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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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Thursday, September 12, 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 3:45 p.m.

1 Appearances:

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4 For the TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

5 OF DONALD J. TRUMP:

6

7 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

8 [REDACTED], SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

9 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

10 [REDACTED], LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

11

12

13 For [REDACTED]:

14

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: We are on the record.

2 Today is Thursday, September 12, 2024, and this is a transcribed interview of
3 Butler ESU Member [REDACTED].

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

8 Can the witness please state their name for the record?

9 [REDACTED]: Yes. My name is [REDACTED].

10 [REDACTED]: Could you please spell your last name, sir?

11 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED].

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

13 My name is [REDACTED]. And I'm a senior counsel with the majority on the task
14 force. I want to thank you for coming in today for this interview. The task force
15 recognizes and appreciates that you're here voluntarily with us today.

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

17 Do you have an attorney representing you in a personal capacity with you today?

18 [REDACTED]: Yes.

19 [REDACTED]: Will counsel please identify themselves for the record?

20 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

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

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

24 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], investigative counsel for the minority.

25 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]. I'm a legislative attorney with the Congressional

1 Research Service providing support to the task force.

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

3 So, [REDACTED], before we begin, I'd like to go over the ground rules for this
4 interview.

5 The way the interview will proceed is as follows: The majority and minority will
6 alternate asking you questions 30 minutes per side, per round until each side is finished
7 with their questioning. The majority staff will begin and proceed for 30 minutes, and
8 then the minority staff will have 30 minutes to ask questions. We will then alternate
9 back and forth in this manner until both sides have no more questions.

10 If either side is in the middle of a specific line of questions, they may choose to
11 end a few minutes past 30 minutes to ensure completion of that specific line of
12 questioning, including any pertinent follow-ups. In this interview, while one member of
13 the staff for each side may lead the questioning, additional staff may also ask questions.

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

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

23 Do you understand?

24 [REDACTED]: Yes, I do.

25 [REDACTED]: Okay. And we want you to answer our questions in the most

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

4 Do you understand?

5 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

11 Do you understand?

12 [REDACTED]: Yes, I do.

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

17 Do you understand?

18 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

21 Do you understand?

22 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

25 [REDACTED]: No.

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]. Yes.

8 [REDACTED]: Okay. And, finally, I'd like to note that the content of what we
9 discuss here today is confidential. We ask that you not speak about what we discuss
10 today in this interview to 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'll plan to take a 5-minute break at the end of each 30 minutes of questioning.

16 But if you need to take a longer break or a break before that, please let us know, and we

17 will be happy to accommodate you. However, to the extent that there's a pending

18 question, we would ask that you finish answering the question before we take the break.

19 Do you understand?

20 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

22 [REDACTED] No.

23 [REDACTED]. Okay. The time is now 3:51 p.m.

24 Majority staff will now begin its questioning.

25 EXAMINATION

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q [REDACTED], how long have you been a part of the Butler ESU?

3 A Since it's inception, and it officially went into effect in early 2017.

4 Q So 7 years approximately, sir?

5 A Approximately.

6 Q Okay. And what is your role with Butler ESU?

7 A I'm currently the deputy commander.

8 Q Okay. And what are your responsibilities in that role, sir?

9 A My responsibilities are to help with commanding the team, doing callouts,
10 assist with training, assist with planning, and purchasing.

11 Q How large is your team, sir?

12 A If you count the auxiliary personnel, meaning the paramedics, the
13 negotiators, we're around 40 to 42.

14 Q Do you have oversight over all of those individuals?

15 A The commander has oversight over everyone, and then I'm a step -- two
16 steps below him.

17 Q Thank you, sir.

18 When you're not a part of the Butler ESU, is there a secondary law enforcement
19 agency that you work for?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And what is that?

22 A It's the Penn Township Police Department.

23 Q And how long have you been with the Penn Township Police Department?

24 A 20 -- let's say 23 years.

25 Q Okay. All right. Sir, we're going to move to advance planning prior to

1 July 13.

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

3 A On or about, I want to say July 5th, there was word through other officers
4 that they had heard that the former President was coming to Butler.

5 Q Any specific people you can state for the record?

6 A No one specific.

7 Q Okay. Did you receive any text messages with respect to, you know, the
8 assignment or needing personnel to staff the event?

9 A There was an email that went out to Commander [REDACTED] about a meeting, a
10 preparation meeting which was to occur in Allegheny County. That would be the first
11 official email.

12 Q Do you know when that email was sent, sir?

13 A The meeting would have been that Monday, the 8th, so it probably would
14 have been within a day or so before that.

15 Q Okay, sir. Were you involved in any advance planning for the visit prior to
16 July 13?

17 A I was.

18 Q Okay. What was your role?

19 A I performed a couple of walk-throughs with the sniper element, and I also
20 added some contents to the mission planning, operational plan.

21 Q Okay. Could you go over the contents that you added to the planning, sir?

22 A To the operational plan, I recommended a timeline of whenever a unit
23 should be in service, a timeline of when meetings should occur, all the way through the
24 demobilization of the components.

25 Q Okay. I would now like to enter in as majority exhibit 1 --

1 That's for the township, okay. We can take that back. You can strike that from
2 the record.

3 As part of your walk-throughs, who joined you?

4 A On the initial walk-through, that would have been Tuesday, the 9th. That
5 evening I did the initial walk-through with members of the sniper unit. That would have
6 been Assistant Team Leader [REDACTED], Sniper [REDACTED], and I believe Team Leader -- I believe
7 Team Leader [REDACTED] was there at that time.

8 Q Okay. Did you work with Secret Service personnel or members of other law
9 enforcement?

10 A Can you narrow down that question?

11 Q Sure. We'll start with, did you work with any Secret Service personnel?

12 A I had talked briefly to two of them.

13 Q And do you recall what their names were?

14 A I had a brief conversation on the day of the walk-through with Agent
15 Counter Sniper [REDACTED], and I had a brief phone conversation with, I believe it was
16 Agent [REDACTED].

17 Q And when did those phone conversation occur?

18 A The one with Agent [REDACTED] was 11:59 or 12 o'clock on the day of the
19 walk-through. That was just to clarify positioning of one of the units. And then I was
20 with Assistant Team Leader -- Sniper Team Leader [REDACTED] and spoke with Counter Sniper
21 [REDACTED] outside of the red barn.

22 [REDACTED]: No. Her question was phone conversations.

23 So was it an enface conversation? Were there any phone --

24 [REDACTED]: Any conversations --

25 [REDACTED]: Okay.

1 [REDACTED]: -- not just phone.

2 [REDACTED]: Phone was with [REDACTED].

3 BY [REDACTED]:

4 Q Okay. And then what day was that, sir?

5 A That was the day of the walk-around.

6 Q What day was the walk-around?

7 A Thursday.

8 Q Thursday prior to the rally?

9 A Yes. That would have been -- rally on the 13th, 12th would be Friday.

10 That would have been the -- I need to write it on a piece of paper.

11 [REDACTED]: Thursday would probably be the 11th, right?

12 [REDACTED]: 11th, July 11th.

13 [REDACTED]: That would have been the walk-around, correct.

14 BY [REDACTED]:

15 Q Okay. And then you had indicated there were a couple of walk-throughs.

16 So there was one walk-through on July 11, correct, sir? That was the first walk-through?

17 A No. No, ma'am.

18 Q Okay.

19 A The initial walk-through was just our team. The sniper element was on

20 Tuesday evening, July 9th. That was around 8:15 to 8:30 p.m.

21 Q Okay. The second walk-through?

22 A That was, once again, with our sniper element. That would have been the

23 afternoon of Wednesday, July 10th.

24 Q Okay. And the third walk-through?

25 A That would have been the combined joint with all entities. That would

1 have been the morning on July 11th.

2 Q Okay. Was Secret Service present for the -- or which, I guess,
3 walk-throughs was the Secret Service present for?

4 A The only one that was present that I was present was July 11th.

5 Q Okay. And then when you say combined, can you just go through the
6 entities that were a part of the July 11th walk-through?

7 A From my recollection, there were assets from fire services, local EMS, local
8 emergency management, entities from Butler Township Police, sheriff's department, and
9 State Police. That's what I recall.

10 Q Okay. And then who was a part of the July 10th walk-through?

11 A That Wednesday evening, once again, was myself, I believe Assistant Team
12 Leader [REDACTED] were present at that evening.

13 Q Okay. And then the July 9th walk-through was just the sniper element?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay, sir. So did you have planning meetings in addition to walk-throughs?

16 A We had conversations with ourselves. At one point Commander [REDACTED] sent
17 out a preliminary operational plan which was reviewed and passed back to him.

18 Q When was that preliminary ops plan put together?

19 A I don't recall off the top of my head.

20 Q Okay. Who reviewed that plan, sir?

21 A Ultimately it would have been reviewed and approved by Commander [REDACTED].

22 Q Did you receive any resource requests from the Secret Service or other law
23 enforcement agencies related to the July 13 rally?

24 A Not in written form.

25 Q How did you receive it?

1 A I was told by Commander [REDACTED] and also by Team Leader [REDACTED]. Team
2 Leader [REDACTED] and Deputy Commander [REDACTED] had attended that Monday Allegheny
3 County preparation meeting.

4 Q The Monday Allegheny County preparation meeting, sir, if you could look
5 back on your calendar, are we looking at July 8th, sir?

6 A Let me see if I can find it.

7 Regarding meeting on July 8th, that would have been the meeting with Allegheny
8 County.

9 Q And who was the meeting with Allegheny County with?

10 A According to my notes that I have here, which I didn't attend, that was
11 Lieutenant [REDACTED] and Team Leader [REDACTED] had gone to that. That original email I
12 later found was from Secret Service Agent [REDACTED].

13 Q An email from Secret Service Agent [REDACTED], you received that what
14 date?

15 A Commander [REDACTED] received that.

16 Q Commander [REDACTED] received that. What day?

17 A Possibly on the 5th.

18 Q And what was the content of that email?

19 A I think it was an invitation to that meeting.

20 Q To the Allegheny County meeting on the 8th, sir?

21 A Allegheny County, it would be their security planning meeting.

22 Q Okay. So who was present at the Allegheny County meeting?

23 A From our department would have been Team Leader [REDACTED] and Deputy
24 Commander [REDACTED].

25 Q And who else was there?

1 A I don't know. I wasn't there.

2 Q Who else from Butler ESU was on the advance planning team?

3 A Team Leader [REDACTED]. Then Team Leader -- Sniper Team Leader [REDACTED],
4 the medical component Team Leader [REDACTED], Deputy Commander [REDACTED], Commander
5 [REDACTED], and myself.

6 Q Okay. So you have just walked through the three walk-throughs prior to
7 the July 13 campaign rally. Are there any others we're missing?

8 A Not that I recall.

9 Q Okay. During the walk-throughs, was there anyone that was leading that
10 walk-through?

11 A The initial walk-through on that evening of the 9th, that was after one of our
12 monthly drill meetings, so we wanted to go and take a look at certain areas where the
13 sniper element or watch element may take positions. That was the sniper component.
14 And also the owner or former owner -- I know it changed hands -- at the AGR building was
15 present.

16 Q Did any injunction during the walk-through on the 9th, was this just
17 canvassing for where the sniper elements would potentially be located, or did you come
18 to any definitive sort of decisions that day?

19 A On the evening of the 9th?

20 Q Yes, sir.

21 A Any definitive decisions? We felt strongly about certain positions would be
22 more beneficial. However, we did want to come back on the following day during the
23 normal daylight hours to see if that would change.

24 Q And what were those initial beneficial positions?

25 A Elevation, and our decision at that point, based on what we had seen, the

1 second floor of the AGR building did show a relatively advantageous elevated position to
2 the venue of the northern side of the event.

3 Q Was there any discussion about the AGR roof?

4 A In part. We discussed that. There was some separate buildings we
5 designated as danger areas or areas of interest and looking at the foliage and some of the
6 ground layout.

7 Q And why would that be considered a danger area, if you could explain that
8 for us?

9 A Well, when somebody could possibly approach with minimal chance of
10 detection or conceal themselves.

11 Q So the evening of the 9th when you had done your sniper -- the
12 walk-through, the sniper element walk-through, the AGR roof was identified as a
13 potential or as a danger area that evening?

14 A We identified several parts that night. One, there were several
15 considerations with the tower. There was a --

16 [REDACTED]: Sorry. When you say tower --

17 [REDACTED]: It was a water tower. ■

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Just wanted to clarify.

19 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

20 There was a retention pond with, I actually called it a grassy knoll that evening,
21 right off to the east of the water tower. There was a wooded area to the northeast of
22 that water tower for an approach, some tall trees, and grassy areas. And then the AGR
23 building itself had a separate building multistory, and it was large in structure so it would
24 wrap around. So we had to take into consideration how we would see different areas
25 and have maximum visibility.

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q Okay. And just as a yes or no, so was the roof designated as a danger area
3 or the building itself --

4 A The entire structure had positives and negatives with it. We did talk some
5 about the roof.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Obviously, the second story is above that lower level. There was that
8 separate garage structure. We talked about that as well and how these things could be
9 addressed.

10 Q Okay. Great.

11 So you had mentioned, sir, just moving forward, the next day you wanted to go
12 and sort of do the walk-through during the daytime.

13 Can you speak to how sort of things changed in terms of the assessments from the
14 evening before?

15 A I can. One reason to go back that afternoon, that would be the similar time
16 whenever the candidate would arrive so we would have similar lighting conditions.

17 Q And, sir, just to be clear for the record, you did not go back -- when you say
18 that afternoon, you went back the afternoon of the 10th --

19 A Correct.

20 Q -- not the 9th?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Okay. Thank you.

23 Please proceed.

24 A Also between Monday and us going back -- or excuse me -- Tuesday and us
25 going back Wednesday evening, Commander [REDACTED] had spoken with Sniper Team Leader

1 [REDACTED] that his contact for the counter sniper from Secret Service, Agent [REDACTED], they
2 shared phone numbers, and [REDACTED] was to be in contact with [REDACTED] to start
3 reviewing plans on the sniper element watch.

4 [REDACTED]: And that was Wednesday that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] became in
5 contact?

6 [REDACTED]: My recollection is [REDACTED] called [REDACTED] and said, Hey, we're
7 planning on meeting in the afternoon. And my recollection of [REDACTED]'s answer was, I
8 had already stopped there during the day. I already took a look at everything, and we'll
9 touch base later with what you guys find, and then I'll coordinate.

10 BY [REDACTED]:

11 Q And then, you know, going a bit further then, once you had done the
12 afternoon sort of walk-through on the 10th, can you go into how any danger areas
13 changed or, more importantly, you know, if any danger areas were finalized, locations
14 being finalized, any final things determined that day?

15 A Between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from our team, we had addressed that they
16 would make contact with [REDACTED] to discuss certain things.

17 As far as the tower, the tower did have a distinct fence around it and had a ladder
18 which is in a locked up position. However, the grassy area behind it was a danger area,
19 and underneath the trees would be a danger area. They talked specifically about that.

20 To the north side -- northwest corner -- excuse me -- to the west side of the
21 building, from the interior we determined that we had a very good area of visualization
22 off of that area, towards that part of the venue. They were going to discuss that with
23 [REDACTED], the pros and cons.

24 Also during that Wednesday evening, we were able to pick out two additional
25 areas that we could take venue, in the arena up in a press box and then down in the

1 stands. We picked up two additional positions where we could watch off to the east in
2 an elevated position and then a position from in the stands where we could watch off to
3 the west end as the people entered the event.

4 Q So two quick follow-up questions. Thank you, sir.

5 Was it your understanding that all of the areas -- you had indicated two were
6 added, but that sort of the final disposition would be made after discussion with [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED] ?

8 A With members of the Secret Service.

9 Q With members of Secret Service. Okay.

10 A Yes.

11 Q And they were to sort of finalize that with Butler ESU?

12 A Between Butler ESU's recommendations and Secret Service, they would
13 come up with a plan.

14 Q And did you have any idea or knowledge as to when that plan would be
15 finalized?

16 A Not distinctly, no.

17 Q Okay. Sir, was there any discussion amongst Butler ESU about any sort of
18 aerial sort of review of the area?

19 A My recollection was either the day or so before we were asked if we could
20 also provide services -- if Secret Service were to have a counter drone element in place
21 and disabled drones, if we would be able to go out and retrieve them.

22 Q Were you given a response to that?

23 A We advised them that we would be able to, and I think it was also included
24 in the operational plan.

25 Q Okay. So just to be clear here, you advised Secret Service that you would

1 have a counter drone?

2 A They would -- they were going to have a counter drone, if they disabled
3 drones, if our unit would be able to go out and retrieve them.

4 Q And retrieve them?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. Now just separately, day of the rally, was there any discussion
7 during advance planning to conduct an aerial view or have some sort of surveillance going
8 on from the air?

9 A Not to my recollection.

10 Q Okay. Did anyone raise that possibility?

11 A And just to clarify, the day of the rally I was also working my daylight job, so I
12 came for that 9:00 a.m. briefing. After that 9:00 a.m. briefing, I reported back to my
13 duty station until the end of my shift. If there was discussion between that morning
14 briefing and when I returned that afternoon, I can't answer.

15 Q Okay. And thank you, sir. We'll get to July 13, but let's, you know, focus
16 on prior to July 13.

17 Any discussion about aerial, you know, surveillance the day of the rally?

18 A Not that I recall.

19 Q Okay. Does Butler ESU have any drone or aerial surveillance ability?

20 A Butler County does have drones.

21 Q Okay. Does Butler County or has Butler County in the past deployed its
22 drones to conduct such surveillance?

23 A Not that I recall.

24 [REDACTED]: To be clear, are you talking about Butler County ESU?

25 [REDACTED]: EMA. No, Butler County Emergency Management.

1 Do I need to clarify that?

2 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

3 [REDACTED]: Yes. Yes, sir.

4 [REDACTED]: So the 911 center who dispatches for our county, they have
5 assets they obtain through FEMA, FEMA grants. That includes water rescue, hazardous
6 materials, emergency management type of equipment. That's who houses the drones
7 and operates those drones.

8 At current Butler County Emergency Services unit, which just lack of a better term,
9 the SWAT team, we do not currently have a drone asset.

10 Does that clarify your --

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q It does. Thank you very much, sir.

13 Now, have you ever utilized non-emergency services drones?

14 A For operations, I don't believe we have.

15 Q Okay. Did you think at all in terms of identifying danger areas that drones
16 would be useful or aerial surveillance would have been useful for the rally?

17 A Obviously, any elevated observation would be beneficial.

18 Q Okay. So to be clear, were there any attempts made to obtain any drones
19 to conduct aerial surveillance?

20 A I had heard later after the day of the rally that there was talk about that.
21 But up to then, other than the request from the counter drone unit, I don't recall any.

22 Q And if you could just -- and then we can move on after this topic, but what
23 did you hear in terms of who and what was requested?

24 A I just asked myself that the other day, and I've never heard. I never heard
25 the answer of who offered the drone, who asked for a drone. I don't have an answer for

1 that.

2 Q Would it have been someone from Butler ESU?

3 A I don't know that either.

4 Q Okay. Sir, moving to the command area, were you aware that there would
5 be two command posts for July 13?

6 A Whenever I read the operational plan, I saw that there was a Secret Service
7 Command Post and the county command post.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Oh, my gosh. Sorry. I apologize.

10 Q That's okay.

11 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 1

12 was marked for identification.]

13 BY [REDACTED]:

14 Q We're now going to enter into the record majority exhibit 1, the Butler ESU
15 Donald J. Trump detail slide deck.

16 A Thank you.

17 Q Sir, do you recognize this slide show?

18 A I do.

19 Q Okay. So if you could turn, sir, to the green flag to begin under
20 "Execution," at the top here, "Butler ESU Counter Assault Team (6 Operators)." Is that
21 your understanding, sir, and is that who was dedicated to that team on July 13th?

22 A Yes. It would be two counter assault teams, yes.

23 Q Okay. And who are the six operators who were part of that counter assault
24 team?

25 A I would have to reference back to an assignment chart.

1 Q Okay. If you could turn to the blue flag, sir.

2 So here we have a listing of personnel, Counter Assault #2. There's a listing of
3 Beaver ESU BearCat.

4 And do you recognize other individuals on this list?

5 A I do.

6 Q And is that a complete list of individuals, or are there any individuals missing
7 from that list?

8 A There's one of our medics missing from that list, and I know at the last
9 minute Beaver and/or Washington had to supply a few more personnel, and then they
10 were broken up between the counter assault teams and the Quick Reaction Force.

11 Q Who was the medic team missing?

12 A Actually [REDACTED].

13 Q Okay. The last flag, sir, the yellow flag here, under "Contingencies,"
14 "Assault on Former President Trump," so it states here "Butler County ESU Counter
15 Assault Team Responsibility."

16 Is that your understanding, sir?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. And below, stating that the response will be quick and direct to the
19 threat to neutralize said threat?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay. And whose responsibility would a response be if there had been a
22 threat?

23 A Ask that a little bit differently if you could, please.

24 Q Sure. In response to a threat, whose responsibility would it have been to
25 address the threat?

1 A If a direct threat, active shooting would have happened in front of the
2 counter assault team, they would be able to take action with themselves. If there was
3 something that wasn't in their immediate line of sight that needed addressed, that would
4 be passed on from the commander.

5 Q What about prior to an active shooting? Who would have responsibility to
6 address a threatening individual, for example, an individual that was brandishing a
7 firearm and needed to be detained?

8 A Depending on the location and the venue, it could be anyone from a
9 standard patrol officer or if it were in close proximity to one of the special units, they
10 could address it as well.

11 Q Okay. So it would be a proximity-driven determination as to who would
12 have responsibility for detainment?

13 A I would say that's a fair statement.

14 Q Okay. Sir, were you aware that there would be two command posts for
15 July 13th?

16 A Not until I actually looked at the operational plan.

17 Q And when did you look at the operational plan?

18 A I noticed it in the initial draft and then on the final.

19 Q Okay. And the initial draft you don't remember -- recall what date that was
20 then?

21 A Probably within a day or two before that.

22 Q Before it. Okay.

23 Were you at either of those locations at any point during the day on July 13th?

24 A Yes, I was.

25 Q Okay. Could you please go into more detail of which location you were in

1 and when?

2 A I believe it's noticed as the Butler County Command Post. If you look at
3 page 2 of the operational plan, it will be low center.

4 Q And if you could, please, mark with this pen, sir.

5 And who was at the command post that you were located in?

6 A Commander [REDACTED]; myself after about 3 p -- about 3:10 p.m.; [REDACTED],
7 who is one of our members, but he also works with the public 911 center; Assistant Fire
8 Chief [REDACTED]; Sergeant [REDACTED] from the Butler County Sheriff's Office;
9 and initially when I was there, Lieutenant [REDACTED] from Butler Township, and then there
10 were some other people that walked in and out from the county and other police officers.

11 Q Was PSP there in your command post?

12 A Not that I recall.

13 Q Okay. Did the Secret Service ever invite you to sit in their command post?

14 A Not that I recall, ma'am.

15 Q Do you recall them coming into your command post at any point during the
16 day?

17 A No, ma'am.

18 Q Okay. How did your command post communicate with the Secret Service
19 command post?

20 A Sergeant [REDACTED] from the Pennsylvania State Police was up in their
21 command post security room. We had started communication with him. We also had
22 a State Police radio in our command post. We had a phone list of Secret
23 Service -- contact phone list with them as well where we could contact by cellular.

24 Q So to be clear, you had a State Police radio but no individuals from the State
25 Police were there?

1 A Not at the time I was there.

2 Q Okay. And how were you all at the command post communicating with
3 Secret Service throughout the day?

4 A Primarily Commander [REDACTED] through Sergeant [REDACTED], or I was told earlier
5 there was a -- I believe it was a Facebook threat, and Commander [REDACTED] contacted the
6 Secret Service intelligence contact.

7 Q So [REDACTED] was communicating via radio. Did you see any texting or cell
8 phone use?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And who did you see using their cell phone to communicate with the Secret
11 Service?

12 A Commander [REDACTED].

13 Q Okay. So we've briefly sort of gone over that there was discussion of the
14 AGR building that came up during advance planning conversations.

15 Who brought up the AGR building during those advance planning conversations?

16 A All of us who were at the Tuesday evening, the 9th, we all pretty much as
17 soon as we walked to that area of the venue agreed that they were various areas of
18 concern.

19 Q Did the -- go ahead, sir.

20 A Oh, I apologize.

21 Could I just clarify a little bit on the earlier with the cell phone to the Secret
22 Service? The time that I recall the Secret Service was contacted when I was present,
23 Commander [REDACTED] was on the phone with Sergeant [REDACTED], and he was like -- my
24 understanding from Commander [REDACTED] is as he's telling Sergeant [REDACTED], Sergeant [REDACTED] is
25 forwarding that information to the people around him who would be Secret Service.

1 Q And do you know how Sergeant [REDACTED] was forwarding that information?

2 A I think face-to-face.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay. My time is up.

4 Thank you, sir.

5 Do you need to take a quick?

6 [REDACTED]: I'm good. I do apologize for my phone.

7 [REDACTED]: No, no problem.

8 [REDACTED]: If it's fine, we can keep going. Does anyone need a break?

9 [REDACTED]: Do you need a break?

10 [REDACTED]: I'm good.

11 [REDACTED]: I'm good too. All right.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY [REDACTED]:

14 Q Why don't we go ahead and get started. I'm going to cover some of the
15 same ground, but to the extent that my colleagues on the majority have answered it
16 already, I won't ask you the same questions.

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q So you mentioned that you have been with Penn Township for 23 years and
19 Butler County ESU for about 7 years. Is that right?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Do you have any other law enforcement experience?

22 A I do.

23 Q Can you give us a brief overview of that?

24 A I worked for the Butler County Sheriff's Office part time when I got out of the
25 academy in 1992, and I also worked for the Evans City Police Department.

1 Q And how long were you with the sheriff's department and then Evans City?

2 A I worked casual at the sheriff's department from '92 to around '98, went
3 there for 2 years full time, and in between there I was still part time with Evans City, and
4 then I briefly worked there full time for almost 2 years before I went to the sheriff's office,
5 and then I went right from the sheriff's office to Penn Township.

6 Q And have you at any point served in any branches of the military?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Where did you get your sniper training from?

9 A Allegheny County Police Academy.

10 Q Do you have prior experience with any rallies?

11 A I do.

12 Q Which ones?

13 A The 2020 rally in Penn Township.

14 Q And did you serve in that rally as a member of the Butler County ESU?

15 A I was actually on duty that day, so I served with Penn Township.

16 Q And what was your role during the rally when you were with Penn
17 Township?

18 A I was the patrol corporal. I was tasked with our sergeant, who was actually
19 our officer in charge, was in the command post at the airport. I served as the field
20 operational liaison for patrol.

21 Q And so considering you were not -- in that capacity, you were patrol officer.
22 Have you had experience coordinating with Pennsylvania State Police or any Federal
23 agencies?

24 A Over the years through drug task force warrants in large capacities, we've
25 shared resources and worked on similar cases together.

1 Q Was this your first experience working with the Secret Service?

2 A No. We worked with them in 2020 as well.

3 Q And did you have to coordinate with Secret Service in 2020?

4 A Yes, we did.

5 Q Did you personally have to coordinate with Secret Service?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what was your role when coordinating with Secret Service in 2020?

8 A I actually developed some of the operational plan also for the issue at that
9 time and the patrol division at that time.

10 Q Oh, so even though you weren't present as an ESU member, you still helped
11 with the planning for the ESU?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And just for the record, when I say ESU, I'm referring to Butler County ESU.
14 If I need to specify Beaver or Washington, I'll specify them.

15 A Okay. Thank you.

16 Q How much experience does one need to become a member of the ESU?

17 A We like to be -- to be an operator, we have to have 5 years of experience.
18 We can take in some military experience as well with that to accumulate that 5 years.

19 Q And how do you determine whether you have sufficient personnel for a
20 particular event?

21 A We generally do a threat matrix, and that takes into account the number of
22 individuals that could be present, what hazards could be present, the size of the
23 residence or the venue. We take all of that into consideration, and that will give us a
24 ballpark of what we would need.

25 Q In your current role as deputy commander, how long have you been in that

1 role for ESU?

2 A I was the initial commander for the first 3 to 4 years, and as the team grew,
3 we broke that one position through three positions between Commander [REDACTED] -- that's
4 when he took over -- myself, and Deputy Commander [REDACTED].

5 Q So earlier today we needed to clarify at some point you were talking about
6 Butler Emergency Services, and I think we thought you were talking about ESU. Have
7 you had instances in which people were confused about the two?

8 A Before this, I don't believe so.

9 Q During the planning, what law enforcement entities did you speak with prior
10 to July 13th?

11 A I need to answer that in a certain way. The Butler County ESU is made up
12 of officers from multiple departments. So to answer your question, I would have to say
13 yes, but most of the other departments I talked to, like the Butler Township officers,
14 there's, like, four of those that are on the Emergency Services Unit.

15 So if I answered your question specifically, I would say yes, but they are also team
16 members as well.

17 Q I appreciate the clarification. So I guess what I'll say is what law
18 enforcement entities did you correspond with in your capacity as Butler County ESU
19 vis-a-vis their capacities and their various entities?

20 In other words, [REDACTED], for example, you're probably talking to him as a
21 member of ESU, not Butler Township. So did you talk with Butler Township -- somebody
22 from Butler Township on behalf of Butler Township?

23 A Not until the day of the walk-around. I talked to Lieutenant [REDACTED] on the
24 walk-around.

25 Q And what about Beaver County ESU, Washington County ESU, were you in

1 touch with them?

2 A Commander [REDACTED] reached out to Beaver initially and asked for
3 assistance, and based on the size and our availability, Commander [REDACTED] reached out to
4 Washington County's commander, which would be [REDACTED], and asked him to supply
5 additional resources.

6 The day of the walk-around, I also talked to Beaver's deputy commander
7 reference his vehicle placement.

8 Q Were you in touch with the Pennsylvania State Police or their sheriff's
9 department at any point?

10 A I'm sure that in the walk-around I spoke to them as well.

11 Q I guess what I'm saying is besides a casual interaction, in your role and
12 planning the event, did you have to coordinate with any of those entities?

13 A No.

14 Q What was your understanding of -- all right. So we've heard the analogy
15 that the campaign is the home buyer, the Secret Service is the general contractor, and
16 then there are subcontractors. What is your understanding of who was the
17 subcontractor of the tactical and who was the subcontractor for patrol?

18 A We were the plumber in my eyes. We supplied the tactical resources of
19 the CAT team, the Quick Reaction Force, and the overwatch. That was my
20 understanding of our mission.

21 Q And what about on the patrol end? Do you recall who would have been
22 responsible for patrol?

23 A My understanding was if there would have been anyone -- a disturbance in
24 the crowd, State Police would handle that, and then Butler Township would be handling
25 traffic details.

1 Q I think -- and just to confirm, I think you said you did not attend the July 8th
2 meeting. Is that correct?

3 A July 8th meeting, no, I did not.

4 Q That Monday, July 8th, which would have been the first meeting with Secret
5 Service after they announced they were coming.

6 A Correct, the Allegheny County meeting I did not attend.

7 Q Okay. But you did participate in the walk-through on July 9th, and that was
8 exclusively ESU, right?

9 A The 9th, that would be Wednesday -- or the 9th, the evening of the 9th, that
10 would have been ESU only, yes.

11 Q Yes. And do you have a -- if I were to show you a map, could you recall
12 where you guys would have walked around that day?

13 A On the 8th, yes.

14 [REDACTED]: You mean the 9th?

15 [REDACTED]: 9th. Do we want to put a big map out here with a calendar at
16 this point?

17 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. A

18 was marked for identification.]

19 BY [REDACTED]:

20 Q So I'm going to introduce an aerial map which I will identify as minority
21 exhibit A.

22 And if you have something to write with, could you maybe just draw the route
23 which you would have taken on July 9th?

24 A [Nonverbal response.]

25 Q So it appears from what I'm seeing that you walked around the AGR

1 complex. Did you walk around the Butler Farm Show as well?

2 A The Farm Show would have been more so the next day because this was
3 hours of darkness, into that.

4 Q So the AGR complex has light? Was that the reason you were able to walk
5 around that night?

6 A In part, in part. And as I said, by that time it was getting late hours and the
7 visualization would not be the same as it would be during the day, so it was limited,
8 limited benefit at that point.

9 Q And you wrote in black ink for July 9th. Can I have you use my blue pen for
10 July 10th to show me where you guys walked that day?

11 A [Nonverbal response.]

12 Q And did you also cover some of the ground of AGR on July 10th as well?

13 A Yes, we did reflect that back here as well. Yeah, in here.

14 Q All right. I'll take the pen back if you don't mind.

15 Thank you, sir.

16 So at some point ESU Member [REDACTED] would have drawn an area of -- to fill the
17 view for the various snipers. How did that map come to be?

18 A He created that.

19 Q But he was not present during the walk-through on July 10th, right? Or
20 was he?

21 A Wednesday, that would be the evening, yes.

22 Q July 10th at 4:00 p.m. --

23 A I believe he would have been there.

24 Q -- was he present at that one?

25 A Yes, I believe he was there.

1 Q Did the two of you discuss what the positions would be for the snipers?

2 A We did.

3 Q And how did you determine where your snipers should be positioned?

4 A We walked through the venue. We also had rangefinders, and we took
5 distances. And things were starting to be set up, so we just took elevated positions and
6 looked in different directions to see what would be the best fields of observation and
7 potential fire.

8 Q Was anyone else a part of that discussion besides yourself and ESU Member
9 [REDACTED]?

10 A [REDACTED] would have been involved with that. At some point [REDACTED] would
11 have been involved with that as well.

12 Q All right. So let's talk about July 11th.
13 Did you say you participated in that meeting?

14 A That was the large walk-around, yes.

15 Q So that is -- when you say walk-around, is that the same as walk-through?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And I guess before we get into what happened that day, is there a distinction
18 between a walk-through and a rehearsal?

19 A Yes, I would say there is a difference.

20 Q Can you explain what the difference would be?

21 A In my definition of rehearsal, if we're preparing for, say, doing a warrant and
22 I want to do a rehearsal, everyone would be in their full kit, in their gear. They would
23 assemble at the apparatus, whatever vehicle they would be in. We would make sure
24 everyone had their gear for their assignments, specific assignment, whether it be a door
25 breach, a ladder operation, a cover operation, a medical component. The rehearsal at

1 that point would be everyone is lined up. They would load onto the truck in whatever
2 way they're assigned to. They would step out, and they would make a rough approach
3 to the direction of the house or the threat. That would be a rehearsal.

4 A walk-around would be it's just not in gear or anything, just a walk-through.

5 Walk-around would be walk over the terrain that's involved in that area.

6 Q For a rally, would it be more appropriate to do a rehearsal or a
7 walk-through?

8 A I would almost think a walk-through is probably beneficial.

9 Q Why is that?

10 A You would have to have your equipment apparatus with you to do a
11 rehearsal. As long as I knew the dimensions of our vehicles, the size of the gates, the
12 size of the buildings, things like that, a walk-through would take care of that as well. It's
13 not necessary to have all of the equipment with a walk-through per se.

14 Now, that's not to say that if there was something I'm not sure, bring that piece,
15 make sure it fits, make sure it can get through that gate. You know, that would be the
16 exception to that. But overall on a large venue like that, generally a walk-through would
17 be sufficient.

18 Q And during this walk-through, Secret Service was also present, right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you recall -- and I'm just leading a bit for the sake of time -- Agents [REDACTED],
21 [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] being present?

22 A There were three females, and Agent [REDACTED] is really the one that I spoke
23 to the most, other than just a handshake, how are you, introduced ourselves.

24 Q And what did you discuss with [REDACTED]?

25 A [REDACTED], that was down by the red barns. There was Assistant Team

1 Leader [REDACTED] and myself and, I think, two of our operators were there as well. Down at
2 the barns we discussed the venue. Team Leader [REDACTED] had mentioned where the
3 snipers were going to be present. And [REDACTED] was like, We have no choice. We
4 have to be on top of the barns, because their main perimeter focus is out over the crowd,
5 over the candidate. So he said we have no choice other than to be up on top.

6 And that's when Assistant Team Leader [REDACTED] is, like, Well, our people will be
7 here. Our people will be over in the arena as well.

8 And, once again, we aired some concerns about that big open area from the
9 eastern approach, the tower, the woods, that side of the building all through up to the
10 fences. And at that point Agent [REDACTED] -- and he said it in like a third person that he
11 was informed or they were supposed to be putting a fencing or curtain translucent up
12 across the fence. I didn't clarify which fence, but my impression how he's phrased it, he
13 was told that there was going to be some sort of fencing put up.

14 Q And so you said that [REDACTED] mentioned they had no choice and they had
15 to be up there. What are you referring to; the roof?

16 A The roof. And, yes, to be that close to the -- I want to call it the
17 grandstand -- not the grandstand -- the bleachers where Mr. Trump was in front of that
18 was his only choice.

19 Q And when he says we had no choice, did he have reservations about being
20 on the roof?

21 A I think it was just the limitation. That's the only place he could.

22 Q Okay. Do you recall if there were any other meetings or planning
23 discussions before July 13th that we haven't covered?

24 A Not that I'm -- yes, there was. Once again, the day of the walk-around, I
25 was once again on duty. I did our initial walk-around, went back to my patrol duties. I

1 do recall them saying that there would be a quick follow-up at the Butler Township
2 station which I was not present for.

3 Q Okay. Yes, and I think that's when ESU would have finalized their ops plan.
4 They used the Butler Township location. Does that sound right?

5 A Most likely in that time frame, yes.

6 Q Do you recall conversations about the AGR building in particular with Secret
7 Service?

8 A Most of my conversations with the AGR building on that day were with
9 Agent [REDACTED].

10 Q And what did you all discuss with regards to the AGR building?

11 A Just what I mentioned there about the fencing, that approach from the
12 tower side. Agent [REDACTED] -- or Team Leader [REDACTED] and Team Leader [REDACTED] had the
13 bulk of the conversations with the Secret Service agents.

14 Q Did you ever -- did you have any input as to whether the AGR building would
15 be inside of the secure perimeter?

16 A No. Not in the way you phrased it, no.

17 Q When you say that, is there some other way in which you had input on the
18 AGR building being in the perimeter or not?

19 A Other than just saying these areas are a concern, no.

20 Q Why was it a concern?

21 A Just the open approach to it.

22 Q The open approach to the AGR building?

23 A The areas surrounding around the AGR building being so open.

24 Q And who did you express that concern to?

25 A That was amongst our sniper group ourselves and then briefly that morning,

1 like I stated, with Agent [REDACTED] at the barn.

2 Q And you mentioned that there was discussions of putting an opaque lining
3 along the fence. Were you aware of discussions about putting vehicles in between the
4 AGR building and the rally?

5 A I knew they were going to put a large combine on that side and then the
6 fencing.

7 Q And do you happen to know what the decision ultimately was?

8 A No. And I don't believe there was fencing.

9 Q Do you know, was any agency expected to patrol the AGR building?

10 A Patrolling the outside or the inside?

11 Q The outside.

12 A Hearing back from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], whenever they passed that
13 information along, they were told that -- and it got back to me that it would be covered
14 and that they generally put an unarmed Secret Service agent in an area like that and
15 possibly a marked patrol unit.

16 Q Did you have -- and so it sounds like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would have spoken
17 to Secret Service and reported back --

18 A Yes.

19 Q -- that they had it covered?

20 Did you ever talk directly to anybody else about that being covered?

21 A That end, no.

22 Q Did anyone -- as far as you're aware, did anyone from ESU or any other law
23 enforcement entity go up to the water tower to evaluate the line of sight?

24 A We did not climb the water tower. On the second day, which would be the
25 Wednesday evening, now that we're in the normal lighting conditions of the day of the

1 event, we walked out to -- about to where the podium would be and took sight back
2 towards the water tower. And at that point, that sort of confirmed what we had the
3 night before, that based on the large, like, pretty high trees and the thick foliage on those,
4 there was no line of sight from the tower, unless you were on the extreme top of the
5 tower, back to the podium. So we were able to have a little more solace that that would
6 not be a point where someone would take a shot from.

1 [4:46 p.m.]

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q And as you understood the mission for the ESU snipers, they were looking to
4 see if there was anything inside the perimeter that would be a threat to former President
5 Trump. Is that right?

6 A Yes. Inside the perimeter or right along that -- right along that fencing in
7 that open area.

8 Q And I understand that you were referring to the -- there are sort of two lines
9 of fence running parallel between the AGR building and the rally location. Is that what
10 you're referring to?

11 A Correct. The personnel that had been searching were inside the venue
12 between -- between the Farm Show and the first fence. And then there was -- the area
13 between the two fences basically is a no man's zone.

14 And then we were also watching the area between AGR and that -- that first fence
15 for the persons to come through there. But we were facing the venue.

16 Q So who was a part of the discussions regarding whether to put the ESU
17 snipers on the roof or inside on the second floor?

18 A I think, based on the totality of everything we looked at, the consensus from
19 the group of us was the vision from inside of that second story elevated in that area of
20 the building met the requirement of our perceived mission to over-watch that. That
21 also included what we'd been told about the curtains and the -- we'll have it covered on
22 the eastern side of the building.

23 Q And you said "the group of us." Who was a part of that discussion?

24 A That would be [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and myself.

25 Q So the three of you assessed the situation, determined that you could

1 adequately perform your mission inside the building?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Was there a reason not to use the roof?

4 A There was a reason for that as well. Have you ever heard like a
5 360-coverage, covering all around?

6 Q Yes.

7 A That's one rationale for that. If you're on that roof, you have to be
8 watching all around yourself, okay. In that building, which we also had the permission
9 to be there and we also had the card access to it, we could have ourselves locked in that
10 building and not worry someone's sneaking up behind you and focus mainly on your area
11 of responsibility.

12 Q Was there any thought to -- I'll come back to that in a bit.

13 Let's talk about the location generally. What are your thoughts about using
14 Butler Farm as opposed to some other location in the Butler County area?

15 A Opinion?

16 [REDACTED]: I think you can answer that. I mean, from the perspective
17 that you'd been at the airport in 2020, do you have an opinion on that? If you do, share
18 it. If you don't, then don't.

19 [REDACTED]: I guess one thing is what -- there's a large crowd going to be at
20 this rally, and we perceived it. That's why we responded with the number of people we
21 did. The airport would handle that.

22 We are Butler County. We're rural. We're down-home people. The Butler
23 Farm Show is an awesome venue. Securitywise, it does present additional areas of
24 concern as that side, because it's open.

25 The airport, where we did 2020, which I have a history with, it is a large open area

1 with a secure Federal fence. It would be not as bad to protect. On the flip side, I also
2 dealt with the traffic when they left, total nightmare.

3 But -- so there's pros and cons to either one.

4 [REDACTED]. So I have some questions about the ops plan. I have about 5
5 minutes left, so I guess we can start, and if we have to finish later, that's fine. I'm going
6 to mark mine as minority exhibit B. Do you still have the ops plan?

7 [REDACTED]. I do.

8 [REDACTED]. I'm actually going to just go ahead and give you a copy of mine.

9 [REDACTED] Minority Exhibit B
10 was marked for identification.]

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q And have you previously had a chance to look through what I'll call the ESU
13 ops plan?

14 A I have.

15 Q Let's take a look at -- well, for starters, who drafted this ops plan?

16 A The initial draft would be by Team Leader [REDACTED]; then ultimately
17 approved by Commander [REDACTED].

18 Q And who all from ESU would have received this ops plan?

19 A Commander [REDACTED], Deputy Commander [REDACTED], myself, and I'm sure that
20 [REDACTED], who wrote it, it probably circled back to him.

21 Q And would those, the people you mentioned, would they have received it on
22 July 12th?

23 A I would say yes.

24 Q And, on July 13th, would other ESU members have received the ops plan?

25 A Yes, it would have been presented -- it was presented in a PowerPoint

1 format at the morning briefing.

2 Q Were physical copies also handed out?

3 A Physical copies of maps were available. I don't recall if there was -- every
4 person got a paper copy.

5 Q Let's go a few pages in, under "Mission." So it's one, two, about four pages
6 in. Just a point of clarification, when it says two counter assault teams, QRF teams and
7 counter sniper teams, you guys actually sent sniper teams in, not counter sniper teams,
8 right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Let's go down to "Execution," and I'm looking one, two, three, four, about
11 five pages down. And you'll see it says "QRF team (4 to 6 operators)" at the top.

12 A Yes.

13 Q Do you see where it says that members are to report all sightings of drones
14 to CP?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Is CP command post?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You were inside the command post, right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you recall any reports of sightings of drones?

21 A Late in the evening after the shooting, there were drones, but prior to that,
22 no.

23 Q Were the ESU operators at their post around 4 p.m.?

24 A Yes, they were ordered to take post positions by 11 a.m.

25 Q So I'm going to have you now look at the next page, and the following page

1 has sectors 1 through 7, and it says that they're ordered per importance.

2 A Yes.

3 Q And you'll see that sector 2, which is in green, includes the barn. Do you
4 see what I'm looking at?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Were ESU snipers tasked with watching that area?

7 A Sector 2. There would be limited visibility for the persons in the -- I'd have
8 to reference Team Leader Wagner's color-coded areas of responsibility. It would be
9 limited to almost no Butler County or Washington County snipers to visualize that. So,
10 overall, no, unless the counter snipers from Secret Service turned that direction.

11 Q So, I mean, given that that is considered the second most important area,
12 what was the plan to make sure that area was safe?

13 A At the corner of -- to the far right of sector 6, that was a post that was closed
14 off at 1500 hours, 3 p.m., by a Butler Township officer and a Secret Service agent, denying
15 any entry into that area after 3 p.m.

16 Q And did you have QRF or the counter assault team positioned behind the
17 barns?

18 A They were. They were positioned behind the barn, yes, in sector 2.

19 Q And would they have been tasked with possibly looking out behind the barn?

20 A I'm sure they would have visualized that as the motorcade was pulling in.

21 [REDACTED]: My time is up, so I'll pause there. We'll continue with the ops
22 plan when I'm back.

23 So we'll go off the record for now.

24 [Recess.]

25 [REDACTED]: So we are back on the record picking up majority round 2.

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q Just a few quick followups, sir, and then we'll move into July 13.

3 Did you see the final plan after [REDACTED] met with relevant personnel from Butler
4 ESU?

5 A Our final plan or the plan that he provided to Team Leader [REDACTED]?

6 Q So we'll break that up. [REDACTED] was working with your folks from Butler
7 ESU to finalize Butler ESU's plan. Is that correct?

8 A Through Team Leader [REDACTED], yes.

9 Q Okay. Did you see that plan, sir, once it was finalized?

10 A This is the only plan I saw.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Agent [REDACTED] had given a written plan to Team Leader [REDACTED] I believe
13 the day of the event.

14 Q Okay. So, just for purposes of clarity, did [REDACTED] assist with finalizing
15 majority exhibit 2 -- B, excuse me.

16 A Not that I recall any other details, no.

17 Q He did not, [REDACTED] did not assist with determining final danger areas, as
18 you had indicated previously in your testimony; they were to discuss, [REDACTED], certain
19 danger areas?

20 A I don't know if --

21 [REDACTED]: Could you restate it? I didn't get it either.

22 [REDACTED]: Yes.

23 BY [REDACTED]:

24 Q In your previous testimony, sir, you had indicated that you had identified
25 some preliminary danger areas, but that [REDACTED] was supposed to discuss with

1 [REDACTED], and then they would come to a final sort of conclusion. Is that accurate?

2 A That would be my understanding, yes. I explained, along with [REDACTED] at the
3 barns, our areas of concern. Whether those -- how those were taken forward, how that
4 determined anything different, I can't tell you one way or another.

5 Q So you were not privy to the conversations between [REDACTED] and
6 [REDACTED] to finalize a plan?

7 A Correct.

8 Q Did [REDACTED] relay his discussions with [REDACTED] to you?

9 A No. [REDACTED] and I, when we talked to him, it was clear at that point he did
10 not have any objections to where we said our people would be, if that helps your
11 question.

12 Q Okay. And where your people would be, so had you at that juncture come
13 to a final determination of all the danger areas?

14 A At that time, I believe we had.

15 Q Okay. Were there any discussions to place Butler ESU personnel around
16 the AGR building such that no one could get onto the premises or obtain any elevation?

17 A That -- around the building would not have been in our mission. We would
18 have -- if we were asked that specifically, we would say that wasn't our requested mission
19 nor would we have had extra people to do that.

20 That would have been a patrol function. We are a specialty team. Just our
21 dress alone would present another level of -- level of force, if you would.

22 Q Thank you, sir.

23 So, for the record, again, to be clear, it would have been a patrol function in terms
24 of placing personnel around the building such that nobody could enter the immediate
25 premises of the AGR building?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. On the day of the rally, were you confident that all danger areas that
3 Butler ESU identified were accounted for?

4 A From the information I had received, yes, I was confident.

5 Q Were you aware of any plans for the Secret Service to use local law
6 enforcement radios on July 13?

7 A I was.

8 Q Okay. Going back to the 360 exposure concern you indicated on the roof of
9 the AGR building, although you did have that concern, were there any thoughts or
10 discussions as to how to remediate that concern by placing any kind of back cover or any
11 other type of cover so that you could be posted on the roof?

12 A At that point that we chose that roof, then we looked at the elevation from
13 the second story; once we saw the view from the second story, we felt that was
14 satisfactory to accomplish what our mission was.

15 Q Were you at all concerned that anyone could gain access to the roof, sir?

16 A Not with the understanding that there were -- it was covered and people
17 would be around the building.

18 Q Okay. So, back to the Secret Service use of local law enforcement radios,
19 so how did you become aware that they would be using local law enforcement radios?

20 A My understanding was that Agent [REDACTED] was offered a radio so he could
21 be in live time communication with the other snipers. Later realized -- and once again,
22 that I went to the command post after 3 o'clock. The command post went into effect at
23 1100 hours.

24 My understanding was too that there were additional radios available for Secret
25 Service, if needed.

1 Q Did they -- to your knowledge, did any Secret Service take any of the radios
2 so that they could be listening in to local law enforcement?

3 A Not that I'm aware of.

4 Q And did any Secret Service personnel ever approach the command post that
5 you were stationed or at any other juncture at all during the day of July 13th to obtain a
6 radio?

7 A Not that I recall.

8 Q Did Butler ESU ever attempt to then approach U.S. Secret Service to deliver
9 the radios?

10 A No. However, the security room where the Secret Service was, there was
11 to be a county radio at that location.

12 Q Were you concerned about how you were going to communicate with the
13 Secret Service or how they could listen in to what was going on at the local law
14 enforcement level if they didn't have radios?

15 A At my time coming to the command post, it appeared that communications
16 were working out okay at that point.

17 Q Okay. And how were communications being conducted at that point?

18 A At that point, the relays between radio, portable, cellular, text, that
19 appeared to be moving relatively adequate.

20 Q So the primary method of communication that was being used was text?

21 A I don't know if the primary. I think there was a -- a balance of all three
22 entities.

23 Q So you were communicating, the Secret Service was communicating with
24 Butler ESU via radio as well?

25 A Text and phone would be the two primary --

1 Q So text and then phone calls?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay. Were you ever concerned that, should there be connectivity or
4 phone service issues, you wouldn't be able to get in touch with the Secret Service?

5 A That's why we had a layered approach to it. There were portables. We
6 had cellular, and then we had texting. Intermittently, there would be a cellular problem;
7 we'd back it up with a text, or we'd be able to relay over a portable.

8 Q What's a portable, sir?

9 A Portables, it looks like a walkie-talkie. You have a mobile radio with a
10 microphone; and then you have a portable radio, which I wear on my hip.

11 Q Okay. Did the Secret Service provide Butler ESU advance planning team
12 with any detailed information about what was needed from your agency?

13 A I don't recall anything, ever seeing anything in writing. I do know that the
14 counter assault team had made contact with Commander [REDACTED] and Commander [REDACTED],
15 and provided the distinct six people for each CAT team. He was very specific in his
16 requirement.

17 Q Did the Secret Service provide any information about how to handle
18 suspicious persons or items?

19 A Any suspicious event, like I believe it was a Facebook post, they recommend
20 that go to their intelligence officer, and they provided that phone number.

21 As far as a suspicious person or a person of interest, that would go through the
22 mobile, like a police channel to -- and when I say "channel," I mean like a pathway. We
23 would report anything suspicious or didn't look right; we would pass it up.

24 Q Did the Secret Service have any type of approval process for Butler ESU's ops
25 plan?

1 A I don't know that.

2 Q In your role as deputy commander, would that be information that you
3 would want to know?

4 A I think sharing of the information would be important, yes.

5 Q Did you feel it was important for the Secret Service to approve your
6 operational plan?

7 A I've been on other large drug roundups with multiple entities. It's
8 not -- plans are not always shared. If we do things with like the drug task force, we
9 don't -- they bought a lot of drugs at a house; now they need the warrant served.
10 We don't give our operational plan to the task force. We just want to know the
11 basics of what happened, who was in the house, what threats there are, and we base our
12 operational plan on that.

13 They don't have to approve our plan at that point. So it's common that they're
14 not always shared. So that's not surprising.

15 Q Were you told at any point that the Secret Service needed to approve your
16 plan?

17 A Not that I recall.

18 Q Turning to the day of the campaign rally in Butler, can you briefly discuss a
19 timeline of events for that day, starting with any operational briefings that occurred.

20 A Sure. And very good question, it will probably be a long answer. That day
21 in question on the 13th, I was on my daily patrol also. I had left there to come up and
22 do the 0900 brief, which would be the PowerPoint presentation of this operational plan.

23 That occurred at the Brady Paul Lodge on the southeastern corner of the venue.
24 Once that was concluded, I returned to my duties, finished my patrol shift, and then
25 reported back to the venue and direct to the command post.

1 Q And, sir, just quickly, sir, I'll interject. Did anyone else deliver the briefing,
2 the brief with you that morning?

3 A Team Leader [REDACTED] did that. Commander [REDACTED]. There were just a
4 couple things at the end of the briefing. We just had to clarify a couple of the
5 contingencies for the landing zone, and if there would be a disturbance, make sure
6 everybody had their service gear with them. But that was all of my input on that
7 morning briefing.

8 Q Sir, approximately how long did the briefing last that morning?

9 A I would say close to an hour.

10 Q An hour, okay. And who was present at that briefing?

11 A Team members from the Butler County Emergency Services Unit, the
12 Washington Regional SWAT Team, and the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit. I
13 also stood next to the 911 Director [REDACTED]. And those are the only ones that I recall
14 at that time.

15 Q Was there a Q&A period after the briefing, or can you go over, you know,
16 how the briefing sort of went down?

17 A People come in. We give the good morning, everybody sit down, listen up.
18 We start down through the briefing in the SMEAC five-paragraph form, as this is written
19 here. I go over that.

20 Then what we had -- whatever call signs, because we were using people from
21 different counties, just to verify we had good communication routes of what we're calling
22 each other, because we're working as a multijurisdictional entity at that point.

23 Then, after that, we did ask for questions at the end, which we normally do.
24 There were a couple clarifications, which I had mentioned about the landing zone. We
25 quickly deconflicted those.

1 [REDACTED]: When you say "landing zone," are you talking about -- what are you
2 referring to?

3 [REDACTED]: Well, for aircraft. If there would be any medical emergencies,
4 we want to clarify where the landing zone would be. Because, during that rally, there
5 was a -- a flight restriction placed for that. So we had different locations for the aircraft.

6 We want to make sure we were clear, if something happened, which one would
7 be used. So we clarified that with the 911 director, our EMS, and our people, including
8 our medical people.

9 BY [REDACTED]:

10 Q So you said there was a Q&A, that Q&A just consisted of a few clarifying
11 questions and then people then dispersed and went to their posts?

12 A Yes. They would -- so from 9 to roughly 10 o'clock, roughly an hour, was
13 that briefing. After that briefing, I returned to my duties.

14 According to the operational plan and the timeline, Commander [REDACTED] was having
15 everyone in place operational at 11 a.m. I was gone at that point, but my understanding
16 is that did take place.

17 Q Okay, sir. Was there any information about known or suspected threats
18 toward former President Trump discussed during the briefing?

19 A Not that I recall.

20 Q Was any information shared with you regarding how a potential shooter
21 should be handled?

22 A In the briefing, that the CAT teams would respond quickly to the threat.

23 Q Do you think that it was clear to everyone at the briefing who was to
24 respond to an active shooter?

25 A I believe it was.

1 Q Okay. And what about, prior to a shooting, do you think that it was clear to
2 folks at the briefing how a threat should be dismantled or who would be responsible for
3 detaining suspicious individuals?

4 A I believe it was with our tactical team. I believe it was, yes.

5 Q And whose responsibility would it have been to detain a suspicious
6 individual?

7 A It would be a patrol unit.

8 Q Okay. You had gone over sort of communication with the Secret Service
9 was done by portables, text.

10 Did the Secret Service request any preference as to how you were to
11 communicate with them?

12 A No.

13 Q Did the Secret Service provide you with any information about how to
14 handle suspicious persons?

15 A That, if you would get a suspicious threat, it would go to the intelligence
16 person. I know that was specific. Other than that, we would just pass information up
17 to the Secret Service.

18 Q And you had that intelligence individual's contact information?

19 A It's on one of the phone listings, yes.

20 Q And you would communicate with that person via phone?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And, again, if there were service issues, how would you have handled the
23 situation?

24 A I probably would have had to relay it by hand, walk.

25 Q Were you concerned at all at a rally of that size that there may be phone or

1 connectivity issues?

2 A Obviously, when you get that many people together, yes.

3 Q Okay. Was there any attempt to, you know, procure any kind of backup
4 comms?

5 A Not by our agency, no.

6 Q Okay. Who -- did anyone make any attempts to procure backup
7 communication?

8 A Not that I'm aware of.

9 Q And -- okay. Sir, just starting to sort of go through this, what was your
10 assignment for that day?

11 A My assignment was just to assist in the command post.

12 Q How were you given your assignment?

13 A Verbally from Commander [REDACTED].

14 Q What time did you get to your assigned post, again?

15 A Approximately 1510 hours.

16 Q And what instructions were you given about your assignment?

17 A I was just briefed on how the layout of the command trailer was, what
18 frequencies were available, what he had instituted as far as the problem PAR checks,
19 personal accountability checks, and where we were at in the process as far as the
20 motorcade and the crowd assemblies.

21 And, at that point, then I also learned about the volumes of medical emergencies.

22 Q And, in terms of how you were communicating with your team, sir, was that
23 via radio?

24 A Primarily, yes.

25 Q Which channel?

1 A It would be ops 4.

2 Q So you were fielding inquiries from your team or just listening in? Could
3 you describe, you know, what you were doing with respect to channel 4?

4 A A little bit of both. We would hear if anything came up, anybody was
5 moving. Then we would do accountability checks. It ended up being roughly every
6 hour, to make sure persons were, you know, doing okay at their -- at their locations.

7 Q Okay. So, with your folks, your team, you were communicating over radio,
8 text as well?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And phone?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Did you have any issues communicating with other law enforcement
13 personnel that day, sir?

14 A There were some delays in -- delays in texting.

15 Q When you say "delays," is that texts were not going through or they were
16 going through, they took a while to go through?

17 A They would go through, but they were delayed at points.

18 Q Okay. What service provider did you have?

19 A I had Verizon.

20 Q Moving on, did you receive any pictures of the eventual shooter via text or
21 email on July 13?

22 A I did.

23 Q Okay, sir. What time did you receive those pictures?

24 A Approximately 1749 hours.

25 Q Who did you receive those photos from?

1 A I received them from the Beaver -- from one of the Beaver County operators.

2 [REDACTED]: Do you know who?

3 [REDACTED]: First name is [REDACTED]. Last name is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], a couple [REDACTED]s and an
4 [REDACTED].

5 BY [REDACTED]:

6 Q Did you receive any photos from Butler ESU personnel?

7 A We also use what's called a Signal app, which is a group texting. They
8 would have been the same photos that eventually would have come through that.

9 Q And the photos that you received via Signal came from your Butler folks?

10 A They would have, yes.

11 Q Okay. And when did those come in, before the Beaver operator photos or
12 about that time?

13 A I believe they're all about the same time.

14 Q Okay. And do you know who from your team had sent across the photos
15 over Signal?

16 A Not off the top of my head, no.

17 Q Okay. So what did you do after you received the photos?

18 A I'd actually -- well, I confirmed that I'd received them over the radio to the
19 Beaver units. And then -- go ahead.

20 Q And who did you confirm that to?

21 A That would have been the gentleman driving their armored vehicle, which
22 would have been Deputy Commander [REDACTED] from Beaver County.

23 Q Go ahead, sir.

24 A And I also confirmed by text back to [REDACTED] that I'd gotten the text as
25 well.

1 Q Did [REDACTED] receive the photos as well?

2 A I would say yes, but we were also standing a few feet from each other, so we
3 did a face-to-face and confirmed that we'd had the same information.

4 Q So you were both aware --

5 A Yes.

6 Q -- of the photos. Okay.

7 Did you then send the photos on to anyone else?

8 A Commander [REDACTED] would have contacted -- I believe there was a phone call
9 about the same time from Commander [REDACTED] to Sergeant [REDACTED]. That's how that nexus
10 would have transpired.

11 Q Okay. So did you alert the Secret Service of the photos?

12 A Personally, no. That would have been Commander [REDACTED].

13 Q Did Commander [REDACTED] alert the Secret Service to the photos?

14 A My understanding is yes. And, based on my note back to the Beaver guy,
15 [REDACTED], I said, "The information is out to the uniformed patrol and Secret Service." And I
16 asked him if he had any direction of travel.

17 So that would have been following the face-to-face with Commander [REDACTED]. And
18 he's like, "Yeah, I passed it on, you know." That's why -- in return to this text.

19 BY [REDACTED]:

20 Q And that would have been how long after you received the photos?

21 A My timestamps are 10 minutes, but a couple minutes prior to that I said, "I
22 got it; cell signals are on and off." And he said, "Yeah, there's a lot of data being used."

23 And then I would have sent the text within minutes after Commander [REDACTED] having
24 been on the phone because, once the information is passed, my response back to him
25 just to confirm that -- I already confirmed I got the pictures. I can't correlate what time I

1 sent that text to what time he called.

2 Q So, roughly by 5 o'clock, Commander [REDACTED] had his phone call with [REDACTED]?

3 A He had a couple phone calls. Definitely prior to 6 p.m.

4 Q Or, sorry, 6 p.m., yes.

5 BY [REDACTED]:

6 Q As the phones were being problematic, did you attempt to use a portable or
7 anything else, or did [REDACTED], to get in contact with, you know, the Secret Service
8 immediately?

9 A It was back and forth. Commander [REDACTED] actually has FirstNet for his phone.

10 Q Okay.

11 A So he has a different carrier.

12 Q Okay. When -- I guess it took 10 minutes you said to get in -- or send the
13 photos to the Secret Service after receipt?

14 A No. My response back to the Beaver that, "Hey, I got them," was actually
15 got it. That was what, 5? That was 6 minutes. And then, 4 minutes later after that, I
16 sent him a response back that, "Hey, uniform and Secret Service knows."

17 So I know that I got the pictures and responded back to him within 6 minutes.

18 Q Did you direct your people to do anything after you received the photos?

19 A I believe Commander [REDACTED] put out a lookout for people. And that was also
20 put out -- [REDACTED], who worked for both, was on patrol that day. He was also putting it
21 out to the patrol units.

22 Q So, other than sort of directing, you know, further lookout, did you direct
23 your folks to try to go find this person?

24 A We stayed on our assignment. I know the sniper units were looking to see
25 which direction he went at that point by the radio traffic. But, as far as the CAT teams

1 and the QRF, their jobs were very specific, to maintain posture unless there's a threat on
2 the candidate.

3 Now, that doesn't mean that our ground units weren't looking that direction and
4 passing information, but did we move units at that point? Not at that point, no.

5 Q Did anyone ask for your permission to leave post?

6 A Not that I recall, no.

7 Q Did anyone express concern on your team that there was a suspicious
8 person lurking around?

9 A The radio traffic, you could tell that there was -- you could tell by the tone
10 that they were actively looking.

11 Q And, sir, were you aware that [REDACTED] left his post to attempt to go find
12 Mr. Crooks?

13 A I found out a time later, yes.

14 Q Okay. And was that something that you -- and actually, we can back up.
15 When did you find out that he left his post?

16 A Later, after the shooting.

17 Q Okay. And do you think that that was a reasonable step to make in
18 response to --

19 A I can't answer for -- you would have to ask him directly.

20 Q Okay. Did you ever recommend or advise the Secret Service not to allow
21 former President Trump to go on stage?

22 A No. Not personally, no.

23 Q Did [REDACTED]?

24 A Not to my awareness.

25 Q Did the Secret Service ever indicate to you that, after receipt of photos of

1 Mr. Crooks, they were going to take any steps in terms of allowing former President
2 Trump to get on stage?

3 A Not that I'm aware of.

4 Q Did the Secret Service direct you in any way as to information operationally
5 or steps that your folks needed to take after they received photos?

6 A Not that I recall.

7 Q Okay. Did you have any concerns that were expressed to [REDACTED] that this
8 suspicious person with a rangefinder was still not in custody?

9 A Not specifically that we verbalized, but I think our nonverbal, looking at each
10 other and having worked with him for years, I think we both had an air of concern with it,
11 but nothing verbally.

12 Q Were there any attempts to alert patrol, "Hey, there's this suspicious person;
13 you know, we need this guy detained"?

14 A Yes, there were.

15 Q Can you please go into that, sir?

16 A Sure. Thank you. The -- to my right was Commander [REDACTED]. To my left
17 was Sergeant [REDACTED] from the Sheriff's Office. At that point there, once I got those
18 pictures, I turned to Lieutenant [REDACTED] -- or, excuse me, Sergeant [REDACTED], and can we get
19 these put out to his people, which he did.

20 He initially I know had done by sending the photos over text. He ultimately saw
21 that there was a little bit of a delay in that. He also sent them through the deputies'
22 emails as well.

23 Q Okay. And then did you follow up or did Sergeant [REDACTED] follow up to see if
24 Mr. Crooks had actually been detained?

25 A We were listening to the transmissions. We could tell they were actively

1 looking for him at that time.

2 Q And who is "they"?

3 A That would have been -- there was a female deputy, [REDACTED]. She was over
4 on that side. And I know the Butler Township units had migrated from their patrol post
5 over to that direction. And I believe, from my understanding, there were a couple
6 Secret -- or, excuse me, PSP officers heading that direction also.

7 Q So, sir, it's your understanding, in terms of detainment efforts and as far as
8 detainment efforts were concerned, the individuals that were tasked with that were
9 patrol?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And some PSP?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And there was not any followup or updates as to the status of detainment or
14 where the suspicious individual, i.e., Mr. Crooks, was?

15 A Listening to the radio transmission, it was evident they were still looking, had
16 not seen him yet.

17 Q Sir, did you see other law enforcement or Secret Service, following receipt of
18 photos, head toward the AGR building?

19 A I was in the trailer.

20 Q Okay. And so did you ever see anyone on the AGR building?

21 A Not from our venue in the trailer.

22 Q Okay, sir. Can you briefly describe the moment you heard the first
23 gunshots or shots that were fired?

24 A That was mid-transmission of Commander [REDACTED] giving out for the QRF, quick
25 reaction force, to move that direction, because he'd been seen on the roof.

1 Q And, backtracking a few minutes prior to the shooting, sir, once former
2 President Trump did get up on stage, was there any check-in with patrol or ESU or
3 anyone, for that matter, as to what the status of efforts were with respect to detainment?

4 A Not that I recall, no.

5 Q All right. So you heard the gunshots, and then what was your reaction?

6 A At that point, mid-transmission of Commander [REDACTED] giving out to move to
7 the AGR building, because he had been seen now with a rifle so he'd moved to a definite
8 threat, the gunshots went off during his transmission.

9 At that point, Commander [REDACTED] ended the transmission with shots fired. And, at
10 that point, we began to continue to monitor the traffic and ultimately move medical
11 assets to the stage area.

12 BY [REDACTED]:

13 Q How did Commander [REDACTED] know that shots had been fired since he was in
14 the command post?

15 A You could hear them.

16 Q So you heard the shots from inside the command post?

17 A Yes.

18 BY [REDACTED]:

19 Q Did the Secret Service give or communicate with you or [REDACTED] at all, or if
20 you could -- first I guess, yes or no, did they communicate with you or -- with you or
21 [REDACTED] at all between receipt of the photographs and former President Trump going up
22 on stage?

23 A I don't have any knowledge of that, no.

24 Q You don't have any knowledge if they communicated with you?

25 A I don't know if they had told -- they didn't communicate with me, no.

1 Q And you don't have any knowledge that they communicated with [REDACTED]?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Okay. So did you know that the shots were coming from the person on the
4 roof of the AGR, or did you think it was Secret Service or law enforcement shooting?

5 A No. I think I knew that it was the gentleman on the roof shooting at that
6 point.

7 And can I follow back up to your previous question?

8 Q Yes, sir.

9 A When you said, did anyone from Secret Service know, during that time, once
10 it was given out, the -- the direction of the snipers on top of the buildings turned. So
11 that goes to did they know. They did know, because they changed their focus.

12 BY [REDACTED]:

13 Q How do you know that they turned their focus?

14 A Because the barn was out in front of us. You could see that they had
15 turned that direction. And, also, somewhere in there, [REDACTED] had left or sent a text
16 saying that Hercules, which would be the counter snipers, was made aware.

17 Q So roughly what time did you see the Secret Service snipers turn?

18 A I would have to look back through the logs.

19 Q Approximation?

20 A Not off the top of my head, no.

21 BY [REDACTED]:

22 Q Would it be between the time --

23 A Before the shots.

24 Q Yes.

25 A Yes.

1 Q Between the time the photos of Mr. Crooks were received, was it between
2 the time the photos were received and Mr. Trump initially getting on stage or after?

3 A I would have to research the logs.

4 Q Okay. Can you describe the communications via radio, the response? Did
5 you instruct your Butler ESU folks? What did you instruct them to do next?

6 A Immediately, as soon as he was on the roof and seen with a gun, at that
7 point the QRF was launched towards that direction.

8 Q Who launched them?

9 A Commander [REDACTED].

10 Q Okay.

11 A Okay. Also, at that point, I believe Sergeant [REDACTED] from the Sheriff's Office
12 was also simultaneously giving out that information. And then, within moments after
13 that, we began to move the Beaver armored unit down towards our command post.
14 And then we also started to call our medical assets to move to the stage area to treat
15 injured.

16 Q Sir, just to clarify, so we have a better idea, what was your general vantage
17 point from the command post? You indicate you were able to see the barn. What else
18 could you see? Could you see the AGR roof? Could you go into a bit more detail?

19 A No. Where our -- where the trailer was placed, it was behind the -- behind
20 the bleachers. It was difficult to see anything further, plus we were in the trailer. We
21 opened the door briefly, but you could see the barn roofs, but not -- not over to the AGR
22 building.

23 Q Did you leave the command post at any point in time?

24 A I did later in the evening, yes.

25 Q Okay. Did [REDACTED] leave the command post at any given time?

1 A Later in the evening. When I say "later," mine was around 1930 hours.

2 So, during the event, no, none of us left.

3 [REDACTED]. We're out of time. Thank you, sir.

4 [REDACTED]. Would anyone like a break before we continue? We'll go off
5 the record.

6 [Recess.]

7 [REDACTED]. We can go back on the record. Sir, when I left off with you, we
8 were talking about minority exhibit B, which was the Butler ESU ops plan.

9 Do you still have that in front of you?

10 [REDACTED]. I do, sir.

11 [REDACTED]. So I'm going to refer back to the page with the seven sectors.

12 And I'm going to introduce minority exhibit C, which is an aerial map that I pulled off the
13 internet.

14 [REDACTED] Minority Exhibit C

15 was marked for identification.]

16 BY [REDACTED]:

17 Q It shows the AGR building towards the bottom left of the map, and you can
18 see the barn towards the top left. And this appears to be an image captured post rally.

19 Did I summarize that well?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And can you get a sense of where sector 2 would be when looking at exhibit
22 C?

23 A I do.

24 Q If there was a sniper positioned on the second floor roof, would they have
25 been able to see sector 2?

1 A The second floor roof of what?

2 Q The AGR complex. Thank you.

3 A Okay. Thank you, sir.

4 I would think that the tree foliage to your left would cover the initial approach.

5 There might be a small window of opportunity prior to the corral. And I believe, once
6 past that small area, you lose your sight to ground level from behind the buildings.

7 Q Okay. Referring back to the ops plan, exhibit B, can you turn -- we're going
8 to flip a few pages ahead. There's the first page under "Command and Control."

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Do you see where it says, "Overall command, Lieutenant [REDACTED], PSP"?

11 A I do.

12 Q What did you understand that to mean?

13 A Honestly, I did not give that much thought.

14 Q So, if you guys -- I understand that you yourself, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]
15 presented this on the morning of July 13th. What would the officers think overall
16 command meant in this?

17 A Overall command, when I look at that, that jurisdiction as far as arrests fall in
18 the scope of the State Police. So, for that for me, I still -- the overall -- going back to the
19 contractor analogy, the guy building the house is the Secret Service. If there's arrests
20 made, PSP is going to take those arrests, as the jurisdiction of primary jurisdiction.
21 That's how I would take that.

22 Q So, in other words, this is not indicative of PSP having command over Team
23 400 and Butler Township?

24 A No.

25 Q Okay. I'm going to direct your attention, it's towards the back. You

1 recently looked at the contingencies. The contingency that I would like you to take a
2 look at is Single Active Attack/Event. If you could just flip ahead a few and let me know
3 if you see that.

4 A I do.

5 Q And this says, "Butler County ESU QRF team will respond and handle
6 incident."

7 Was your understanding, based off of this, that, if there is a single active attack,
8 the QRF team should respond to it?

9 A Yes. Mobilize to that area, yes.

10 Q And what would constitute a single active attack?

11 A That would be an individual just as here, a lone shooter. It would be an
12 individual with an explosive vest on running towards the venue, any type of scenario that
13 raises to that level.

14 Two people fighting out in the open, that would still be a control level event.

15 Q And would a threat be significant enough for QRF to respond?

16 [REDACTED]: Can you define "threat"?

17 [REDACTED]: Well, he can define "threat."

18 [REDACTED]: Okay.

19 BY [REDACTED]:

20 Q Is there a threat level in which QRF should respond and, if so, how would
21 you describe that threat level?

22 A Good question. Okay. So, basically, as law enforcement, we look at
23 things on like three levels. Someone of suspicion. They're not doing anything wrong.
24 They just -- it doesn't look right for that area or venue.

25 Then you get a person of interest. That would be, why is that guy crawling

1 through a window at 10 o'clock at night when the business is closed? Actually, it's a
2 burglar at that point. But that raises to a different level than to someone being there.

3 And then a threat at that point is, oh, they have a gun. Oh, they have a grenade.
4 Oh, they're driving their vehicle, going to ram the fence. That moves up to a threat.

5 So, at the point of someone's going to cause harm to another person, that action
6 needs taken. That would be a threat. That would be a response with the QRF.

7 Q And we'll go through the timeline in a bit, but if you have -- and I recognize
8 this is in hindsight, but if you have somebody with a backpack, a rangefinder, moving
9 quickly and then on the roof, is that enough for QRF to respond?

10 A Not quite. They -- I think they've gone from a person of suspicion to a
11 person of interest. Do they need talked to? Do they need talked to by the SWAT guys?
12 Do they need -- no, they need a police officer to go over there: "Hey, what are you
13 doing here? Something's not right; you're not acting right. Let's see what's going on."

14 But is that a threat, someone with a rangefinder? No. Is it interesting? Do
15 they need talked to? Yes. Because it could be -- it could be little Billy has got some
16 fascination with the candidate or, "Hey, I just got these for Christmas, and they magnify a
17 little bit." As soon as we deploy a SWAT team, that in itself is a use of force.

18 Does that answer your question?

19 Q Yes. So rangefinder on a roof, still not quite to the level of QRF?

20 A In this case, the rangefinder wasn't on the roof. The rangefinder was at the
21 ground level.

22 Q Yes. And just I guess so we're aligned, there is a suspect seen with a
23 rangefinder. They are searching for him. And then eventually there is a suspect on the
24 roof. And it's -- we don't know if it's the same person, but you have those two factors.

25 Would that not be enough to deploy QRF?

1 A It's right on that line. At that point, he's not presented a weapon. He's
2 not presented -- that alone is not up to where he's going to harm someone else at that
3 point.

4 Q And you guys, before the search for Crooks, you were made aware of a
5 Facebook threat?

6 A That was earlier to me getting there, but that's my understanding, yes.

7 Q So I guess if we add that on: So now we're at a Presidential candidate rally.
8 There was a Facebook threat, and now there's a guy with a rangefinder, and he's on the
9 roof.

10 Have I crossed that threat level yet?

11 A I would say you're right about there.

12 Q Okay. I'll take that. Did you ever receive the Pennsylvania State Police
13 ops plan?

14 A Myself, no. I believe Commander [REDACTED] received it.

15 Q As far as the communication tools that you had on July 13th, you had a
16 radio, right?

17 A Yes.

18 Q How many did you have?

19 A In the command post?

20 Q Yes.

21 A If you count the fire chief, I would say there were five.

22 Q How many of those radios were you responsible for listening to?

23 A I primarily listened to one of them.

24 Q And which channel was that?

25 A I was listening to primarily ops 3, which would be township police.

1 Q Did you also use text messages, Signal, or email?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Which ones?

4 A Text messaging. I was also on the Signal app, but the ones I sent I believe
5 were all through texting.

6 Q Do you recall who you would have sent text messages to?

7 A As I stated to this gentleman here, the Beaver officer who had sent me the
8 photos.

9 Q When you were in the command post, I think you mentioned that there was
10 someone from the Sheriff's Department and someone from Butler Township in addition
11 to yourself, Sergeant [REDACTED], and Emergency Medical Services. Is that right?

12 A Fire department. Lieutenant [REDACTED] from Butler Township was there
13 earlier, especially during the motorcade operations, because he was coordinating with his
14 people.

15 Q Did you say that [REDACTED] is a part of ESU?

16 A He is.

17 Q What is his role in ESU?

18 A He generally drives the armor.

19 Q Okay.

20 A He's a -- he's a retired dispatcher for 911. So he's familiar with all the
21 components of the -- electrical components, et cetera, of the 911 Center. That's why he
22 was with us that day.

23 Q And I think I heard you say earlier that, for the presentation at 930 hours, it
24 was yourself, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], right?

25 A In addition to the rest of the team, yes.

1 Q I guess who actually gave the presentation?

2 A [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] gave the bulk of the presentation.

3 Q The Butler Township police officers were able to open up the roads at 5:35.
4 Were you made aware of that the day of?

5 A If that's the time that the motorcade came through. I listened to that radio
6 traffic. I would believe what you're saying if you read it off the timeline.

7 Q Yes. So, post the motorcade coming through, at some point [REDACTED] -- at
8 5:35, Pearson tells BTPD that they can open up the roads?

9 A That sounds correct.

10 Q Do you recall if [REDACTED] was still in the post at 5:35?

11 A I believe, shortly after that, he had left.

12 Q I am skipping questions as a part of my pause.

13 A Is that a good or bad thing?

14 Q It's always good for a lawyer to skip questions.

15 So, at 5:45, [REDACTED] tells ops 4 that Pennsylvania State Police and the sheriff's
16 deputies are en route after hearing the message from [REDACTED]. Do you recall that?

17 A I believe that. And, if there's a time-stamp that's on there, that would be
18 correct.

19 Q Do you know why Butler Township was not also sent at that time?

20 A Officer [REDACTED] had also given the information to them. So, somewhere in
21 that timeline, they also started to move.

22 Q But, as far as your ability and Sergeant [REDACTED]' ability to send people over, he
23 did not say Butler Township Police. Is that because [REDACTED] was not present?

24 A No. It's because [REDACTED] had also given out that information. They were
25 already moving that direction. So, to double give it out, there was no -- they were

1 already doing what we would have said for them to do. They were already starting to
2 look for that individual.

3 Q So your understanding is that [REDACTED] had already commissioned BTPD
4 officers to start heading that way?

5 A He had already expressed that person of interest, and the officers had
6 started moving that direction.

7 Q So, at 5:48, we see that [REDACTED] reported that the photos were sent to
8 Butler ESU via Signal. Why were some of the ESU operators using Signal that day?

9 A That's just a method to group communicate through that. And I
10 believe -- you said 5:48?

11 Q Yes.

12 A Okay. Then, at 5:49, I had gotten the photos through the Beaver officer,
13 because I believe it's going to be that the Beaver sniper in the AGR building had also sent
14 those photos over, and they just came through the alternate route back to me as well.

15 Q Is the Signal group just for the ESU snipers?

16 A No. I believe there was multiple on there, so --

17 Q And why use Signal instead of standard text messaging?

18 A Because you need to do a group text and have everybody there, where the
19 group's already there under the Signal. I don't know if there's any preference. I think
20 it's just what you use that day.

21 Q And what do you understand Signal to be?

22 A Well, just a predesignated group text.

23 Q Was it your idea to use Signal, or was it someone else's idea?

24 A No, sir. I still have a rotary phone in my house. I'm that guy.

25 Q Fair enough. You mentioned, at 5:49, you and Beaver County Operator

1 [REDACTED] exchanging text messages.

2 Why did he reach out to you?

3 A He would know that I was in the command post as well. We worked with
4 Beaver over the years. I think he just also got it to me that way.

5 Q So there was no like prearranged some folks should contact you and some
6 folks should contact [REDACTED]?

7 A No, no. I think there was -- what you'll see as you go through all this, a lot
8 of us have known each other for a lot of years. So for us to have multiple contacts with
9 each other is not unfamiliar to us.

10 Q So, at 5:54, we have the note that command notified BTPD on ops 3. Was
11 that yourself or [REDACTED] that sent that notice out?

12 A I sent the text back to [REDACTED] that uniform and Secret Service were made
13 aware. If [REDACTED] also had made a note with that, he may have made that as well.

14 Q And I guess I'm wondering, earlier you said that, at 5:45, there was no need
15 to say that BTPD was en route because [REDACTED] had already initiated that.

16 So why at 5:54 is command notifying BTPD?

17 A It might just have been a duplication. Who did it say on your thing that
18 notified?

19 Q It just says -- I think it is [REDACTED], but it just says that command notified BTPD.

20 A That might have just been a duplicate, just to memorialize it as a comment.

21 Q And you mentioned that Lieutenant [REDACTED] left shortly after 5:35. Do you
22 recall seeing him in the command post afterwards?

23 A I met with him later when I went up to get the drone clearance, but that was
24 at the other one. I don't recall him coming back into ours.

25 Q At least up until the shooting. Is that fair?

1 A Yes.

2 Q So I'm now transitioning to the 6 o'clock hour, and at this point, are you still
3 focusing on ops 3?

4 A I'm listening to all the radios, but I am primarily in front of ops 3.

5 Q So, 3 minutes after 6, Officer [REDACTED] says on ops 3, "We have two officers.
6 They have him detained. Correct."

7 What did you understand to mean?

8 A It sounds like they were intimately with that individual. And whenever I say
9 like I'm in front of this radio, it would be basically like that area where we're at is basically
10 like this table.

11 So that radio you can hear. This radio you can hear. It's -- you can hear all the
12 radios. You can hear what's on 3. I'm just standing in front of it. And then a touch
13 away is the sheriff's radio. So we're not like distant. We're basically like this room.

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q Let's stay with that tangent.

3 So is it fair to say that the size of this room or less would have been where
4 yourself, [REDACTED], Sergeant [REDACTED] --

5 A [REDACTED], uh-huh.

6 Q -- Sergeant [REDACTED] were all present in the same space?

7 A Yes. And then the fire chief would be basically -- if there was no door
8 there, he would be like just outside that door. He would be like the closest one away.

9 Q Understood. Thank you.

10 So 8 minutes after 6:00, Officer [REDACTED] says that someone is on the roof of the AGR
11 building. And that is on ops 3.

12 Do you recall what you did after hearing that there was someone on the roof?

13 A I believe Commander [REDACTED] and I just did like a -- looked at each other and,
14 like, there was a little bit of that -- when they said they're with him, he's not detained yet,
15 how he phrased that in our mindset is, like, they were right with him at the moment. He
16 still hasn't been identified to upgrade to that threat at that point. They just have the
17 guy on the roof, so --

18 Q And then around the same time [REDACTED] says -- he tells BTPD that there's no
19 one from ESU on the roof.

20 Do you recall that?

21 A He does. And that was just to clarify that that would be the guy that
22 they're looking for. You're not seeing an officer. That is that suspect.

23 Q And during the block of 8 minutes after 6:00 until 6:11, Sergeant [REDACTED] is on
24 the phone with PSP to coordinate with them that they can maybe send a text message as
25 well.

1 Does that sound right?

2 A He was communicating -- I don't know who with at that point. That would
3 be a question for him.

4 Q So we don't see any radio transmissions in that 3-minute block from when
5 law enforcement first learns that Crooks is on the roof until the shooting happens.

6 Did anybody attempt to contact ops 4 to tell them that there was someone on the
7 roof?

8 A Not that I recall.

9 Q At 6:10 the sheriff's deputy says that State and local law enforcement had
10 the AGR building surrounded.

11 Is your understanding that at that point the building had sufficient patrol around it
12 to try to find Crooks?

13 A It sounded like there were multiple officers surrounding the building at that
14 time.

15 Q And then at 6:11 [REDACTED] -- Officer [REDACTED] mentions seeing Crooks on the roof
16 and that he's armed. 4 seconds later ESU tells -- Sergeant [REDACTED] tells QRF to start going,
17 and that's when the shots go off.

18 Does that sound right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Why not send QRF sooner?

21 [REDACTED]: Let's take a break. Give us a couple of minutes. We're going
22 to step out.

23 Come on.

24 [REDACTED]: Go off the record.

25 [Recess.]

1 [REDACTED]. Why don't we go back on the record then.

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q Sir, before we took a break, I mentioned that there was a 6:11, Officer
4 [REDACTED] mentioned that there was someone on the roof and he was armed, and then
5 4 seconds later the ESU command directed QRF to respond. And my question was why
6 was QRF not sent sooner.

7 Do you have an answer for that?

8 A Actually, I do, and I think that actually is something that I referred to earlier
9 about the levels of suspicion up to threat.

10 Once again, our task as far as here under the contingency, the CAT team was
11 direct on the candidate. The QRF is to respond to that single active threat, shooter. So
12 in that case here, I'm going to reference it -- and I respect your question and was looking
13 here, and I had to go back through my mind on the timeline and where I'm at here. So
14 at the point when does he become that -- the shooter? When the gun is displayed.
15 Okay. So when did we see that gun? When [REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] held [REDACTED] up and he
16 saw the gun.

17 At that point he's definitely gone to the threat phase. And in response to that,
18 that's when Commander [REDACTED] dispatched the QRF. And while dispatching the QRF, as I
19 stated -- I believe the other gentleman asked when the shots were fired, that was during
20 that. So our guys were moving en route just prior to that shooting once he was
21 definitely a threat at that point.

22 As I went back through my information here prior, we learned that he was on the
23 roof actually a little bit prior to that, a few minutes prior to that, and shortly
24 afterwards -- shortly afterwards, at 1809, Commander [REDACTED] makes that phone call to
25 Sergeant [REDACTED], information related to suspect was reported on the roof of the AGR

1 building. And that was almost a whole minute conversation. So that was at 1809.
2 And then that's he's on the roof. At that point, no gun; just guy's on the roof. The gun
3 comes out whenever -- whenever [REDACTED] goes up on the roof. So that's right into
4 that 1811.

5 So not a threat by definition. QRF goes for the threat. At the point [REDACTED] goes
6 up, that becomes a threat, QRF is immediately dispatched, and that is moments before
7 the shooting goes off.

8 Does that clarify that?

9 Q Yes, yes.

10 A And thank you. That's a good question. I just needed to process all of
11 that and put it together.

12 Q No, I appreciate that. I appreciate you taking the time to make sure you
13 answer the question the best way.

14 Would it have been helpful for the snipers in AGR to know that he was on the roof
15 when he got -- when law enforcement became aware even if it was at 6 o'clock?

16 A Would it have been helpful? They were actively looking for that individual.
17 And, once again, once he was on the roof, until that gun came out and he was a threat, he
18 still wouldn't have been a shoot threat target at that point. I can't go back and replay
19 that and give you an honest answer with that.

20 Q I understand.

21 Did you debrief with any law enforcement entities after the shooting?

22 A We've debriefed with several. I have had a formal debrief with the State
23 Police and FBI, and then we had a --

24 [REDACTED]: Hold on. I don't think you're answering his question.

25 You meant on that day?

1 [REDACTED]: Yes.

2 [REDACTED]: He's not talking about interviews. He's talking about a
3 debrief.

4 [REDACTED]: Oh, debrief that day?

5 [REDACTED]: Yes.

6 [REDACTED]: Yes. Thank you.

7 [REDACTED]: No, I was not debriefed formally by anybody that day, no.

8 BY [REDACTED]:

9 Q Did the ESU team internally have a debrief?

10 A We had a hot wash.

11 Q What's that?

12 A Hot wash is -- a formal debrief is where everybody sits down and they go
13 through, like, a timeline and break it all down. A hot wash is basically, Hey, is anybody
14 hurt? Any big issues? Anything we need to address immediately? That's like a hot
15 wash. So we basically did that that evening.

16 Q And it sounds like you participated in interviews after the shooting. Who
17 has interviewed you prior to us today?

18 A There was a joint PSP-FBI interview. There was a debrief at the PSP
19 barracks. It wasn't an interview. It was a formal debrief. We had spoke to a couple
20 people since.

21 [REDACTED]: The FBI and State Police jointly performed the criminal
22 investigation. He participated in that interview.

23 There was an interview with Homeland Security, their investigative branch. That
24 was a group interview at Butler County 911. There was --

25 I don't think -- you didn't do an interview with Secret Service?

1 [REDACTED]: I did not do that.

2 [REDACTED]: No, you did not. So there would be that.

3 And then were you at the [REDACTED] for that? Yes.

4 [REDACTED]: Yes.

5 [REDACTED]: So that's the only other one that he did, I believe, was --

6 [REDACTED]: Senator Grassley.

7 [REDACTED]: -- an interview with the Senate -- with Senator Grassley's office.

8 His, you know, team performed an interview, and that was also in a group setting. So

9 Commander [REDACTED] was there, Deputy Commander [REDACTED], Lieutenant [REDACTED], and

10 [REDACTED]. And I think that was it.

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q Sorry. There was one question that I forgot to ask earlier. It shouldn't
13 take long.

14 Can you define what a danger area is for me?

15 A It's an area of interest where someone could relatively get in a position and
16 cause some harm or make an approach. I would consider that like a danger area or area
17 of interest.

18 Q Okay. And then my last question, which is fairly open, do you have any
19 views on how to prevent something like this from happening in the future? And by
20 "something," I mean a situation in which you have a shooter that's able to take a shot at
21 someone at a rally?

22 A Communication. Over the years of being in this business, whether it be
23 fire, EMS, or law enforcement, you can always improve upon communication.

24 [REDACTED]: All right. I think that is all for the minority. I'm going to pass it
25 back over to the majority.

1 Thank you for your time, sir.

2 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

3 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Well, I will get started for us then.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay.

5 [REDACTED]: Let me start this.

6 BY [REDACTED]:

7 Q So I'm going to kind of bounce around a little bit since we're kind of nearing
8 the end of our questions and just need to get some clarification, so some of this may be a
9 little repetitive, but it's just trying to really drill down on specifics for the record.

10 Let's quick talk about radios and radio communication.

11 You were saying that you were primarily listening to ops 3. You were there,
12 though, in your ESU capacity, which was on ops 4. Why were you primarily listening to
13 ops 3?

14 A We were listening to all the frequencies on the event because you don't
15 know if -- you want to be sure if your -- if something is happening over one area or
16 another area that you would have situational awareness. So having the ability to listen
17 to all of the radios at the command post is important. Why I was at ops 3, that was just
18 that radio was open. That's where I was at that day.

19 Q And you mentioned also, then, I believe it was roughly 5:30ish that
20 Lieutenant [REDACTED] from Butler P.D. stepped out, and he has also said the same thing to
21 us, so I'm not too concerned about that time frame.

22 That said, when he did step out, you were listening to ops 3. Were you then the
23 person relaying information between ops 4? So if something came in over ops 4 that
24 needed to be relayed to ops 3, was that your responsibility?

25 A If there was a gap or something needed repeated or if I needed to clarify

1 something, I was just sort of overseeing if there was any needs there. Just like when the
2 sheriff's deputies, when those photos come through where I went to Sergeant [REDACTED], I just
3 passed it over there. He talked on their radio, but I was giving him that information.
4 So we would just fill in as needed. That was sort of my position that day.

5 Q Okay. You also mentioned that there was State Police radios in the
6 command post that you were located in. Is that correct?

7 A We had a State Police portable, yes.

8 Q Did you or anyone else in the local command trailer ever use that radio to
9 communicate with the State Police?

10 A During the motorcade portion, that radio signal was extremely poor on and
11 off all day long. Most of the motorcade communications instead of being on the State
12 Police radio ended up happening through cell phone communications and some of that
13 through our medical support which was attached to the motorcade. That radio just lost
14 signal a lot. It was -- it just lost signal a lot.

15 Q When did you become aware of that issue?

16 A When I reported to the command post, shortly thereafter is when the
17 motorcade functions began, and it became apparent that that was out of signal.

18 Q Originally were you under the impression that that radio would be available
19 so that you could communicate with PSP via radio, or was it strictly going to be so you
20 could listen in?

21 A Primarily with them would be listening; however, would be able to transmit
22 if we needed to.

23 Q And did anybody ever attempt to transmit over that radio?

24 A Ask [REDACTED] who was there from the 911 center. He would reach over and
25 key it. When it -- obviously, it just gives a blunt tone, and it was -- almost every time you

1 keyed it up, it was out of tone. So communications through PSP, generally Commander
2 [REDACTED] through cell phone to Sergeant [REDACTED] from PSP and things would be related. That
3 was the primary method.

4 Q Okay. So that's my only questions on radio.

5 In terms of going way back now to some of the advance planning stuff, did the
6 Secret Service make it clear that -- I guess let me back up even a little bit more.

7 You've talked about the 360 coverage in terms of, like, why the AGR roof might
8 not be ideal. Did U.S. Secret Service make it clear what your coverage was needed,
9 because it sounds like it was not 360 degrees?

10 A They didn't overly specify. There was nothing in writing. However, when
11 information back to me through [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when they presented to the counter
12 snipers of where we would be watching, where the setup would be, there was no
13 objection to it.

14 Q Okay. And to be clear, they knew exactly that -- when you guys were
15 telling them your placements, you said that you would be inside the AGR building?

16 A Yes, I was standing next to [REDACTED] when he said, The guys will be in that
17 second story. And he pointed to the building.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. That's all of my questions for now.

19 BY [REDACTED]:

20 Q And I just have a few quick questions, sir.

21 What was your assignment after the shooting?

22 A My assignment after the shooting, around 1930 hours Commander [REDACTED]
23 asked me to go up and arrange the FFA clearance to do a fly run with the drone above the
24 building to make sure we did not miss anything. So I left the command post to do that.

25 And then when I came down, once again, I just checked with the manpower, made

1 sure nobody was hurt, did they need anything, make sure they were hydrated. And
2 then we started cycling out after the shooting.

3 We had also requested North Hills' response team to come up as well. I helped
4 coordinate with them too. We did initially need an element to the hospital, and then we
5 needed other elements to help secure the area. So I'd just do general coordination with
6 what was needed.

7 Q And who would ask you about getting clearance to do the fly around with
8 the drone?

9 A Commander [REDACTED] and then the Secret Service Counter Surveillance Unit.
10 [REDACTED] was the gentleman at their building, and he needed a law enforcement
11 person of authority to speak to the FAA to obtain the clearance because of the flight
12 restriction. So I went up and did that.

13 Q Whose drone was it?

14 A It's a private individual that we've used in the past for searches on the fire
15 department end, for missing persons. He's a local person of Cranberry. His name is
16 [REDACTED] -- I don't know. He's out of Cranberry. It's [REDACTED].

17 Q And this is a private contractor you've worked with in the past?

18 A Yes. On the fire department we've used him for searching.

19 Q And was there any desire or expression of intention to use Aeres drones --

20 A That's the name of the company.

21 Q Okay. To use [REDACTED] or this private contractor to conduct any
22 fly-arounds during the daytime of the rally?

23 A Not from me. What was discussed after -- like I said, once again, I was
24 there from 9:00 to 10:00, and then I left for a period of time. Any discussions there I do
25 not know.

1 Q Okay. Once it was relayed over the radio that Mr. Crooks was on the roof,
2 were there any communications in either direction with Secret Service to take former
3 President Trump off of the stage?

4 A The communications, as I stated, that phone call was at 1809
5 or -- 1809 hours, phone call to PSP from [REDACTED] to Sergeant [REDACTED] that the suspect was on
6 the roof of AGR, and it was a 53-second conversation.

7 So that would have been back up to [REDACTED] who was with the Secret Service in
8 their building.

9 Q And did those discussions include taking former President Trump off of the
10 stage?

11 A I was not privy to the conversation.

12 Q Okay. And then during the hot wash, what did you all identify as sort of the
13 operational failures that day?

14 A During the hot wash, there was some concerns that -- the areas that we had
15 relayed of concern, and that is where the problem came to ultimately. So there was
16 some anger -- I'll use the word "anger," I think it's fair -- of our operators there. I think
17 our operators were concerned that individuals were injured, and they just wanted to
18 know what was coming next as far as, you know, what task we had to do, how long we
19 had to hold the buildings. We did some additional clearing of buildings, you know, what
20 tasks were needed next.

21 Q Okay. And just the last question, sir, even though, you know, my colleague
22 had inquired about a timeline with QRF and, you know, we had gone over sort of levels
23 and rising to a threat, going back to sort of what would be appropriate, you know, we
24 understand using deadly force at that juncture was not in the cards or appropriate. But,
25 again, efforts to find and just detain or question this individual, Hey, why do you have

1 arrange finder, what was being done on those fronts?

2 A As far as Secret Service? I don't know the information that was passed. I
3 know that there was some deputy sheriffs looking, and I know that Butler Township
4 officers had gone over based on the information provided. And it was also my
5 understanding that there were some troopers that had gone over as well.

6 Q And then [REDACTED] was the first individual to try to get up on the roof?

7 A He was hoisted up by another Butler Township officer, yes.

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

9 [REDACTED]: One more question.

10 BY [REDACTED]:

11 Q Were you ever -- did it ever get relayed to the command post or were you
12 ever aware of any issues near the AGR fence line prior to the shooting?

13 A I had found out that people were asked -- or had accumulated on the outside
14 of that fence. So, therefore, those people would not have gone through
15 magnetometers, so they were public people out there. So I did understand as the night
16 went on that there was an accumulation of people out there, and I had heard the range
17 of 100 to 150 people.

18 Q Was there ever any discussion in that local command post of sending anyone
19 from local law enforcement over there to try and clear those people out or just assess the
20 situation?

21 A I understand that later on -- and this occurred earlier in the day -- that I
22 believe the owner of the company had gone over and shied people away, but they would
23 just come right back.

24 Q But no conversations were had at your level?

25 A Not to my recall at my level, no.

1 Q And when did you hear about the 100, 150 people that were potentially over
2 there?

3 A The number of people over there, not until after the shooting.

4 Q Did you hear about a large number of people over there before the
5 shooting?

6 A I heard people were over there, and I heard there was a lady on horseback
7 riding up and down with a Trump flag, but I actually didn't hear a number until --

8 Q So what you heard prior to the shooting about the number of people -- or
9 sorry, not the number, but the people in general by AGR, did that give you any concerns
10 from your standpoint as law enforcement security for this event?

11 A Not in the way that it was presented to me, no.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. That's all I have.

13 Anything?

14 [REDACTED]: No. Thank you.

15 Anything else?

16 [REDACTED]: No, I don't have any follow-up.

17 Thank you.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Thank you.

19 We can go off the record.

20 [Whereupon, at 6:21 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.

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Witness Name

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Date

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Page	Line	Change
43	2	CHAGE “followups” TO “follow-ups”
59	13	CHANGE “followup” TO “follow-up”
76	15	STRIKE “it”
78	3	CHANGE “[REDACTED]” TO “[REDACTED].”
80	19	STRIKE “it”

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Page	Line	Change
28	19	CHANGE “and” TO “in”