your service to the
4 community and to this country.

5 ATF Personnel 2. Thank you.

6 [REDACTED] We can go off the record.

7 [Whereupon, at 2:52 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date

**Majority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
ATF Personnel 2 dated November 26, 2024**

Page	Line	Change
5	9	CHANGE "task force" TO "Task Force"
5	10	CHANGE "task force" TO "Task Force"
5	17	CHANGE "task force" TO "Task Force"
5	18	CHANGE "task force" TO "Task Force"
20	24	CHANGE "moving in" TO "moving on"
29	6	CHANGE "moving." TO "moving on."
31	18	CHANGE "task force" TO "Task Force"

**Minority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
ATF Personnel 2 dated November 26, 2024**

Page	Line	Change
38	3	CHANGE “ [REDACTED] ” TO “ [REDACTED] ”
46	21	CHANGE “ [REDACTED] ” TO “ [REDACTED] ”