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5 TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

6 OF DONALD J. TRUMP,

7 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

8 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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14 INTERVIEW OF:



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Monday, September 16, 2024

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Washington, D.C.

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The interview in the above matter was held in 245 Pittsburgh Road, Suite 300,

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Butler, PA, commencing at 9:03 a.m.

1 Appearances:

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5 For the TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

6 OF DONALD J. TRUMP:

7

8 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

9 [REDACTED] SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

10 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

11 [REDACTED], LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

12

13 For [REDACTED]:

14

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

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25 [REDACTED]. All right. So we are now on the record.

1 Today is Friday, September 13th, and this is a transcribed interview of Butler ESU
2 member [REDACTED]. House Resolution 1367 directed this task force to
3 investigate the facts and circumstances of the attempted assassination of Donald J.
4 Trump on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania. Pursuant to House Resolution 1367,
5 Chairman Kelly and Ranking Member Crow have requested this interview as part of the
6 task force's investigation.

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

8 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

9 [REDACTED]: Thank you, [REDACTED].

10 My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a senior counsel with the task force majority.

11 I want to thank you for coming in today for this interview. The task force recognizes and
12 appreciates that you're here voluntarily today. So thank you, sir.

13 You're allowed to have an attorney present to advise you during this interview.

14 Do you have an attorney representing you in a personal capacity present with you
15 today?

16 [REDACTED]: I do.

17 [REDACTED]: Will counsel please identify themselves for the record.

18 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED].

19 [REDACTED]: Next, starting with the majority and then the minority, can the
20 additional staff members please introduce themselves with their name, title, and
21 affiliation.

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

23 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], investigative counsel, task force, minority.

24 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], legislative attorney with the Congressional Research
25 Service, providing support to the task force.

1 [REDACTED]: All right. Thank you, all.

2 So, [REDACTED], before we begin, I would just like to go over the ground rules
3 for the interview. The way that the interview will proceed is as follows: The majority
4 and minority staff members will alternate asking you questions, 30 minutes per side, per
5 round until each side is finished with their questioning. The majority staff will begin and
6 proceed for 30 minutes, and then the minority staff will have 30 minutes to ask you
7 questions as well. We'll alternate back and forth in that manner until both sides have no
8 more questions.

9 If either side is in the middle of a specific line of questions, they may choose to
10 end a few minutes past 30 minutes to ensure completion of that specific line of
11 questioning, including any pertinent follow-ups.

12 In this interview while one member of the staff for each side may lead the
13 questioning, additional staff may ask questions.

14 There's a court reporter taking down everything I say and everything that you say
15 to make a written record of this interview. For the record to be clear, please wait until
16 the staff member questioning you has finished each question before you begin your
17 answer, and the staff member will wait until you finish your response before proceeding
18 to the next question.

19 To ensure that the court reporter can properly record this interview, sir, please
20 speak clearly, concisely and slowly. Also, the court reporter cannot record nonverbal
21 answers, such as nodding or shaking your head, so it's important that you answer each
22 question with an audible verbal answer.

23 Do you understand?

24 [REDACTED]: I do.

25 [REDACTED]: All right. We want to ensure that you answer our questions in the

1 most complete and truthful manner as possible so we will take our time. If you have
2 any questions or do not fully understand the question, please let us know, and we will
3 attempt to clarify, add context to, or rephrase our questions.

4 Do you understand?

5 [REDACTED]: I do.

6 [REDACTED]: If we ask about specific conversations or events in the past and you
7 are unable to recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the substance of
8 those conversations or events to the best of your recollection. If you recall only a part
9 of a conversation or event, you should give us your best recollection of those events or
10 parts of conversations that you do recall.

11 Do you understand?

12 [REDACTED]: I do.

13 [REDACTED]: And although you are here voluntarily, sir, and we will not swear you
14 in and you are not under oath, you are required pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001 to answer
15 questions from Congress truthfully. This also applies to questions posed by a
16 congressional staff during an interview.

17 Do you understand?

18 [REDACTED]: I do.

19 [REDACTED]: If at any time you knowingly make false statements, you could be
20 subject to criminal prosecution.

21 Do you understand?

22 [REDACTED]: I do.

23 [REDACTED]: Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful testimony in
24 today's interview?

25 [REDACTED]: Nope.

1 [REDACTED]: Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement
2 today that assertion must apply to the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives. For
3 the chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony or statements, witnesses or
4 entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted, and the reason for the
5 assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance.

6 Do you understand?

7 [REDACTED]. I do.

8 [REDACTED]. Finally, I'd like to note that the content of what we discuss here
9 today is confidential. We ask that you not speak about what we discuss here today in
10 this interview with any outside individual in order to preserve the integrity of this
11 investigation.

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

15 We plan to take a 5-minute break at the end of each 30 minutes of questioning.
16 But if you need a longer break or a break before that, please let us know, and we'll be
17 happy to accommodate you. However, to the extent that there's a pending question,
18 we would ask that you finish answering that question before we take the break.

19 Do you understand?

20 [REDACTED]. I do.

21 [REDACTED]. All right. Do you have any other questions, sir, before we begin?

22 [REDACTED]. No, I do not.

23 [REDACTED]. Okay. The time is now 9:06 a.m. The majority staff will begin its
24 questioning.

25

EXAMINATION

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q Sir, how long have you worked at the Butler Township Emergency Services
3 Unit on the quick response force team?

4 A I have been a member of the Butler County ESU team since 2017.

5 Q Okay. And how long have you been in your current role?

6 A In my current role, I was appointed team leader in 2019, I believe.

7 Q Okay. And how long have you been in an emergency services role?

8 A Since 2017.

9 Q What are your daily responsibilities in your current role?

10 A My current role is a team leader. I'm responsible for planning training.
11 I'm responsible for planning operations. I'm also responsible for 10 other members of
12 the team in managing, and et cetera.

13 Q Are you able to, one, just break down the members of the team for us for
14 the record?

15 A I'm trying to think what you're asking, like members --

16 Q So could you -- I mean, we don't need the names specifically, but are they
17 broken down into specific teams further?

18 A Yes. There's a -- you've got the command element, which is a commander,
19 two assistant commanders. You have a team leader for Alpha squad, and you have a
20 team leader for Bravo squad. Each team, Alpha and Bravo, have an assistant team
21 leader. So I have an assistant team leader, so does Alpha squad.

22 Now you have a -- now the team is broken down into a sniper element too. They
23 have a team leader and assistant team leader. Our negotiations has a team leader,
24 assistant team leader. So does our TEMS side, our medical side, they have a team
25 leader and assistant team leader, so --

1 Q And who directly reports to you in the chain of command?

2 A In the chain of command, I have my assistant team leader and my members.
3 Those are the only ones that answer to me. I answer to the command side.

4 Q And then who do those team leads then direct below them?

5 A We direct our squad members.

6 Q Okay. Let's move to advance planning, sir.

7 When did you first learn that the former President Trump was coming to Butler?

8 A It was actually [REDACTED], Operator [REDACTED] notified us on the Signal app on
9 July 3rd at about 8:20 in the evening that he heard that former President Trump was
10 coming to the Farm Show grounds.

11 In my response, I said that I did not know anything about it, which in turn
12 somebody sent back the campaign website tag, and, I'm, like, ah, so --

13 Q Okay. Was there any sort of formal request for staffing? That was just
14 the initial notification, informal?

15 A That was just us knowing that it was coming, so --

16 Q Okay. And you had mentioned you were all just corresponding over Signal.
17 Was that just your sort of informal communication channel?

18 A It's encrypted so the whole team can share information and discuss things.

19 Q Okay. Were you -- so you had mentioned as part of your responsibility you
20 plan training. So can you go into whether you were involved in any advance planning
21 prior to July 13?

22 A I was. Actually, that July 4th, that morning at 0400 hours, Assistant Team
23 Leader from Alpha squad [REDACTED] and Assistant Team Leader [REDACTED], my assistant, we all
24 went to the Farm Show grounds and viewed it. We had no idea where the stage was
25 going to be or anything like that, but we did go there and viewed the grounds.

1 Q Okay. After you all went to go view the grounds, what else did you do in
2 terms of advance planning?

3 A Well, we didn't have a meeting. We were notified the 5th of July about a
4 meeting down in Pittsburgh on the 8th at 1 o'clock down at Allegheny County 911 Center
5 with the Secret Service.

6 Q Okay. And who all was present at that July 5th meeting?

7 A July 5th, that wasn't a meeting. That was just -- I was notified that there
8 was a meeting for July 8th. All right.

9 Q Okay.

10 A They emailed Lieutenant [REDACTED] from Butler Township. They also reached
11 out to [REDACTED] and let him know.

12 Q Okay. So who would be present at that July 8th meeting?

13 A Myself, Assistant Commander [REDACTED], and Lieutenant [REDACTED].

14 Q And the Secret Service as well?

15 A Oh, yeah, the Secret Service.

16 Do you want me to go in depth on that?

17 Q Yes, if you could, please.

18 A Okay. So we arrived at the Allegheny County 911 Center, went in their
19 meeting room. Agent [REDACTED] addressed the whole crowd of EMA and law
20 enforcement. He addressed and said that he was the -- I believe the lead agent for the
21 Pittsburgh Field Office, and he said -- he thanked everybody for showing up and said that
22 he wasn't going to give the brief. It was going to be Agent [REDACTED] was going to
23 give the brief, which was a PowerPoint, about 10 slides. It covered contact information
24 for Secret Service, Homeland Security, things like that.

25 And then it started covering buttons, for which buttons the Secret Service wears.

1 It had a picture of a CAT member, and then she broke us down into groups.

2 When she broke us down into groups, the law enforcement side was broken down
3 into traffic control, which was Butler Township's detail, and then it went into the tactical
4 team side, which was mine and [REDACTED]'s side of it. So we went over and talked to, I
5 believe it was Agent [REDACTED] -- yeah, Agent [REDACTED] -- and talked to him. And he said that we
6 need two counter assault teams and one QRF team.

7 Q Can you spell his last name, please, sir?

8 A I believe it's [REDACTED].

9 Q And what was Agent [REDACTED]'s role?

10 A He was the Secret Service CAT operator. I believe he was a team leader for
11 their CAT team.

12 Q Sir, did you all receive a copy of this slide deck that was presented on the
13 8th?

14 A No, I did not.

15 Q Did you all ask for it?

16 A No, I did not.

17 Q Okay. How long did the briefing go on for?

18 A Approximately -- the slide show was pretty quick. The meeting between
19 the agents and the tactical team was pretty quick. And then we were probably out of
20 there probably within an hour.

21 Q Was there any Q&A period?

22 A Not really. I did -- when we were done with the tactical side, I did meet
23 with Agent [REDACTED]. I guess she is the agent that is assigned to Trump's private detail
24 down at Mar-a-Lago. She came up and reiterated that they needed two CAT teams, one
25 QRF team, and she asked about our assets. She asked if we had two pieces of armor.

1 And I said, yes, we can have two pieces of armor there, which is our armored vehicle,
2 our -- like a BearCat.

3 Q Did the Secret Service indicate on July 8th they would, you know, follow up
4 or be in contact again? What were the next steps or directions or instructions from the
5 Secret Service?

6 A At that point as I -- we all understand here, I'm just a team leader. So all
7 communication from the Secret Service goes to my command, okay, and then it gets
8 filtered down to me. So at that point Assistant Commander [REDACTED] and Commander
9 [REDACTED], they were getting the communication from the Secret Service.

10 Q Okay.

11 A And they would say, Hey, this is what we have been tasked with now, so --

12 Q Did the Secret Service go over -- in terms of you had mentioned how to
13 communicate with them, what did they say was the means or method in which you
14 should do that?

15 A They did provide their cell phone numbers. Agent [REDACTED] provided a cell
16 phone number, his email address. Agent [REDACTED] did not. Their contact information for
17 Agent [REDACTED] and Agent [REDACTED] was on the PowerPoint, so I -- it was taken -- it was written
18 down somewhere. So I didn't write it down.

19 [REDACTED]: Did you feel that the information that they shared with you that day
20 was adequate for your planning, or did you feel like you needed more?

21 [REDACTED]: My -- I needed a little bit more information at that point of -- I'm
22 really OCD when it comes to planning because I want to know everything that's going on.
23 The main thing that I wanted to know was where the stage was going to be, because I
24 knew the grounds. I'm from here. You know, my kids do the Farm Show every year, so
25 I know the grounds. So I didn't know where they were going to fit 10,000 cars and

1 20,000 people. So that's my main concern was I want to know where the stage was
2 going to be, and they didn't have that information at that point.

3 BY [REDACTED]:

4 Q So thank you, sir. You take us sort of to our next question further to my
5 colleague's inquiry here.

6 Did the Secret Service, you know, describe the grounds or go into detail about the
7 grounds?

8 A No, they did not. They -- a 911 communication guy from Allegheny County
9 actually pulled up Google Maps that day and showed them the grounds on the map.

10 Q Did anyone ask the Secret Service at all if they were planning on reviewing
11 sort of the grounds?

12 A I did not, no, not that I recall.

13 Q Were you all concerned about the fact that the Secret Service did not go into
14 those details with you all?

15 A Well, it was early in the week. I figured that we would have more
16 meetings. This was not the first time we've dealt with the Secret Service with a
17 President candidate coming to Butler, so we figured that we would get more direction
18 later on. So this was just the initial, so --

19 Q So just moving on, did you participate in advance planning in your capacity
20 as a Butler Township police officer as a member of the Butler County ESU?

21 A Yes, I was involved in planning.

22 Q Okay. Did anyone from Butler ESU or Butler P.D. participate in any advance
23 planning activities?

24 A I believe what you're getting to is that -- the July 11th at 1000 where we met
25 at the Farm Show grounds with the Secret Service, I believe that's what you are asking

1 about?

2 Q Just broadly. And then we can cover that as well.

3 A July 11th at 1000 hours, the Secret Service reached out and said that they
4 were going to have a meeting at the Farm Show grounds, so we all met there. At that
5 point, I met with Agent [REDACTED]. Agent [REDACTED] and Agent [REDACTED] were both there, along
6 with State Police, Butler Township, Connoquenessing Fire. Butler County EMA was
7 there, several other EMA organizations from the county.

8 Q Okay. And how long did that sort of briefing occur on July 11th?

9 A Well, it really wasn't a briefing. It was sort of a gaggle. You know, the
10 stage was somewhat up where we knew where the stage was going to be at that point,
11 which was Thursday. You know, they really didn't have, like, an organization to it, like,
12 Hey, you guys go here. You guys go there. This is what we're going to do.

13 So at some point, we started following along with them, and I was
14 explaining -- [REDACTED] asked where we were going to be. And at that point, I knew where
15 we were going to be, and I showed her on the map where we're going to be, you know.
16 And then they started talking about where the concession stands were going to be. You
17 know, at that point tactical teams don't need to know where concession stands are at,
18 you know.

19 Q Sure. Sir, when you showed up on July 11th, you called it a gaggle. Was
20 there any organization as to the manner in which the Secret Service walked you through
21 the grounds that day or provided you with any information?

22 A They didn't provide us with any information. As I stated prior to the last
23 meeting that we had down in Allegheny County, while they broke us down, while they
24 said the tactical teams go with this guy, you know, traffic go with this guy, EMA go with
25 this guy, there was none of that, so --

1 Q So could you then go into detail what was reviewed or discussed with you all
2 when you arrived?

3 A Well, at the point where we realized that they were discussing where
4 concession stands were going to be, we were, like, yeah, we don't need to know this. So
5 Agent [REDACTED], the counter sniper, was there. I don't know when he showed up, but
6 he was there. And so, we decided that we were going to go out around and view where
7 we were going to be, so --

8 Q Were any operational plans discussed with you by the Secret Service?

9 A No.

10 Q Were any incident response plans discussed with you by the Secret Service
11 that day?

12 A No.

13 Q How did you know what your assigned locations were going to be?

14 A We chose our locations.

15 Q Based on what?

16 A Where the stage was going to be and to get the most coverage that we can
17 possibly get.

18 [REDACTED]: And did you share that information with Agent [REDACTED]?

19 [REDACTED]: Agent [REDACTED] knew about it. He actually walked around with
20 us. [REDACTED] was shown on the map where we were going to be. Okay. She was
21 shown each barn where the CAT teams were going to be and the QRF teams.

22 BY [REDACTED]:

23 Q Did you decide that day on the spot where you all were going to be?

24 A We kind of had an idea where the stage was going to be prior to that, but we
25 really didn't see exactly where it was going to be until that day, but we had -- it was pretty

1 well-known where we were going to be.

2 Q When you told the Secret Service of where you all decided you were going to
3 be posted, did they provide any type of approval or signal approval to you all?

4 A It wasn't approval, but there was no, "No, we don't want you here. We
5 don't want you there. We don't want you here." The only thing that was stated was
6 they wanted us out of view, out of sight. Okay. I don't know which agent said that,
7 "Out of view, out of sight." They really didn't want us out in public, which was later
8 clarified by [REDACTED] that they just didn't want us out with an armored vehicle in tac gear
9 where the cameras could see us.

10 Q What did you take that to mean, sir, at the time when you were told to be
11 out of sight?

12 A Basically, we were going to be in the barns, not outside. It was basically
13 keep the BearCats inside the barns so the public can't see them. If you guys are wearing
14 tac gear, stay inside the barns. We don't want to see you outside the barns. That's
15 what I viewed that as.

16 Q Did you, at any point, provide the Secret Service with a document showing
17 where you would all be posted?

18 A I know it was exchanged, but I didn't -- I did not do it.

19 Q Okay. Did Butler County ESU provide Beaver County ESU with any advance
20 planning or operational materials?

21 A Yes, they were provided, but I didn't do it. It was above my pay grade.

22 Q Okay. And did you receive any advance planning or operational materials
23 from local law enforcement?

24 A I actually prepared Butler Township's operational plan.

25 Q Okay. I would now like to introduce as majority exhibit 1 the Butler

1 Township Operational Plan.

2 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 1

3 was marked for identification.]

4 BY [REDACTED]:

5 Q Sir, do you recognize this plan?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you prepare this plan?

8 A I prepared it. It was prepared and then it was updated by the lieutenant.

9 Q At what point was this plan finalized?

10 A I don't know when it was finalized. I had it done and emailed to him on the
11 night of the 8th. Night of the 8th I had it completed and emailed to the lieutenant.

12 Q Was this plan ever sent to the Secret Service, sir?

13 A I do not know.

14 Q Would anyone on your team know that?

15 A Nobody on the team would know that. Only Butler Township would know
16 that.

17 Q So you never sent this plan to the Secret Service?

18 A I never sent this to the Secret Service, no.

19 Q Do you think that it would have been important for the Secret Service to see
20 this plan?

21 A I believe they should know, especially with the motorcade, where our police
22 were going to be.

23 Q Okay. Were they aware of that information, sir?

24 A I do not know.

25 Q So moving on to -- what do you understand of what the Secret Service's role

1 or job was the day of July 13th?

2 A Their role? I believe they were the -- in my point of view, the Secret Service
3 was in charge of the whole event. It was theirs, so --

4 Q Can you go into more detail as to specific responsibilities?

5 [REDACTED]: Do you mean the Secret Service's responsibilities?

6 [REDACTED]: Yes.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.

8 If you know that.

9 A As far as I know, they were responsible for the whole -- the whole event,
10 security of everything. It was their show.

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q And were they also responsible for directing local law enforcement and ESU
13 teams?

14 A I feel -- and my point of view is they give us a mission. They understand
15 our -- from what they stated, our mission. We come up with a plan. They give us a
16 thumbs up, and we go from there.

17 Q Did they give you any subsequent documentation as to responsibilities or
18 duties following the July 11th walk-through?

19 A I believe there was a request for a sniper asset, but again, that's above my
20 pay grade.

21 Q The request came from Secret Service to --

22 A To my commander, [REDACTED].

23 Q For a sniper asset?

24 A For sniper assets, yes.

25 Q Did they give you a document outlining what your all's responsibilities were

1 going to be the day of the rally?

2 A No. There was no documents shared.

3 Q Did you all request any documents from the Secret Service?

4 A No.

5 Q Were there any other walk-throughs held after July 11th?

6 A Not that I recall.

7 Q Are you aware of any member of your team attending any additional
8 walk-throughs with the Secret Service after July 11th?

9 A No, I do not.

10 Q Okay. So we've been told that there were two command posts. One was
11 the emergency department trailer and one was the Secret Service Command Post.

12 Is that in line with your recollection?

13 A That is in line with my recollection.

14 Q And when did you become aware of that?

15 A During the plan. I don't know the exact date.

16 Q During the plan?

17 A During the -- in the planning phase, which would be from July 8th through
18 the 11th, somewhere in there, I was told that we would have the command trailer there.

19 Q And who told you that?

20 A I believe Commander [REDACTED] told us that the command trailer would be at
21 the event.

22 Q Do you know who made the decision to have the two posts?

23 A No, I do not.

24 Q Okay. Were you in either of those locations at any point during the day on
25 July 13?

1 A July 13th I was never at the command post, which was the Farm Show office,
2 the Secret Service. I was never there. If I was at our command post, it was very
3 briefly. I wasn't inside. It might have been walking past; but I was never inside our
4 command post.

5 Q Okay. And were you aware of any conversations regarding the day of
6 communications between the Secret Service and Butler ESU?

7 A No. It was above my pay grade. That was -- I was in charge of the CAT
8 team, and that's what I was supervising.

9 Q Did any discussions of the AGR building come up in advance planning
10 conversations?

11 A It did. It did come up on July 11th. It did come up during that
12 walk-around. And it wasn't me bringing it up. It was Patrolman [REDACTED] -- or Operator
13 [REDACTED] brought it up. I know the Secret Service acknowledged the AGR building; but as
14 far as that, they said that they would take care of it along with the water tower.

15 [REDACTED]: Who said that and also who did [REDACTED] bring those concerns up to?

16 [REDACTED]: Agent [REDACTED], Agent [REDACTED], and Agent [REDACTED] were there. Now,
17 when we're talking about this, you know, there's 15 people standing around. So in the
18 middle of talking, discussing the plan, what we're going to do, and I hear it brought up, I
19 don't hear who acknowledged the AGR and that they would take care of it. But I know
20 one of them did, okay, because I heard it that we will take care of it because I was in the
21 middle of talking with my assistant team leaders and command saying, Hey, here is where
22 we're going to be. We're going to be over here, over there, so --

23 BY [REDACTED]:

24 Q So for the record, sir, Officer [REDACTED] brought up the AGR building, and you
25 heard distinctly someone from the Secret Service --

1 A Yes.

2 Q -- say, quote, "We'll take care of it"?

3 A Yes, that is correct.

4 Q Were there any other questions following the Secret Service's reply of,
5 "We'll take care of it"?

6 A No. No, there was no further questions.

7 Q Okay. We'll move to the day of, sir, July 13, the campaign rally. Can you
8 briefly discuss a timeline of events for that day, including any operational briefings that
9 may have occurred?

10 A I arrived at the location probably right around 0900 hours. At 0915, at the
11 Brady Paul F.O.P. Lodge, I set up for our operational brief. That's when we started to
12 brief for the issue. I don't know what Butler Township did. I don't know what time
13 they had their brief, but ESU had their brief at the Brady Paul at 0915 in the morning.
14 Present was members of the Washington County SWAT and Beaver County ESU.

15 Q I would now like to introduce for the record majority exhibit 2.

16 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 2

17 was marked for identification.]

18 BY [REDACTED]:

19 Q Sir, do you recognize this slide deck?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. Was this the slide deck that was used for the morning briefing of
22 July 13?

23 A It does.

24 Q It was the slide deck?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. Did you participate in creating this deck, sir?

2 A I did.

3 Q Okay. When did you finalize this deck?

4 A It was sent to Commander [REDACTED], and he finalized it. He's the one that
5 approves it, finalizes it, and makes sure everything is taken care of in it.

6 Q Who else, if anyone, helped you put together this deck?

7 A As stated before, I do have assistants, team leaders that do help out and
8 plan. They don't make the slides, but they help in the planning, so -- and then, I send it
9 up to command, and they approve it.

10 Q So there were other individuals that assisted you --

11 A Yeah.

12 Q -- in creating this deck?

13 A There was other individuals that helped with the plan. But as far as putting
14 into the PowerPoint, it was me.

15 Q Who were those other individuals that helped to put together the deck?

16 A It would have been Assistant Team Leader [REDACTED], Assistant Team Leader
17 [REDACTED], Assistant Commander [REDACTED], Assistant Commander [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] himself
18 would assist me in the operational plan. And then I would put it all into the PowerPoint
19 form.

20 Q Who delivered the briefing that morning, sir?

21 A It was me and Commander [REDACTED].

22 Q For the entirety of the briefing, it was just you and [REDACTED]?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Who was present at the briefing?

25 A As stated, I can't name them all, but there was Butler County ESU,

1 Washington Regional SWAT, and Beaver County ESU.

2 Q Was anyone from Secret Service at the briefing?

3 A No, there was not.

4 Q Were there any other materials distributed at the briefing other than
5 majority exhibit 2?

6 A I believe that was the only thing exchanged is just the operational brief.

7 Q Was there any information about known or suspected threats toward former
8 President Trump discussed at the briefing?

9 A There was not.

10 Q Was there a Q&A period during the briefing, sir?

11 A Yes. At the end, Commander [REDACTED] took over and asked if there was any
12 additions, corrections, or anything else that anybody wanted us to bring up.

13 Q And did anyone have any questions, sir?

14 A No, they did not.

15 Q So following the presentation of this deck, no one had any questions and
16 everybody left the briefing?

17 A Left the briefing and went to their assigned details.

18 [REDACTED]: How long would you say the briefing lasted?

19 [REDACTED]: I would probably say half an hour, 45 minutes.

20 [REDACTED]: Is that standard for these types of things?

21 [REDACTED]: Yeah, about that, about that.

22 BY [REDACTED]:

23 Q Was any information shared regarding how a potential shooter would be
24 handled, or how responsibility would be split up?

25 A There -- basically, I believe in the op order, there would be a contingency

1 that if there was an attack, you know, that the QRF team would handle it, and if there was
2 an attack on the grounds, the QRF, and if there was an attack on former President Trump,
3 it would be the CAT teams that was discussed.

4 [REDACTED]: Thank you, sir.

5 My time is up.

6 [REDACTED]: We can go off the record.

7 [Discussion off the record.]

8 [REDACTED]: We can go back on the record.

9 Thank you.

10 BY [REDACTED]:

11 Q [REDACTED], thank you for being here today.

12 Can you just give us kind of an overview of your background and your career?

13 A I have been employed by the Butler Township Police for the last 20 years.

14 Prior to the Butler Township Police Department being employed, I did a short period at
15 the Butler County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that I served 4 years Active Duty Marine
16 Corps.

17 Q Thank you for your service.

18 A I appreciate it.

19 Q So can you give us an overview of your current duties with Butler Township?

20 A I currently am a patrolman, senior at the Butler Township Police
21 Department.

22 Q And do you have any prior experience with rallies?

23 A Other -- with -- we had the one, I believe it was October 31, 2020, when
24 President Trump came to the Butler County Airport.

25 Q Any other experience with rallies, or just the 2020?

1 A With working with the Secret Service, presidential candidates, that was the
2 only other one.

3 Q Okay. And what was your role during that?

4 A We were a QRF team for that.

5 Q And what was your role on the QRF?

6 A I was a team leader on that.

7 Q Who was the commander of Butler ESU at that time?

8 A At that time it was Commander [REDACTED].

9 Q And who was the deputy commander?

10 A [REDACTED].

11 Q And were there two deputies at that time or just one?

12 A Just one deputy commander.

13 Q Do you have experience with security detail, sir?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What is that experience?

16 A I spent a lot of time with the Marine Corps doing security details.

17 Q Okay. What locations?

18 A I was in Mombasa, Kenya. I was in -- we did a lot of ship details on
19 securities through Bahrain UAE. I'm trying to think where else. Kuwait. We did
20 guard -- camp guard duty in Jordan back in 19 -- no, it was 2000 -- 2001, 2001 in Jordan.
21 I was in Mombasa I believe in '99 -- '98, '99.

22 Q So were your years of Active Duty 1998 to 2002 or what --

23 A It was from 1997 until 2001.

24 Q Okay. And do you have a lot of experience coordinating with PSP or
25 Federal agencies?

1 A We have done several operations with the Federal Government, DEA, FBI,
2 for drugs. PSP, we work alongside, Pennsylvania State Police, so we do work with each
3 other, so --

4 Q So turning to the July 8th meeting, from what you said earlier, my
5 understanding is that they broke it off after a brief PowerPoint presentation into the
6 tactical element and the traffic control element. Is that correct?

7 A Yes. And there was other elements. Like EMA was there. Like their
8 emergency management, they broke off. I believe there was EMS there, things like that.
9 They broke off in their little groups.

10 Q Okay. What's the difference between EMA and EMS from a leadership
11 role?

12 A EMA is -- I don't know how to explain it for the -- there's a Federal standard
13 on EMA. EMS is just emergency medical. They're just like an ambulance service, EMS.
14 But EMA is like the whole emergency management agency.

15 Q Okay.

16 A Okay. They're in charge of like the whole emergency management of, like,
17 our county.

18 Q Yep. And who's over both of those?

19 A The EMA director for Butler County is [REDACTED]. He's the county one. I
20 don't know who Connoquesnessing's is. Butler Township's EMA director would be [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]. That's who's Butler Township's EMA.

22 Q Thank you.

23 So can you walk us through -- it sounds like your attendance at the planning
24 meetings were both in your role as Butler Township and as Butler ESU. How did you
25 navigate that?

1 A Well, I was on the tactical side of it, and the tactical side of it was very quick.

2 Q Okay.

3 A It was basically two CAT teams and a QRF team, and they're, like, Can you
4 handle that? And we're, like, Yeah, we can handle that.

5 And then I went over, and Lieutenant [REDACTED] says we've got traffic following the
6 intersection. That's what we're assigned to. I'm, like, okay.

7 Q Okay. So based on your attendance there in that conversation with
8 Lieutenant [REDACTED], he said, Can you create the tactical -- or the plan -- excuse me, not
9 the tactical plan. Can you create the traffic plan for Butler Township?

10 A I took that as when I went down there that I would help the lieutenant out
11 and write the plan and submit it to him, so he had it.

12 Q Okay.

13 A He didn't assign me it, but I took the bull by the horns and took care of it for
14 him.

15 Q Okay. How does that work, going from your Butler Township patrolman
16 duties to your team leader duties at Butler ESU?

17 A Sometimes it can be a little task-oriented, but we can -- or task-saturated, I
18 should state. But being a marine and being in the infantry, I can handle several things
19 going on at once.

20 Q Absolutely.

21 What is the process for the shift in change of command? So if day to day, you're
22 a Butler Township patrolman and then you're needed in your team leader role, how does
23 that process work, or how does that get approved?

24 A If I'm working for Butler Township --

25 Q Yes.

1 A -- I am Butler Township. If I am out as an ESU member, I am a team leader
2 for the ESU team.

3 Q How does that get approved though? So, like, in the Marine Corps, there
4 would be a, Hey, there's a tactic by a PACOM shift here, and you are very clearly now in
5 this role. Is it similar with the police force, or is the idea that you're going to be doing
6 both at once but just prioritizing the other?

7 A I'm trying to think how to answer this. Other than -- like who approves?

8 Q Yeah. Who approves it? And is there a specific process that needs to be
9 followed, or is it more Commander [REDACTED] sends an email and says, Patrolmen, we need
10 your help here, and then Lieutenant [REDACTED] approves it?

11 A As -- when I'm -- it has to be -- it gets approved by Lieutenant [REDACTED], or the
12 former chief before he retired. If we get a call-out, I notify the chief.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Hey, we're getting called out. This is what we're doing. And this is where
15 we're going. I'll let you know when we're done.

16 Q Got it.

17 A So --

18 Q Now, if both of them need you, who's going to win on that?

19 A Butler Township.

20 Q Okay. So what was that conversation? From the very beginning, did
21 Lieutenant [REDACTED] say, You're good to support Butler ESU for the 13 July?

22 A Yes. He was -- based upon his recommendation when I talked to him, he
23 said that, Yes, you're a team leader. You go with Butler County ESU that day.

24 Q Okay. Are you aware of any of the conversations between Lieutenant
25 [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] on how that was going to go for Officer [REDACTED]?

1 A No, I wasn't. That was above my pay grade.

2 Q From the planning process for Butler ESU, were you planning on Officer
3 [REDACTED] being with Butler ESU for that rally?

4 A No. If you -- in my operational plan for the traffic detail, he was on traffic.

5 Q Okay. So from 8 July he was going to be on traffic, not EMS?

6 A Yes, that is correct. He was employed by Butler Township that day.

7 Q Okay. Thank you for clarifying all of that.

8 With your planning, did you communicate with any other law enforcement offices
9 or agencies?

10 A No.

11 Q And do you have to go through a specific vetting process with -- to be on a
12 presidential security detail or part of a rally?

13 A There -- to answer your question, I was very surprised that they didn't ask
14 for a roster with all of our names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth when I'm
15 50 feet away from a candidate with armor and everything else. So I was very surprised
16 that they didn't ask for a roster.

17 Q Did you have any inputs on your role for the rally?

18 A No. It was we were directed to have two counter assault teams and one
19 QRF team.

20 Q And how do you make the decision internally who's going to be counter
21 assault and who's going to be QRF?

22 A It just -- it comes down to who's available and where guys go.

23 Q Yeah. So turning to the July 11 walk-through, do you recall walking around
24 fences to discuss vulnerabilities?

25 A I do.

1 Q And how did those discussions go?

2 A At some point, someone brought up the fact of the fence line and
3 that -- how vulnerable it was, mainly over towards AGR. Also -- I'm sure you guys have
4 been to the site, so you understand how 68 runs right in front of it.

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A You know, we have buildings, the whole line of that 68. We were explained
7 that they usually bring in some type of barrier fence that they can't see through. So that
8 came up, so we were all, like, okay, good enough.

9 Q So the assumption with everybody on the ground that day was that there
10 was going to be a barrier fence?

11 A There was going to be -- I don't know how to explain it. It's basically a
12 fence that blocks sight.

13 Q Yeah.

14 A So that was brought up, so --

15 Q And that was on the highway side or the AGR side?

16 A It was supposed to be both was what my understanding was. It was
17 supposed to block every -- so you couldn't see into the stage and the facility at all.

18 Q Beyond Officer [REDACTED] communicating his concerns with the AGR building,
19 were any -- and the water tower, I believe, were any other concerns brought up that day
20 that you heard?

21 A We brought up a lot of concerns about when they were going to actually lock
22 the facility down. As I recall from the 2020 rally, they completely locked down the
23 airport. You know, at a certain date, certain time, you weren't getting in there unless
24 you had -- you were on the list.

25 So based upon that prior rally, I figured they were going to lock it down, they were

1 searching everything, nobody was getting in or out from probably Friday morning on or
2 Friday afternoon on.

3 Q And what ended up happening?

4 A I don't think they -- the only person when I pulled in Saturday morning was
5 one of my patrol officers was sitting at the end of Brady Paul, and he recognized me.
6 But as far as that, there wasn't a Secret Service, Homeland Security, anybody standing
7 there at Brady Paul.

8 Q So up until the morning, that Saturday, anyone could have walked in and
9 walked around the stage?

10 A Yes. From my recollection, yes.

11 Q Okay. And from that July 11 walk-through, did you have any conversations
12 or did you hear any conversations about why the AGR building was left out of the
13 perimeter?

14 A I did not. I did not.

15 Q Okay. Was there any discussions internally about that decision?

16 A Leaving it outside the perimeter?

17 Q Yeah.

18 A Again, we were assigned two CAT teams and a QRF team, so that was -- as
19 far as the perimeter goes, that's above our --

20 Q Okay.

21 A -- job description that day.

22 Q Yeah.

23 Was there discussion about who was supposed to patrol the AGR building during
24 that walk-through on the 11th?

25 A Not that I recall, no. It was -- again, that was -- we did -- after

1 the -- whoever, whichever agent it was that said they would take care of it, that was --

2 Q Okay.

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Okay. What type of events are usually held at Butler farm?

5 A It is a farm show. They have a farm show usually the second week of
6 August. It's usually 6 days long. It starts on Monday and ends on a Saturday. They
7 do hold community events there from time to time on the weekends. They do have
8 truck and tractor pulls once or twice a year, but it's usually a -- like a fairground.

9 Q Okay. Have you seen any other previous logistical issues with hosting large
10 events at the farm?

11 A At the farm show, I -- it was going to be task saturated. It was a smaller
12 facility from the Butler Airport, so it was going to be -- it was going to be hard to deal
13 with.

14 Q So can you expand on that? Why would a smaller location be harder to
15 manage than a larger location for security planning?

16 A Well, there's more places to put certain aspects of the day. You've got to,
17 you know, put 20,000 people in a facility. You've got to also have a facility to park all of
18 those vehicles. And then you want to make sure that the vehicles are far enough away
19 so something doesn't go boom and hurt somebody, so --

20 Q So at a larger location --

21 A A larger --

22 Q -- you can say, This is all we're looking at, vehicles over here, people over
23 here, snipers over here. And it's just easier to manage than by surrounding locations?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. Did you have an opinion about using the Butler farm as opposed to

1 an airport or another Butler location?

2 A I have a lot of opinions, but --

3 Q Would you like to share any of them?

4 A I was -- again, that was above my pay grade. I was told, This is what we
5 need from you guys. And I said, Roger that. And we did it.

6 Q Okay. So moving on to the Butler ESU op plan, which is majority exhibit 2,
7 what was Butler County ESU actually tasked with?

8 A Two counter assault teams, and one QRF team.

9 Q One QRF. And this is what they were tasked with on the 15th -- or excuse
10 me -- on the 11th?

11 A This is what they were asked to do on the 8th.

12 Q Okay.

13 A At the initial meeting, this is what they were asked to do.

14 Q Okay. And at what point was there another task given to Butler ESU?

15 A At some point, I believe you're getting to the point of the sniper element?

16 Q Yes.

17 A That was -- I don't know what date that was. That was actually the 9th.

18 Commander [REDACTED] was contacted by the Secret Service about sniper elements.

19 Q On the 9th?

20 A On the 9th, yes.

21 Q So if you wouldn't mind turning to page 4 of that majority exhibit 2, it lays
22 out what the tasks are.

23 On 3, it reads, Counter sniper teams.

24 Was the original task to be counter snipers or snipers, or was there not any
25 differentiation given?

1 A It was -- from my recollection, it was snipers was requested.

2 Q Okay. So can you explain the difference for the record on what a counter
3 assault team would be in charge of versus the QRF?

4 A Okay. The counter assault team was responsible for the protection of any
5 attack on the President, or the former President, okay.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A That's our main job as a counter assault team was a coordinated attack on
8 the former President. Okay. That was our assignment.

9 The QRF team was responsible for the attack on the facility.

10 Q On the facility?

11 A Yes, or the grounds.

12 Q Or the grounds?

13 A Yes.

14 Q So, to your understanding, the counter assault team, it wouldn't matter if it
15 was a lone attack, if it was a coordinated attack, if it involved former President Trump,
16 that was counter assault? And if it was location based, it was QRF?

17 A Yes. If they're attacking the former President, our job was to get there,
18 protect the former President from the assault.

19 Q Okay. So what would a -- what would the definition of an attack be? Like
20 what would have to happen for a situation to rise to that level for you to be deployed?

21 A Deployed?

22 Q Or utilized?

1 [10:00 a.m.]

2 [REDACTED]: That what happened that day was an attack on the President.

3 BY [REDACTED]:

4 Q Absolutely. But at what point throughout that day did it get to the level of,
5 "yes, this is an actual attack," get there?

6 A When the -- once at the point that he was on the roof, when -- when we
7 heard there was a rifle, that was when we deployed the CAT, counter assault teams.

8 Q Was it the counter assault teams that were deployed or the QRF?

9 A The QRF team was deployed to the AGR building. We deployed to protect
10 the former President.

11 Q Okay. So both were deployed at the same time?

12 A Yes, both were deployed right away.

13 Q In your experience, is it somebody on the roof? Is it somebody on the roof
14 with a long gun? What level there needs to have happened for that deployment to have
15 occurred?

16 A Well, once you hear gun, guy on the roof, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to
17 realize that he's going to start shooting at the former President.

18 Q Yeah. So, tracking, once there's a gun, you go.

19 A We go.

20 Q But, once there's a suspicious male on the roof before they saw the gun, that
21 is not enough to deploy you, in your opinion?

22 A No, no. It's not -- it's not -- is it suspicious? Does it create a higher alert?
23 Yes. But does it -- does it send a 19-ton vehicle with eight guys with tactical gear, ARs
24 to --

25 Q To deal with?

1 A -- to deal with? No, not at that point.

2 Q So, turning back to the operation plan, you gave the brief at 9:15 the
3 morning of 13 July. What changes were made to the plan the morning of 13 July from
4 the approved plan on the 12th of July?

5 A I don't know what was changed. I -- if it was changed, [REDACTED] would have more
6 knowledge on what he added or changed or what spelling mistakes I made.

7 Q Were there additional bodies that you guys weren't expecting that showed
8 up on the morning of the 13th?

9 A Yes. We actually had a couple more members of Washington County. I
10 believe there was a couple more members from Beaver ESU.

11 Q So, when the additional bodies showed up, why wasn't the decision made to
12 put bodies around the AGR building if security concerns were articulated earlier?

13 A We're not going to use a tactical team to do a perimeter around a building.

14 Q Okay. Who did you guys expect to have the perimeter around the
15 building?

16 A We believe that the lead agency, the Secret Service, was going to assign
17 somebody to that.

18 Q Okay. Had you guys been told that there was, in fact, going to be someone
19 assigned?

20 A We pretty much figured that the Secret Service, when they state that they're
21 going to handle something, they're going to handle it.

22 Q So, sir, if you can turn to page 17 of majority exhibit 2, would you mind
23 walking us through the -- who the individuals are mentioned on this page and what their
24 roles were.

25 A PSP was -- Lieutenant [REDACTED] was the overall PSP commander. Butler

1 Township was Lieutenant [REDACTED]. Sergeant [REDACTED] was there. So was Sergeant
2 [REDACTED]. The ESU command, which is Team 400, would have been [REDACTED]. Tac
3 operational command would have been [REDACTED]. And [REDACTED] would have been there,
4 myself, and [REDACTED] were going to be there for Alpha and Bravo.

5 Q Okay. So, when it says, "Overall Command-Lieutenant [REDACTED] PSP," the
6 overall command is just referring to overall command for PSP, not overall command for
7 everyone?

8 A Overall command, yes, for PSP, overall command of like the law
9 enforcement side of it. That's who we answered to.

10 Q So Butler ESU reported to PSP that day?

11 A Not nec -- we were an asset for Pennsylvania State Police, because their
12 SERT Team was unavailable to do it. So they needed us as a tactical element, because
13 theirs was unavailable.

14 Q Okay. So, from an operational standpoint, once the QRF and the counter
15 assault team needed to get deployed, who had the authority to approve that or to deploy
16 it?

17 A It is actually a tactical decision which comes to [REDACTED]. He's the tac
18 command. Overall command is just the overall guy.

19 Q Okay. So that authority rests with him?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Delegated to him?

22 A Yes.

23 Q He does not need to go above to get it?

24 A No, he does not. We do not -- on a tactical decision, we don't. It's -- it's
25 on us.

1 Q Okay. So, turning to the 13 July rally, where exactly were you situated on
2 13 July?

3 A I was in the barn right behind the stage.

4 Q And who were you with?

5 A I was with my CAT team, and the QRF team was there too.

6 Q About how many bodies would you say were in the barn, approximately?

7 A Probably around 20, 21.

8 Q And how close was the barn to the AGR building?

9 A About 150 yards, give or take.

10 Q So how quickly would you guess that you could get to the AGR building?

11 A Well, with two fence rows, it wasn't very quick to get to the AGR building.

12 Q And are you aware, sir, of Butler ESU offering the Secret Service any support
13 the morning of the 13th in terms of equipment?

14 A I believe you're trying to get to the radios.

15 Q Or the drones, either one.

16 A That's above my -- yeah, I -- I don't have any direct knowledge of that.

17 Q So no direct knowledge of the drones. Do you have any direct knowledge
18 of the radios?

19 A The direct knowledge of the radios and the drones was both above my pay
20 grade, but I do know that they were offered to the -- the Secret Service.

21 Q And do you know who offered them?

22 A No, I do not.

23 Q Did you have a radio that day?

24 A I did.

25 Q How did you receive your radio?

1 A It is my Butler Township radio.

2 Q Okay. And what channel were you on?

3 A I was on ops 4.

4 Q Did you listen to any other channels?

5 A I was concerned with ops 4, especially with being a counter assault team,
6 and protection of the former President. I wanted to make sure that I was on the proper
7 channel so, if I was told to deploy, I deployed.

8 Q Okay. Were there communication issues that day?

9 A Ops 4, no.

10 Q Okay. How about cell phone coverage?

11 A Yes. My cell phone went out. When his motorcade pulled in, my cell
12 phone went down. I couldn't get anything.

13 Q But, up until the point that his motorcade pulled in, you were good?

14 A Yes. I was -- I was good. I lost service for about 20 minutes, 25 minutes.

15 Q So did you use text messages to communicate that day?

16 A Yes, basically with my wife asking me how I was doing and things like that.
17 But there was a Signal -- I'm getting to the point Crooks' picture was on Signal, but I
18 couldn't get it so -- because my cell phone went down.

19 Q Okay. So it never came in to you that day?

20 A It didn't -- it didn't come in until I think we got to the hospital.

21 Q Okay.

22 A After the whole event. So --

23 Q Did you see Crooks' picture?

24 A Yes. I guess some guys have FirstNet. I have Verizon. Some guys had
25 FirstNet, which didn't have a problem. And I was able to see a picture of him.

1 Q Whose phone were you able to see that on?

2 A It was Operator [REDACTED]'s. He showed me a picture of it.

3 Q [REDACTED]?

4 A Yes. [REDACTED], not [REDACTED].

5 Q Okay. Was there anything else that stood out to you with the
6 communication that day?

7 A No. Ops 4 was working perfectly fine.

8 Q Did you see any drones flying on 13 July?

9 A No, I did not.

10 Q And where were you around 3:50 to 4 p.m. timeframe?

11 A I didn't leave the barn until we were deployed.

12 Q Okay. So, from getting to the barn at 9:30 in the morning to leaving to
13 support --

14 A I did leave for a brief period to go get something to eat, but other than that I
15 was at the barn.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. And I think that I've just reached my time for right now
17 so if we can go off the record.

18 [Recess.]

19 [REDACTED]: It is now 10:18 a.m. Majority will begin questioning, round two.

20 BY [REDACTED]:

21 Q [REDACTED], the day of July 13, was the Secret Service supposed to provide
22 a face-to-face briefing to Butler ESU members?

23 A We never received a brief from the Secret Service.

24 Q Were they supposed to?

25 A Not to my knowledge.

1 Q So you never received a brief the morning of or at any point during the day
2 from the Secret Service on July 13?

3 A The only contact that I had was 11:46 in the morning. Agent [REDACTED] came to
4 my location, which was the barn, gave the thumbs up on the QRF and the CAT teams,
5 exchanged -- we exchanged phone numbers.

6 And I asked her if there was any threats that we should be concerned with or
7 anything we should be looking out for, and she advised no. So -- and then she left, and I
8 didn't see her for the rest of the day.

9 Q In terms of giving the thumbs up or -- what did that sort of consist of? Did
10 you go over with her what your plan was going to be for that day? What was the
11 discussion like?

12 A She -- she came in. She stated, oh, you guys got your gear on. There's the
13 armor. I said, the QRF is right here with the UTV. And she's like, looks good to me.
14 And I said, okay, on your note is there anything we should be on the lookout for? And
15 she said, no.

16 Q And was it your understanding that your method of communication with her
17 was going to be via cell phone?

18 A She provided her cell phone. I -- I -- in my perspective, I am contacting
19 command, and command can get a hold of the Secret Service. I have a job to do, which
20 is the CAT team, not calling Secret Service.

21 Q And did you ever reach out to [REDACTED] via text or other means that day?

22 A Nope.

23 Q Did she reach out to you?

24 A No.

25 Q Did anyone else from Secret Service reach out to you that day, sir?

1 A No.

2 Q Turning to your assignment, what was your assignment for that day?

3 A I was the team leader for the CAT team.

4 Q And what was your assigned area of coverage?

5 A It was -- I was at the barn. That's where our piece of armor was. That
6 was where the CAT team was.

7 Q And how were you given your assignment?

8 A I assigned myself since I came up with the plan.

9 Q And are you aware of any assignments made to Butler ESU by members of
10 the Secret Service?

11 A I'm trying to get what you're asking.

12 Q Did the U.S. Secret Service provide Butler ESU members with any
13 assignments?

14 A Other than the two CAT teams, the snipers, sniper element, and a QRF team,
15 no.

16 Q What time did you get to your assigned post?

17 A 10 o'clock, 10, 10:30, 10:45, somewhere around in there.

18 Q So, since you assigned yourself to that post, what were your -- were any
19 other instructions given to you?

20 A No. We were in full gear. The armor was there. We were ready to go
21 from the time we got all loaded up.

22 Q Who else was at your post, sir?

23 A The CAT team, the QRF team, a couple guys from Washington on a QRF
24 team. There was also -- the DOD has bomb assets, bomb-sniffing dog assets that are
25 assigned to the Secret Service. They were in the barn with us.

1 Q Just the dogs, sir? Any DOD --

2 A Oh, DOD personnel with their dogs. I can't remember how many there
3 were. There was several.

4 BY [REDACTED]:

5 Q Did you meet any of them?

6 A No, I didn't, other than, "Hey, how you doing?"

7 Q So you don't recall any names?

8 A I don't recall any names.

9 BY [REDACTED]:

10 Q They did not introduce themselves to you?

11 A Not to me, no.

12 Q Did you see any DHS members at your post, sir?

13 A I -- not -- no, not to my knowledge, no.

14 Q Did you see any DHS members at all at the rally?

15 A After the whole event, like the actual shooting started and everything else,
16 there was agents everywhere. So that was about the only time that I saw DHS agents.

17 Q How do you know they were DHS agents?

18 A Because I don't think they were Secret Service agents, because they weren't
19 wearing suits.

20 Q They were plainclothes, sir?

21 A They were in -- they had plate carriers, I believe. I believe one had a plate
22 carrier on, and they were wearing black. That's what I believe.

23 Q Going to Team 400, so what was Team 400's responsibility?

24 A Team 400's responsibility was two CAT teams and a QRF team and sniper
25 assets.

1 Q Okay. During July 13th, how were you communicating with Butler ESU
2 personnel, if you could go through all the methods of communication you were using?

3 A Methods of communication, as stated before, was the Signal app, which
4 really didn't work there when, you know, what went down; and I was on operations 4 on
5 the radio.

6 Q Okay. You had indicated you were having service issues and you had
7 Verizon. Is that correct?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q Did any other members of your team have service issues?

10 A I don't know. I know I did, and I radioed to let everybody know that they're
11 more than likely going to have cell phone issues.

12 Q Sir, we briefly went over pictures of the eventual shooter, and you indicated
13 that the photo did not come across your cell phone until you were at the hospital?

14 A Yes, at the hospital.

15 Q Okay. And that you were able to first view a photo how?

16 A Off -- Operator [REDACTED] had his phone. He had FirstNet, which I
17 believe is AT&T. And his actually worked, and he showed me a picture of him.

18 Q Approximately what time was that?

19 A I -- around -- around 5:30, quarter to -- quarter to 6, somewhere around in
20 there.

21 Q So you did not send, either via text or email, any picture of the eventual
22 shooter to anyone on July 13?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. Did you hear of any attempts or directions to detain or apprehend a
25 suspicious person at any point in time on July 13?

1 A No. No, I did not.

2 Q Sir, if you could please turn to page 10 of majority exhibit 2. At the top,
3 "Execution" here, "QRF team responsible for a lone active attack/shooter on/off site."

4 What was their specific job? What is that description intended to relay?

5 A They -- if there is a shooter or an attack on/off site, that means on site, okay,
6 on location, the venue, or off -- off site, outside the perimeter, they were going to be
7 responding to that.

8 Q Okay. Sir, and we're going to switch now back over to the Butler Township
9 operational plan, which is majority exhibit 1.

10 So this is not numbered in terms of the page number, but if you turn to the third
11 page, at the top it says "Detail Encounters."

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q "Suspicious activity/behavior." It states, "Member will contact the
14 Command Post and advise them of issue, provide description of Actor and Behavior."

15 Who was in the command post?

16 A Who's in the command post? I would believe that the lieutenant should
17 have been in the command post, or any command post. That's the way I had it, had it
18 figured.

19 Q Who was actually at the command post that day?

20 A I do not know. I wasn't there.

21 Q Was the command post tasked with giving instructions with respect to
22 detainment or anything of that nature?

23 A The only thing that I remember understanding was any suspicious -- anything
24 like that, any protesters or anything like that, any crime, anything like that, the PSP would
25 send a trooper out to deal with it.

1 Q Sir, if you flip forward in the ops plan, the page after the page that has
2 parking issues on it.

3 A Uh-huh.

4 Q At the bottom -- let me know when you're there -- there's a command
5 control section. This page, sir.

6 A Okay, I got it. I'm there.

7 Q So, at the bottom there, it says, "Team 400 will be responsible for all active
8 threats, civil disturbances, and motorcade vehicles while at the Farm Show grounds."

9 What did you take this to mean, sir, when you drafted it?

10 A At that point, that if you fall back to our operational plan on active threats, it
11 would be the deployment of a QRF or a CAT team to protect the former President.

12 And if there's a civil disturbance where there needs to be a less lethal device
13 deployed, we would be responsible for that and keep an eye on the motorcade vehicles.

14 Q So, [REDACTED], you had indicated that it was the Secret Service's show,
15 that they're responsible for security.

16 How, in your mind, did you sort of reconcile Team 400's responsibilities to take on
17 active threats if it was your understanding that the Secret Service was responsible for
18 security?

19 A I'm trying to think what you're getting at.

20 [REDACTED]: Can you restate it?

21 BY [REDACTED]:

22 Q So, you know, earlier on the record as we were trying to, you know, sort of
23 gauge who was responsible for what, you know, you had indicated that it was sort of
24 your and all of your impression that it was the Secret Service's show. They're
25 responsible for security. You all showed up at your assigned posts, but it was ultimately

1 their duty to be responsible for security.

2 Now, in these various operational plans that we've gone over and that you, you
3 know, helpfully put together for your team, there are various references to teams that
4 would be responsible for threats, security, and things of that nature.

5 So my question is, how did you reconcile the fact that you had various plans for
6 security here and things like that when the Secret Service was running the show?

7 A Well, the Secret Service was running the show. As part of our mission as a
8 QRF team or a CAT team, we were responsible to respond to attacks, all right, on either
9 the former President with the CAT team; and we were responding to with the QRF team
10 to a lone SI (ph) -- lone attack or an attack on the facility or outside the facility, or a lone
11 shooter.

12 So -- but that was -- that was the mission given to us by the Secret Service, so
13 that's what we did.

14 Q And what would Secret Service's role be?

15 A To make sure that we were -- we had the two CAT teams and the one QRF
16 team and the sniper assets. That would have been their job to make sure that we had
17 that.

18 Q So their job was more that you had the assets, not that they would help with
19 response to any threats?

20 A Yes. That would have been -- our responsibility they gave to us was the
21 two counter assault teams and the one QRF team and the sniper assets.

22 Q Did you expect the Secret Service to sort of, quote, be on the ground with
23 you to respond to a threat?

24 A I -- I kind of expected that at least some Secret Service agents would be with
25 us throughout the day, talking with us. But, as, again, stated, Agent [REDACTED] was the only

1 one that I saw that day.

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q Were you surprised that no Secret Service agents were embedded with your
4 team?

5 A There again, later on, they did -- we did have a member with the -- when the
6 motorcade arrived.

7 Q One of your team?

8 A No.

9 Q Were you concerned about that?

10 A Not really. I -- and, again, we go to the -- the last detail. We didn't
11 have -- we didn't have a Secret Service agent with us in 2020. They did come down.
12 They were there, but they weren't embedded with us. So --

13 BY [REDACTED]:

14 Q So, just to confirm, you know, Butler ESU and your team, in terms of
15 responding to a threat, you all would be sort of physically on the ground addressing or
16 neutralizing the threat?

17 A That's correct. That was my understanding was, if there was an attack on
18 the venue or the -- or outside the venue, there is either a shooter or, et cetera, the QRF
19 team would respond. If there was an actual attack on the President himself, the CAT
20 team would respond.

21 Q Let's talk about prior to an attack. What responsibilities did you have in
22 terms of preemption?

23 A My responsibility was at that point be vigilant, be in gear, be ready to deploy
24 at any moment. So that was -- that was what we had to do. So we were in full gear
25 from 10 o'clock in the morning until about 11:30 that night.

1 Q Did you all have any responsibilities as they related to addressing a threat or
2 to stop someone that looks suspicious or to detain a suspicious individual?

3 A You're not going to use a SWAT team to detain an individual until they
4 became a threat.

5 Q Okay. Sir, was Mr. Crooks considered a threat?

6 A At what point?

7 Q You tell me.

8 A At the point that he was determined to have a firearm on the roof, that's
9 when he became a threat.

10 Q Okay. Sir, why was he a threat on the roof when he had a firearm?

11 A The potential to shoot into the venue is a threat. Anybody on a roof with
12 a -- with a firearm is a threat and needs to be addressed quickly.

13 Q What would make him not a threat?

14 A If he was unarmed.

15 Q How would you know if he was armed if, for example, Mr. Crooks was on the
16 roof with a backpack and a rangefinder and a concealed weapon?

17 A You wouldn't know he was armed. Not until we see a firearm does he
18 become a threat.

19 Q So the determining factor with respect to whether someone is a threat is a
20 firearm?

21 A Correct. Especially -- yes.

22 Q Now, sir, we don't want to engage in hypotheticals. You did do security,
23 and my colleague rightfully mentioned embassy security.

24 If you saw an individual with a backpack and a rangefinder climb up on the roof of
25 an embassy, what would you do?

1 A I would deploy uniformed members of that embassy detail to go make
2 contact with that individual, see what he's up to and why he's there and what he's doing.

3 Q Sir, did you at any point in time on July 13 attempt to make any contact with
4 anyone to go find out what Mr. Crooks was doing?

5 A That's -- no, I did not personally. That was above my pay grade.

6 Q Did you relay that information to anyone who had the ability to make that
7 call?

8 A I did not. That was -- that was outside my -- my area.

9 Q So, if you saw something suspicious, you would not have relayed that
10 information to someone?

11 A Yes, if I saw something suspicious, I would relay it. But Mr. Crooks himself,
12 that was relayed by somebody else.

13 Q Sir, when did you first become aware of a suspicious person?

14 A There was a radio transmission. I don't know exactly what time, right
15 around five-something, maybe before that, that there was a male seen with a
16 rangefinder. And, again, because of cell phone and everything else, I didn't get the
17 picture till later.

18 Q What was your reaction when you heard this?

19 A There's not a very good reason to have a rangefinder at a rally outside.

20 Q Did you tell anyone that?

21 A I believe it was assumed by every member there.

22 Q Did anyone at your post mention that they would, you know, let anyone else
23 know or that they were planning on trying to go find this person?

24 A That's not our responsibility at that point. Rangefinder doesn't reach the
25 level of a threat at that point. At that point, that -- that male with a rangefinder

1 becomes a patrol function, which would be a uniformed officer going to say, hey,
2 knucklehead, come here.

3 Q Did you all try to get in touch with patrol to go says, hey, knucklehead, come
4 here?

5 A Again, that was the command side. And I believe, from my outside
6 knowledge, that command did notify the Secret Service and PSP about said individual
7 with rangefinder.

8 Q Did you all get any updates as to their efforts to locate said individual?

9 A I -- no, I did not. I do know that we were keeping eyes on several different
10 other individuals that day that were acting suspiciously. Again, there was
11 several -- there was approximately a hundred individuals next to that fence line. So it
12 was -- it was busy watching everything that was going on.

13 Q How many suspicious people were you also keeping an eye on?

14 A There was two or three. There was -- there was several individuals
15 with -- with their camera phones out walking back and forth, not focused on the rally
16 itself but focused on us.

17 Q Did you ever see anyone on the roof of the AGR building?

18 A I did not.

19 Q Was there any communication with the Secret Service whatsoever prior to
20 shots being fired?

21 A I don't know. I don't have any personal knowledge of that. I'm assuming
22 at some point somebody notified the Secret Service.

23 Q How was the QRF team ensuring they were addressing threats from a lone
24 active attack or shooter?

25 A How?

1 Q Yes.

2 A Their -- can you repeat that?

3 Q How was the QRF team ensuring that they were addressing threats from a
4 lone active attack or shooter?

5 A Okay. Well, they're in full gear. They're ready to deploy at any moment's
6 notice to that -- to that attack. So they have their UTV. They're in full kit. They have
7 all their gear on. Once threat comes, location, they go.

8 Q From where you were posted, did you or anyone else ever communicate any
9 concern to the Secret Service or to anyone else regarding allowing former President
10 Trump to go on stage?

11 A Again, that was -- that was above my -- my pay grade. I -- I have no -- that's
12 command level. That has nothing with me being a team leader for the CAT team.

13 Q Understood. Just for -- factually for the record, did anyone express any
14 concern that day to anyone about allowing former President Trump to go up on stage?

15 A Not to my knowledge at that point, no.

16 Q And you did not either?

17 A I did not.

18 Q Okay, sir. Following alerts of a suspicious person, did you leave your
19 assigned post at any time?

20 A No. I was at the -- at the barn.

21 Q Let's move to the shooting, sir. Briefly describe the moment that you
22 heard the first gunshots.

23 A I was actually running through the barn into the -- into the armored vehicle,
24 into the Terradyne to deploy it for the CAT team when I heard the shots go off. Once we
25 heard male with a gun, long gun, I was already getting to the armor and deploying.

1 Q How did you hear that, sir?

2 A It was -- it was on the radio. I heard it. I heard male with a gun, BT is out
3 with a male with a gun, which is Butler Township. BT is Butler Township. And I ran to
4 the armor, and we went.

5 Q Was that the first you heard of an individual with a gun that day, sir?

6 A That was the first time I heard male with a gun.

7 Q Please walk us through your next steps. What did you do?

8 A I deployed with the CAT team. I was a team leader. When we deployed,
9 we linked up with -- with -- with the -- the Secret Service CAT members. We were -- we
10 secured the area.

11 Once President Trump was in his motorcade and left, at that point, I'm radioing to
12 command if we had any knowledge of any other threat in the area. At that point, there
13 was no knowledge of any other threat in the area. The former President was gone.

14 My responsibility now is, let's -- let's go to treatment of medical side. So we
15 started assisting in medical treatment. My TEMS guy started working on the one, one
16 victim. At that point, there was a radio communication at -- requesting an armor asset
17 to the hospital.

18 At that point, understanding that former President Trump was going to the
19 hospital, still my responsibility as a counter assault member. We were responsible for
20 him still. We jump in the armor, and we deploy to the hospital.

21 Q What time did you deploy to the hospital?

22 A I don't -- I don't recall. I don't have it documented here. It would be
23 documented on the radio. On the radio log, you will see the time. You'll see me
24 answer up as Bravo 1 stating, "I got this operator, this operator, this operator, respond to
25 the hospital."

1 Q Thank you. Did you know the shots were coming from the person on the
2 AGR roof, or what did you think, or what did you see?

3 A When they said a male with a gun on the roof, to be honest, I didn't know
4 exactly what roof he was on. All I know is my job is to get to the former President.
5 That's my job. So --

6 Q Did you also think or have knowledge that the Secret Service was responsible
7 for the President's security at that time?

8 A Yes, yes.

9 Q Can you go through a list of law enforcement groups, whose responsibility it
10 was at that time to get to the President to ensure his security.

11 A To my knowledge, his detail was responsible ultimately for his security and
12 his protection. They asked us to assist in a counter assault team, which that would be
13 Team 400. So Team 400 deployed to assist in the counter assault.

14 Q Did you see any law enforcement ever shoot at the AGR roof?

15 A No, I did not.

16 Q Were you ever instructed to go to the AGR roof by anyone?

17 A No.

18 Q Did anyone on Team 400 take -- shoot at anyone on July 13th?

19 A From after actions, yes, but personal view, no. From after actions, I do
20 know of a member shooting at -- a member at Mr. Crooks on the roof.

21 Q Can you please go into that detail, sir, please.

22 A From my knowledge is Team Leader [REDACTED] dispatched one round at Mr.
23 Crooks.

24 Q And who gave that description or that narrative? Can you please go into
25 more detail?

1 A Team Leader [REDACTED] told me at the hospital that he shot at the individual.
2 So, after that, it becomes an officer-involved shooting, and we're not going into detail any
3 further than that with him. I'm not asking him any further questions.

4 Q So he just verbally relayed to you that he had shot at Mr. Crooks?

5 A Yes. He verbally relayed, "Hey, I shot at him." I'm like, "Okay, no further
6 questions. I don't want to know anything more."

7 Q Did [REDACTED] indicate that he hit Mr. Crooks?

8 A No. He didn't indicate, no.

9 Q Did [REDACTED] fill out any kind of form or incident report that day?

10 A I have no knowledge of that. That's -- again, that's above my -- my grade.
11 We're on the same level. He's a team leader. I'm a team leader.

12 Q What would [REDACTED]'s, I guess the requirements that he would have
13 after shooting at Mr. Crooks? As a team leader, you know what the protocol would be.
14 So what would he have to do following --

15 A What he would have to do --

16 Q -- a shooting?

17 A -- he's definitely going to notify command of what he did, okay. After
18 notifying command, we notify, which we did that day, Pennsylvania State Police. And,
19 of course, the FBI was there, and they had to come down and actually do an interview
20 on -- on [REDACTED].

21 BY [REDACTED]:

22 Q So is it standard for Butler ESU, if there's an officer-involved shooting
23 incident, State Police would be the investigative agency?

24 A Yes, they are also the investigating agency, even with Butler Township.
25 When you have a local, it's -- we have an outside agency come in and investigate it. It's

1 just easier to have State Police, because they have statewide jurisdiction.

2 Q And do you know what came of that potential OIS investigation?

3 A No, no idea.

4 BY [REDACTED]:

5 Q Did you -- have you spoken with [REDACTED] after July 13, sir?

6 A I have.

7 Q Okay. Did he provide any additional details in any conversation that you
8 had with him?

9 A No, no other further details on -- on that.

10 Q Does [REDACTED] think that he hit Mr. Crooks?

11 A I have no knowledge. I -- from friends from other members and other
12 discussions, it is -- he believes he did. But, personally, [REDACTED] didn't tell me
13 he -- affirmative that he hit him.

14 Q Was [REDACTED] on the ground when he made that shot?

15 A Being on the ground could be several different things. He was on the Farm
16 Show grounds when he shot.

17 Q Okay. So he was on -- he wasn't on an elevated surface, correct?

18 A As far as I know. I don't know where he was directly.

19 Q After the shooter was down, were you able to see Mr. Crooks on the roof?

20 A No. I was -- again, I was on the opposite side of the stage getting the
21 President out of there. So that was my job. I have no idea what happened over at the
22 AGR building.

23 Q Did you assist the Secret Service in removing former President Trump from
24 the scene?

25 A Other than securing his SUVs, getting them out, that was it.

1 Q Can you go into detail what you mean about securing SUVs? Describe all
2 that for me.

3 A We formed a, like a barrier between the crowd and the SUVs, us in our kits,
4 around the SUVs to get him out.

5 Q What was Secret Service doing while you were forming this barrier?

6 A They were getting him out of there and getting him in the SUV. They were
7 around him. They surrounded him and got him in the SUV.

8 Q Okay. So they opened the door of the SUV?

9 A I don't -- again, I'm focused on crowd and what's going on to put myself
10 between him and that. So I really wasn't paying attention to what was going on behind
11 me.

12 Q Okay. Did you see the car leave with former President Trump?

13 A The SUVs left. I'm assuming that he was in one of those SUVs.

14 Q Okay. And my time is up.

15 One last question: Any debriefings following the shooting that you participated
16 in?

17 A Yes. We had a -- we had a meeting. We had a debrief.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you, sir.

19 [REDACTED]: Yes.

20 [REDACTED]: How are you doing? Do you need a quick break?

21 [REDACTED]: No, let's go. I'm ready to rock.

22 [REDACTED]: Let's do it.

23 BY [REDACTED]:

24 Q So, back to the planning stage, jumping all the way back there, and I'm sorry
25 that we're kind of all over the place and we're asking lots of similar questions, but we do

1 appreciate your time today.

2 Were you a part of any conversations about the Secret Service counter snipers
3 being used?

4 A I heard that they were sending a -- after they asked for assets, I did hear that
5 they were now sending a Secret Service -- Secret Service counter snipers. But there's
6 also talk that PSP was going to send a snipers also, but that never came about.

7 Q Okay. In those conversations, did anyone indicate to you whether or not
8 that it's normal to have a Secret Service counter sniper or abnormal?

9 A [REDACTED], Commander [REDACTED] mentioned that this was the first time they ever
10 deployed counter snipers for a candidate for President.

11 Q Did Commander [REDACTED] indicate why that was happening?

12 A No.

13 Q At any point, was there an intelligence briefing about the threat level?

14 A No, there was not.

15 Q The morning of July 13th, did the Secret Service let anyone know part of
16 their reasoning for the assets that they requested?

17 A No. And, again, as stated before, when I asked Agent [REDACTED] if there was
18 any active threat or anything we should be concerned with, and she stated no.

19 Q Okay. And, during the briefing that you gave on the morning of July 13 to
20 everybody that was there supporting Butler ESU, did it come up that counter snipers were
21 being deployed for the first time for this sort of an event?

22 A I believe it was. I didn't directly say that. I believe at some point during
23 that briefing it was brought up that there -- that the Secret Service was deploying counter
24 snipers on the roof of the barns.

25 Q Do you recall any followup questions being asked about that piece of

1 information?

2 A No. We just took it as they're -- Secret Service is sending snipers.

3 Q Okay. Moving on to the command post, were you -- you were aware that
4 there were going to be two posts for the event that day in the planning process. Is that
5 correct?

6 A Yes. I realized that the command trailer from Butler County was going to
7 be separate from the Secret Service command post.

8 Q Okay. Did you have any input into that decision?

9 A Again, above my pay grade.

10 Q And, in your experience, both in Africa and the Middle East with the Marines
11 as well as your law enforcement experience, is it normal to have multiple command posts
12 for an event?

13 A It is not normal to have multiple command posts.

14 Q Do you know how many command posts were -- or centers were used for
15 the President Trump rally in 2020?

16 A I -- I do know there was one.

17 Q Okay. In your experience, why do you generally -- is it beneficial to have
18 one command post instead of two or multiple?

19 A It's -- it's so we can communicate, just like we are now so that they can hear
20 what we're talking about. So if something's going down on this side of the room, I can
21 look across and go, "Hey, this is what's going on over here."

22 Q And, from your -- what you've heard, was there good communication
23 between the two command posts?

24 A I do know that Commander [REDACTED] was able to contact and speak with people
25 at the command post.

1 Q Okay. Thank you for that.

2 So, turning to the radio that day, you were on ops 4. Is that correct?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q So, at some point throughout the day on ops 4, I'm going to give an educated
5 guess at about 1742, you were -- you heard over ops 4 that there was a suspicious man
6 with a rangefinder in the proximity of AGR building.

7 Is that correct?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q At any point on ops 4 after that, did you hear that there was a man on the
10 roof?

11 A No, I did not hear that. I could have, but I don't recall.

12 Q Okay.

13 A I don't recall hearing that. I do remember -- again, this all happened so
14 quickly. I do remember [REDACTED] or somebody saying, "Hey, there's a guy on the roof and
15 gun," and then everything went down from there. It was -- it was -- it was a hectic
16 situation very, very quickly.

17 Q Yeah. And where was [REDACTED] located?

18 A He was right at the end of the barn right behind the stage by the fence line
19 there.

20 Q And what was -- what radio frequency was he on?

21 A He's on 4. He's on 4.

22 Q Okay. So, at some point, he heard on 4 guy with a gun on the AGR
23 building?

24 A Yes. We -- we -- it was on there, yeah.

25 Q Okay. Had the information come over ops 4 that there was a guy on the

1 roof, period, before anyone saw the rangefinder -- or, excuse me, the gun, but just there's a
2 man on the roof, what would your reaction to that have been?

3 A My reaction, as a CAT member on the team at that point, it is -- it's a
4 heightened level, but we're still not deploying our assets yet. We're hoping that a
5 uniformed individual gets over there.

6 Q So -- and I know that we've both asked you questions around this. I think
7 there are some questions about the level of threat and when it's appropriate to go.

8 In your experience, knowing that there is a suspicious man with a rangefinder,
9 with a backpack, and now there's a guy on the roof, that does not rise to the level where
10 the QRF or the counter assault team, it would be appropriate for them to go?

11 A We are bound by laws in this Nation that -- on force. When you deploy a
12 tactical team, it is a use of force. And, if that poor person that decided to have mental
13 health issues or have a learning disability decided he wanted to get a better view of the
14 venue and decided to get up on the roof, and he's just autistic or something else, you
15 don't want to deploy a tactical element, because it's a use of force, and we will open
16 ourselves up to liability. So --

17 Q So, in your opinion, man, rangefinder, roof, it is too much of a use of force to
18 deploy a tactical team in that situation?

19 A In that situation right there. At that point, I don't think we all recall -- knew
20 that it was the same individual. At that time, we just know there's a male on the roof.
21 We don't know if it's the same guy, because he was last seen walking towards Sheetz
22 around the building.

23 Q Okay. So had you known it was the same guy, it could have --

24 A We're -- it's 20/20 hindsight now. At the point that we have a firearm, we
25 have a problem.

1 Q Okay. So, if the intent of the counter assault team is to protect the former
2 President, why was the decision made to have Beaver County ESU put at the front gate as
3 opposed to closer to where the former President was going to be?

4 A They weren't that far away. You don't want to put all assets in one spot in
5 case there's a -- in case the -- in case the attack is -- takes out the counter -- one counter
6 assault team.

7 Q Okay.

8 A You don't put all your assets in one basket.

9 Q Redundancy is key?

10 A Yes.

11 Q How quickly could the ESU team at the front gate have gotten to former
12 President Trump?

13 A Seconds. They were there -- they arrived the same time as we arrived.

14 Q Okay. And then was your -- and I'm sorry, you probably said this earlier.
15 Were you guys located inside the barn or outside the barn?

16 A Our armor asset was outside the barn, because of trying to get through the
17 barn. Our armor was outside, but most of the members was inside in the shade right
18 behind the -- right behind the armor.

19 Q And then you mentioned earlier that PSP, who was overall command and
20 control, would not have been involved in the tactical decision of go/not go?

21 A Yes, you are correct.

22 Q For your role there that day as team leader, and our understanding is that
23 the deputy commander, [REDACTED], had left to fulfill a different role. So you were the
24 team leader making that decision on the ground.

25 Is that correct?

1 A What decision are you talking about, deploying the CAT team?

2 Q So you were the head guy in the barn located with the counter assault team,
3 correct?

4 A That -- yes, you are correct.

5 Q So would you have had the authority to make the decision to deploy, or did
6 that need to come from Commander [REDACTED]?

7 A It would have to come from Commander [REDACTED].

8 Q So, over the radio, when Commander [REDACTED] deploys the QRF team, you start
9 moving. How did that decision get made?

10 A At the point that the QRF team starts to go and I hear shots, that is -- I
11 already know what -- doing this for this long you know. Shots are ringing out, we got to
12 get to the -- we're going.

13 You don't need that aspect of it. You don't need the commander going, okay,
14 now deploy the CAT team.

15 Q Okay.

16 A No. It's -- you know, it's -- it's assumed that you're going to deploy when
17 shots ring out.

18 Q Okay. So you are given the authority, go?

19 A Yes. At that point, yes.

20 Q Okay.

21 A But on like a suspicious person --

22 Q It would have been required?

23 A If -- if Commander [REDACTED] went over the radio and said, hey, I need the QRF
24 team to head over there, we're not getting it from anybody else, we could have, but
25 we're not, okay.

1 Q Okay. And at any point did you hear Commander [REDACTED] request support
2 from Butler Township, PSP, anyone else, to go over to the AGR building?

3 A Again, I was on ops 4. He was over there. He does his thing in the
4 command level.

5 Q Okay. So you went over this earlier. Shots fired, and you're moving -- or
6 excuse me, QRF deployed, you guys are moving. Was it simultaneous?

7 A It was simultaneous, yes. It was -- I would say there was a few seconds
8 more that the QRF team started to deploy, basically because they heard "gun" and they
9 saw uniformed officers with their guns drawn over by the AGR building. So they
10 deployed before us. But, at that point, it was a matter of seconds before shots rang out.

11 Q Okay.

12 A And then we're going.

13 Q So, if they're looking at the AGR building, are they outside of the barn?

14 A Members of the QRF team were outside the barn watching.

15 Q Okay.

16 A All right. They were -- and behind -- beside the stage, back behind the
17 bleachers. They were right along the fence line. So --

18 Q Okay.

19 A Some members, yes.

20 Q Were there any members of the counter assault team out or were they all in
21 the barn?

22 A No. They were -- they were right behind the armor sitting, waiting to get
23 deployed.

24 Q Okay. A little bit of whiplash, but it just reminded me from the planning on
25 the 11 July walkthrough you said that the Secret Service told you guys that you wanted to

1 be away inside and unseen. Is that correct?

2 A As a -- as I stated, it was later determined just stay out of camera view.

3 Q Camera view?

4 A Camera.

5 Q So you were okay with civilians seeing you?

6 A Yes. They just didn't want the cameras covering the rally to show an
7 armored vehicle with a whole bunch of guys and tactical gear and ARs. That would
8 show like a use of -- show of force on national media.

9 Q Show -- was it a show of force or kind of an OPSEC decision?

10 A I don't know what it was. They just didn't want us to be on camera, which I
11 could really understand with the current -- current things that are going on.

12 Q Okay. And, in that discussion or insight from the Secret Service, did the
13 sniper team, Team Leader [REDACTED], also hear that they were supposed to stay out of
14 sight, or was that solely for the counter assault/QRF teams?

15 A I'm trying to think what you're getting at.

16 Q I just wonder was that guidance given to everybody at Butler ESU, or was
17 that guidance only given to the counter assault and QRF teams?

18 A I believe that was -- the snipers are a whole different -- whole different --

19 Q Part?

20 A Yeah. They're a whole different group. When that first came out, it was,
21 "Hey, stay out of sight; we don't want this." And then it was later clarified, "Just don't
22 be right out there for the national news media to get you on camera."

23 Q Okay.

24 A So --

25 Q And then, as my colleague was earlier asking you, since July 13th or on the

1 evening of July 13th, how many interviews or debriefs have you been part of?

2 A I've been a part of many debriefs and a lot of interviews.

3 Q Can you detail those for us?

4 A That night, I was interviewed by the State Police and the FBI. After that, we
5 had a team debrief. We talked to a Senate Homeland Security, whatever they are.

6 And then I had an internal investigation from the Secret Service. And then we
7 had the informal meeting with this group, and now I'm here.

8 Q So, since 13 July, what are your overall reflections of the event?

9 A It was all good until the shooting started.

10 Q Is there anything that you or Butler ESU would have done differently?

11 A Again, we were assigned. We did our job the way we were tasked to do. I
12 wouldn't change the plan.

13 Q Anything others should have done differently in the planning and/or
14 execution?

15 A That's for you guys to decide, not me.

16 Q Do you have any recommendations for those moving forward to make sure
17 that this never happens again?

18 A I would definitely say that there should be at least a Secret Service agent
19 assigned to at least be a liaison to each -- each element, if you understand what I'm
20 saying.

21 Like, if there's a counter assault team, not that the Secret Service agent is going to
22 deploy with that counter assault team, but at least they're there, and we can tell them
23 what's going on. And with the QRF team.

24 Not that they're deploying, just that they're there. It would be nice to see a face
25 from Secret Service besides one time, if you know what I'm saying.

1 ██████████: I think those are all my questions for right now, so I will turn it
2 back over --

3 ██████████: Can I ask one question?

4 ██████████: Yes, please.

5 BY ██████████:

6 Q So it sounds like from your description the CAT team deployed based on
7 events rather than a specific order.

8 A Yes.

9 Q To your knowledge, did the QRF deploy based on an order, or were they also
10 hearing gunshots, seeing people draw guns, and decided to move?

11 A They were moving before -- if you look at the radio transmissions, you'll see
12 that Commander ██████████ deployed the QRF team, but they were already moving before
13 that even happened.

14 Q As you were -- did you see the QRF team preparing to move? I mean, are
15 there steps to be taken?

16 A They're right there. They're ready to jump in that -- jump into that side by
17 side.

18 Q And they were already moving by the time the order came over from ██████████?

19 A Yes. They were already three-quarters of the way alongside the barn to get
20 around the fence line to get over there.

21 Q And then, final question, could you say a little bit more about the other
22 suspicious individuals that you all were keeping an eye on? Were they at or around the
23 AGR building? Were they in that crowd of --

24 A They were in that crowd. There was a -- there was a fluorescent
25 green/yellow shirt guy. He was actively recording us. Us. Not the event, us, okay.

1 He was recording the barn, things like that.

2 And there was a guy with a red shirt. They were just -- again, they -- it just -- it
3 was weird, you know. Normal people when they come up, you know, they might be
4 recording, but they're recording the event, not guys in tac gear, you know.

5 We're standing out behind the barn by the armor and they're walking past looking
6 at us with their phones. It's just -- it's just odd. You just don't do that. So --

7 BY [REDACTED]:

8 Q Quick followup question to that: Did you or anyone else report these
9 suspicious individuals?

10 A Yes, they were -- they were -- they were sent up. They were sent up.

11 Q And how were they sent up?

12 A I believe -- I can't remember how they were sent up. I wasn't the first
13 person that saw the guy in the green shirt or the red shirt.

14 Again, I believe the QRF team was more outside the barn paying attention to more
15 things. I was more the command control inside the barn.

16 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

1

2

BY [REDACTED]:

3

Q Just a few quick hitters, and then you can go.

4

Did you prepare an after-action report, sir?

5

A Yes, I did.

6

Q Okay. What's that after-action report called?

7

A It's my operator report.

8

Q Okay. Did you produce that to anyone?

9

A It's not completed yet.

10

Q Okay. What stage is it in?

11

A It's in a rough draft form. Once I submit it completely, it will be approved

12

and attached to the ODR.

13

Q Okay. Did anyone else from Butler ESU prepare an after-action report?

14

A They are all required to take part in this to make an after-action report and

15

submit it to the ODR.

16

Q Who's everyone? Who's all?

17

A Every member of the team that day will complete an operator report.

18

Q Okay. Sir, you had indicated it was all good until the shots rang out. But

19

is it fair to say that things were not all good in view of the fact that the Secret Service, you

20

know, by your testimony today did not conduct, you know, sufficient briefings or

21

walk-throughs with your team?

22

A Sufficient -- well, yeah. It wasn't -- it wasn't great.

23

Q Thank you.

24

For next time, would you have liked to have a direct communication line into the

25

Secret Service, sir?

1 A Of course.

2 Q Do you believe a central radio communication channel among law
3 enforcement would have assisted your efforts that day?

4 A I will say this about communications. And I know you guys are attorneys,
5 so you -- when you get an event like this, you can't have 100 people on the same
6 frequency yelling. Okay. If you look -- if you listen -- if you guys have our audio
7 recordings from our event, and you can tell the difference between the patrol side and
8 the operator side, you can't have them combined. You can't all be on one frequency.
9 But that's why we have a command post and you have guys there listening to five
10 different radios.

11 Q And, sir, what do you think the utility of something like an AMBER Alert to all
12 law enforcement or individuals that were working the event in terms of, you know, a
13 suspicious person, or a threat so that everybody would be alerted, do you think that that
14 would be helpful?

15 A Again, our cell phones went down. So I don't know how that would have
16 worked.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you, sir.

18 BY [REDACTED]:

19 Q Just a couple questions. And again, some of this may be a little repetitive,
20 but just trying to either drill down on specifics for the record or just clarification. You're
21 obviously much more versed in this than all of us, so please bear with me.

22 ODR, Operational Detail Report?

23 A It's -- yeah, the Operation Detail Report for that --

24 Q Has Secret Service asked for a copy of that from you guys?

25 A It's not even done yet. It's still in the rough draft form.

1 Q But have they asked for it when it's done?

2 A I don't know. That would be -- Commander [REDACTED] would know that.

3 Q And is that something you guys do after every operation that you are put on,
4 or just when there is some sort of critical failure?

5 A Every operation we go on in ODR will be prepared.

6 Q Okay. Let's see. So some of these, again, may be just a little repetitive,
7 so, again, bear with me.

8 But QRF, you've said that their job is to respond to kind of things that may just
9 come up across the grounds.

10 How were they supposed to get over to AGR when there's two fences there?
11 Was there a plan that you guys had for being able to access that area?

12 A We kind of knew pulling in how we were going to have to get over to that
13 side. They were going to have to go out and around the fence line.

14 Q Okay. Now, you mentioned that Secret Service wanted you guys out of
15 view from news media.

16 At other deployments where you guys have a QRF, do they occasionally roam, or
17 are they typically situational -- or stationary?

18 A And when I -- what you're trying to say is they were not away from their
19 deployment vehicle. They were there. They were only a few --

20 Q Yeah. No, no, no. And I understand that.

21 Would it be common for them at other events that they're used for to maybe be
22 roaming, like, in their vehicle, maybe around the perimeter or --

23 A No. They're stationary. They stay where they're assigned until they're
24 deployed.

25 Q Okay. So really no concerns that there was two fences and they would

1 have to maybe go around?

2 A And to be -- look, as stated before, we understood the Secret Service,
3 somebody was over there. It wasn't -- we didn't, like, have to actually plan for a
4 deployment to AGR.

5 Q Okay. So I guess kind of going off that same line, you mentioned that if
6 there's just a suspicious person, QRF, CAT team would not be the team responsible for
7 that. That's really more of an elevated response. Who did you believe would be the
8 agency responding to suspicious individuals that day?

9 A I believed that, based on our knowledge as a police officer, that's a uniform
10 police officer's job.

11 Q Was there a certain agency that you thought would be --

12 A Again, in the planning of things, that's above our mission, so --

13 Q Okay. Did you have concerns that that was something that you weren't
14 aware of or that you wouldn't be able to communicate to them if there was something
15 you thought needed to be checked out?

16 A I would radio command, and command would contact the appropriate
17 people to take care of things.

18 Q You also then mentioned that there was really no list of personnel given to
19 Secret Service, or any sort of, like, vetting of personnel.

20 Was there any sort of identifying marks that you guys were required to wear that
21 day?

22 A No, there was not.

23 Q Did that give you any concern?

24 A I -- again, like I stated before, it was just suspicious to me that they didn't ask
25 for our roster.

1 Q So being that there was not a single briefing given day of, you weren't
2 necessarily aware of who all the players were, how would you know if somebody was
3 from another law enforcement agency or if they were potentially a suspicious person,
4 say, in terms of a firearm or on the roof?

5 A I'm trying to understand what you're asking. Are you saying like somebody
6 outside the perimeter or somebody inside the perimeter?

7 Q Either/or. Really, is it -- in your experience, your 20-plus years of
8 experience between law enforcement and military, is it concerning when you don't know
9 who all the players or are there's no clear identification of who all the players are?

10 A It's a little -- it's a little hairy. But again, everybody that's there has an
11 overall organization. You know, we know that Pennsylvania State Police were there.
12 We know that Homeland Security was there. We know the Secret Service was there. I
13 didn't realize that the DOD guys were DOD guys. I thought they were Secret Service
14 agents.

15 But again, doing this for 20 years, you kind of recognize people that are cops, and
16 are in the law enforcement profession. It is concerning that we didn't -- probably should
17 have had IDs maybe. I don't know. Again, that's above my pay grade.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. That's all I have right now.

19 [REDACTED]: Does the minority have any follow-ups?

20 [REDACTED]: I think that we're good.

21 [REDACTED]: Okay. And we can go off the record.

22 Thank you.

23 [Whereupon, at 11:18 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

1 Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

2

3

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

6

7

8

9

10

Witness Name

11

12

13

14

Date

15

[None noted]

Minority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
[REDACTED] dated September 16, 2024

Page	Line	Change
25	24	CHANGE “were” TO “was”
27	4	CHANGE “hey, there’s a tactic by a PACOM shift here” TO “TACON or OPCON shift”
28	5	CHANGE “EMS” TO “ESU”
28	17	CHANGE “inputs” TO “input”
59	22-23	CHANGE “he heard on 4 guy with a gun on the AGR building?” TO “he heard on 4 “guy with a gun on the AGR building?””
62	18	ADD “to” AFTER “authority”
65	16	CHANGE “those” TO “things”