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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 at 245 Pittsburgh Road, Suite 300,

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Butler, PA, commencing at 1:27 p.m.

1 Appearances:

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5 For the TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

6 OF DONALD J. TRUMP:

7

8 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

9 [REDACTED], SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

10 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

11 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

12

13

14 For [REDACTED]:

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]: We are now on the record.

2 Today is Thursday, September 12th, 2024. 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 13th, 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 and spell their last name for the record?

9 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

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

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

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

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

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

16 [REDACTED]: I do.

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

18 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

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

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

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

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

25 [REDACTED]: Thank you, all.

1 [REDACTED], before we begin, I'd like to go over the ground rules for this
2 interview. The way the interview will proceed is as follows.

3 The majority and then the minority staff will alternate asking you questions. It's
4 going to be 30 minutes per side, per round, until each side is finished with their questions.

5 The majority staff will begin and proceed for 30 minutes, and then the minority
6 side will have 30 minutes to ask questions. We will then alternate back and forth in this
7 manner until both sides have no more questions.

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

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

13 There are court reporters here taking down everything I say and everything that
14 you say to make a written record of this interview.

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

18 Further, to ensure that the court reporters can properly record this interview,
19 please speak clearly, concisely, and slowly.

20 Also, the court reporter cannot record nonverbal answers, such as nodding or
21 shaking your head, so it's important that you answer each question with an audible verbal
22 answer.

23 Do you understand?

24 [REDACTED]: Yes.

25 [REDACTED]: We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and

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

4 Do you understand?

5 [REDACTED]: Yes.

6 [REDACTED]: If we ask about specific conversations or events in the past and you
7 are unable to recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the substance of
8 those conversations or events to the best of your recollection.

9 If you recall only a part of a conversation or event, you should give us your best
10 recollection of those events or parts of conversations that you do recall.

11 Do you understand?

12 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

16 Do you understand?

17 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

20 Do you understand?

21 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

24 [REDACTED]: No.

25 [REDACTED]: Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement

1 today, that assertion must apply to the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

2 For the chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony or statements,
3 witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted and the
4 reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance.

5 Do you understand?

6 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

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

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

18 Do you understand?

19 [REDACTED]: Yes.

20 [REDACTED]: Do you have any other questions before we begin?

21 [REDACTED]: I do not.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay.

23 It is now 1:33 p.m. Majority staff will begin its questioning.

24 EXAMINATION

25 BY [REDACTED]:

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

2 A Since its formation.

3 Q And can you please give a year?

4 A I cannot recall exactly when it was that it was officially formed. I believe it
5 was 2017.

6 Q Okay. So that would be 7 years you've been there?

7 A Correct. '16 or '17.

8 [REDACTED]: Meaning 2016 or 2017?

9 [REDACTED]: Yes, 2016 or 2017.

10 [REDACTED]: Thank you for the clarification.

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q And what's your role with the Butler ESU?

13 A Currently I'm assigned as a sniper on the team's sniper unit.

14 Q Okay. And when you're not a part of the Butler ESU, is there a secondary
15 law enforcement agency you work for?

16 A There is. It's actually my primary law enforcement job. It's with the
17 Jackson Township Police Department.

18 Q Okay. And how long have you been with that agency?

19 A 13 years.

20 Q And what is your role with that agency?

21 A I'm a corporal.

22 Q Okay. Thank you, sir.

23 We're going to move to advance planning prior to the date of the rally on July 13.

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

25 A I was on vacation, and I believe a group text went out, I want to say it was

1 July 5th, asking for availability.

2 Q And who sent that group text, sir?

3 A That would have been -- I believe that came out through our notification
4 system.

5 Q Okay. And did the text specify whether this would be overtime or comp
6 time, or could you give some details about what the text said?

7 A No. So as far as comp time or overtime, that is decided by each individual's
8 home department how they're compensated. For me, my individual department, I get
9 compensated with comp time.

10 Q Okay. Thank you.

11 And in terms of the details of the text, can you recall what the text said?

12 A The original text I believe just mentioned that President Trump was going to
13 be coming to Butler County, and they were asking for what operators would be available
14 for the event.

15 Q Sir, could you go into detail as to the definition of an operator?

16 A An operator is a member of the SWAT team who is -- a general operator is
17 the guys on the ground that are making entry into houses. It's kind of used as a loose
18 term, with the snipers being included in that. Everybody starts out as an operator first,
19 and then you, once you have time on, you specialize into certain areas.

20 Q Okay. So it's fair to say there are different subgroups under the broader
21 umbrella definition of operator?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q All right. Thank you, sir.

24 Were you involved in the advance planning for the visit prior to July 13?

25 A I was not.

1 Q Okay. So there is no timeline of advance planning that you participated in
2 prior to the rally?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q Did you attend any planning meetings?

5 A I did not.

6 Q Did you receive any resource requests from the U.S. Secret Service or other
7 law enforcement agencies related to the July 13 rally?

8 A No, I did not.

9 Q Were you surprised at that?

10 A No, not particularly.

11 Q Okay. Who else from the Butler ESU, to your knowledge, was on any
12 advance planning efforts?

13 A I mean, after the incident, obviously, I have been made aware of

14 information. Obviously, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]. I believe there were several others, [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

16 That's the extent of my knowledge as far as who was involved in planning. There
17 may be more.

18 Q Thank you.

19 And prior to July 13, did you do any walk-throughs of the campaign rally location?

20 A I did not.

21 Q Okay. Would that be -- in terms of sort of protocol, would that be
22 something that would typically be done?

23 A For team leaders and command staff, yes, they would do the walk-throughs.

24 The other levels of members of the team, no, that's not something we would generally go
25 out and do unless there's specific circumstances, I would think.

1 Q Okay. So would operators be --

2 A No.

3 Q -- a part of the group that would do the walk-through? No.

4 A No.

5 Q Okay. Were you aware that there would be two command posts on
6 July 13?

7 A I was not.

8 Q Did you ever become aware of that?

9 A I was made aware of it on July 13th.

10 Q By whom?

11 A I believe once I arrived at our command post, it was -- I was made aware of
12 that, that our command post was separate from the Secret Service and the Pennsylvania
13 State Police.

14 Q So what was your understanding as to who was stationed at both of those
15 posts?

16 A My understanding was the Secret Service's command post had the Secret
17 Service inside, as well as Pennsylvania State Police.

18 Our command post, to my knowledge at the time, was the sheriff's department,
19 Butler ESU command, and I believe some EMS personnel.

20 Q Okay. Thank you.

21 Did any discussion of the AGR building come up in any conversations prior to
22 July 13?

23 A Not to me it did not.

24 Q Okay. And what about on July 13?

25 A The only thing -- I wasn't aware of where my position was going to be, my

1 assignment, until the day of the event.

2 There was -- once I arrived at the AGR building and was explained to what my
3 position was going to be that day, there was no real further discussion after that as to the
4 building itself.

5 Q Okay. And were you aware of any conversations regarding what the day of
6 communications between the Secret Service and local law enforcement would look like?

7 A Prior to July 13?

8 Q Prior to and then we can move to the day of. But prior to were you aware?

9 A No, I was not made aware of any type of -- how that was all going to be set
10 up. I wasn't part of any of that conversation.

11 Q Were you then told on July 13 how communications with Secret Service
12 were to occur?

13 A It was -- I wasn't specifically told. I was aware that our team leader, [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED], was in communication with the Secret Service's counter sniper team leader via
15 text.

16 Q Okay.

17 A My understanding was they were supposed to stop at our command post to
18 be issued county radios so they communicate directly with us. But, to my knowledge,
19 that never happened.

20 Q And just to clarify for the record, sir, when you say "they were supposed to,"
21 can you clarify who that was?

22 A The Secret Service counter sniper team.

23 Q Okay. And just to confirm once again for the record, the Secret Service
24 counter sniper team was supposed to stop by your post, you said, or --

25 A That was my understanding, our command post. Not my specific post; our

1 command post.

2 Q Okay. And at that juncture they were then to retrieve radios?

3 A For direct communication with our group.

4 Q Okay. And retrieval of those radios would have also then enabled the

5 Secret Service to listen in to local law enforcement radio communication?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. Thank you, sir.

8 To your knowledge, did the Secret Service ever procure those radios?

9 A To my knowledge, they did not.

10 Q Okay. To your knowledge, sir, was [REDACTED] communicating with the

11 Secret Service over texts?

12 A Yes, he was.

13 Q Successfully?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Did [REDACTED], to your knowledge, use any radios with the U.S.

16 Secret Service?

17 A Not to my knowledge.

18 Q Okay. Did the Secret Service provide Butler ESU with any advance planning

19 or detailed information about what was needed from you?

20 A I wasn't aware of anything that the Secret Service provided Butler ESU until,
21 obviously, after the day's events and things unfolded the way they did.

22 Q During -- or on, rather -- July 13, did you perform a walk-through of the
23 grounds?

24 A Prior to the event that day?

25 Q On, on. On July 13, day of.

1 A I did not. My arrival on scene that morning at 10:30, I was taken to my
2 post and was told where I was assigned, what I was to be doing, and that was it for the
3 day.

4 Q Thank you, sir.

5 And we're going to revert back to that.

6 A Sure.

7 Q Did you or any other law enforcement personnel ever express any concerns
8 to the Secret Service regarding planning or anything that day?

9 A No. I had no contact with the Secret Service prior to that day.

10 Q Did you express any concerns to [REDACTED]?

11 A No. I had no -- my -- like I said, I arrived that morning. I did not have
12 details of the complex or anything other than our -- the --

13 [REDACTED]: Operational --

14 [REDACTED]: Operational --

15 [REDACTED]: -- plan.

16 [REDACTED]: -- plan.

17 BY [REDACTED]:

18 Q Thank you.

19 Did the Secret Service have any type of approval process for Butler's ops plan?

20 A I'm not aware.

21 Q Okay. We're going to move, sir, to the day of the rally, July 13. We'll start
22 sort of with the morning and kind of move from there.

23 So turning to the day of the rally on July 13, could you briefly just discuss kind of a
24 timeline of events for that day, starting with any operational briefings that you may have
25 attended?

1 A I did not make the operational briefing that morning. I believe that was
2 held at 0900.

3 My arrival was at 10:30 a.m. When I arrived on scene, I was met in the parking
4 area by another sniper on our team, [REDACTED], who informed me of what my position
5 was going to be that day.

6 He then took me over to the AGR building, took me upstairs, showed me where
7 my position was going to be. And then that's where I set up for the day, and I did not
8 leave there until later on that evening.

9 Q Thank you, sir.

10 I would now like to introduce for the record majority exhibit 1.

11 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 1

12 was marked for identification.]

13 BY [REDACTED]:

14 Q Sir, do you recognize this slide deck?

15 A I do.

16 Q Okay. And you had stated that you weren't able or missed the briefing that
17 morning?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Okay. When did you receive this slide deck, sir?

20 A I would have to go back and check my email. I believe it was the day prior
21 to the event.

22 Q Did you have --

23 A Or 2 days prior to the event.

24 Q Did you have time to review it?

25 A I did. I looked through it.

1 Q Okay. If you turn, sir, to the green flag under "Mission," the green flag.
2 So it indicates here Butler County ESU was tasked with two counter assault teams.

3 Sir, was it your understanding that counter assault teams were comprised of the
4 snipers --

5 A No.

6 Q -- the group that you were part of? No.

7 Can you expand a bit more as to who was under the counter assault teams and
8 the difference between the sniper role?

9 A So a counter assault team and our members that were assigned to that are,
10 like I mentioned before, general operators. They are tasked with response to an active
11 threat, directly intervening with that threat.

12 The snipers, we hold a different role in the sense that the majority of our job is to
13 provide information. Should a threat arise and we have the opportunity to stop the
14 threat, we can do so. But short of that, our main primary objective is to provide
15 information back to command and back to our operators.

16 Q Thank you, sir.

17 So as a sniper, if you had identified a threat, you were empowered to then take
18 action to address the threat?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q And what types of actions, could you go into more detail, were you
21 empowered to take?

22 A Up to and including deadly force.

23 Q Okay. And if you could just give a few examples for the record of in what
24 circumstances would deadly force be appropriate if you had observed someone with a
25 firearm?

1 A Correct. If I would have -- speaking to that day's incident, if I would have
2 observed Mr. Crooks with the rifle, then I would have intervened at that point.

3 Q Did you at any point spot Mr. Crooks with a rifle?

4 A I did not.

5 Q Did any of your team members, to your knowledge, spot Mr. Crooks with a
6 rifle?

7 A Prior to the shooting?

8 Q Yes, sir.

9 A Not to my knowledge.

10 Q Sir, if we can turn to the blue flag here, "Execution, Timeline of Events," if
11 you could take just a moment to look at that timeline. Would you say that's an accurate
12 list there?

13 [REDACTED]: Is your -- I'm sorry. Is your question, is it accurate as to what
14 he reviewed when he got the packet or --

15 BY [REDACTED]:

16 Q Accurate as to the day of when people arrived or when they were supposed
17 to arrive at their post.

18 A I mean, I can tell you that the morning times here showing people's arrival
19 and when they got to their post, that is accurate. I can also tell you that the 1300 gates
20 open to the public is accurate.

21 I do not believe it is accurate that the candidate arrived at the airport at 1505. I
22 believe he was, I want to say, an hour behind schedule, roughly.

23 Q Okay. All right.

24 Next, sir, just going through a few more pages in this deck, the yellow flag under
25 "Execution."

1 So it states at the top there "Butler ESU Counter Assault Team (6 Operators)."

2 Can you state for the record, were you a part of that team?

3 A I was not.

4 Q Okay. And now moving to the pink flag here under "Execution, Sniper
5 Elements." Sir, is that an accurate sort of depiction of where you were located? And if
6 you could please with the marker mark where your position was?

7 A So the AGR building, this -- where it says here the Butler and Beaver TEMS 3,
8 that is correct, that was part of that complex, but that's not the building I was in.

9 Q Okay. Can you mark -- is it on that map where you were?

10 A Yes.

11 [Witness marking.]

12 Q Great. Thank you very much.

13 And then the last page, the purple flag, sir, under "Contingencies," if you take a
14 moment, the purple flag.

15 [REDACTED]: One back?

16 [REDACTED]: There you are.

17 BY [REDACTED]:

18 Q If you would take a moment to review, let me know if that's accurate, sir.

19 A Okay.

20 Q Is that accurate, sir, that page?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And what was your understanding as to your responsibilities on an
23 assault on former President Trump?

24 A My understanding of my responsibilities were to intervene, if possible.

25 Q Okay. At any point on July 13, was there any information shared with you

1 by the Secret Service regarding communications to the agency if you saw something
2 suspicious or needed to alert them of something?

3 A No, I had no communication whatsoever with the Secret Service until after
4 the shooting.

5 Q So, sir, just turning to your assignment. You indicated you arrived at 10:30.

6 [REDACTED] --

7 A Correct.

8 Q -- he gave you your assignment that morning?

9 A That is correct.

10 Q Okay. And who is [REDACTED]?

11 A He's a member of our sniper team.

12 Q Okay. Do you know how [REDACTED] gave you your assignment or --

13 A That was provided to him from [REDACTED], our team leader.

14 Q Okay. And what instructions were you given about your assignment?

15 A My instructions were I was taken to the second floor of the AGR building.

16 At that time Operator [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from Beaver ESU were already on scene. I was
17 given several windows to choose from to pick the best vantage point over the crowd.

18 My assignment was to communicate any type of disturbance, suspicious people,
19 packages, anything out of the norm back to command.

20 Q Okay. Did anyone -- let's start with you.

21 Did you ever inquire as to whether anybody would be posted on the roof or
22 whether there was any assigned post on the roof --

23 A I did not --

24 Q -- of the AGR building?

25 A I did not inquire about that.

1 Q Was that an area that you thought needed coverage?

2 A No.

3 Q And why is that?

4 A Because of what our task was that day. Our task was to provide
5 information.

6 There's -- can I get into the Secret Service counter snipers' role versus our role?

7 Q Absolutely. I'm going to ask you one question, sir, and then please.

8 Did you communicate with any U.S. Secret Service counter snipers on July 13th?

9 A No, I did not.

10 Q Okay. And now -- thank you, sir.

11 Yes, please, if you will go back to what --

12 A So included -- you know, in answering your question, our role that day, like I
13 said, was to provide information to command as to what was going on in and around the
14 event. We were to report any type of civil disturbances, fights, suspicious people,
15 packages back to command, in which case our QRF would have handled that or
16 uniformed officers.

17 Q And, sir, when you say "handled that," can you explain what handled means?

18 A What I mean by handled is it would be up to either uniformed officers or our
19 operators to make contact with the individual or individuals or suspicious packages to
20 essentially stop the situation if there was a disturbance or investigate a suspicious
21 package or that sort of thing.

22 Q And, sir, just to quickly ask a follow-up question here, however, snipers were
23 able to and were also responsible for addressing threats?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Okay. Go ahead, please.

1 A So if there was an immediate threat or a deadly threat that posed itself, we
2 were also tasked with intervening when possible.

3 Q Thank you.

4 Continue, please.

5 A So that being our role, our role was we were to be hidden inside of the
6 building, which is completely different than what the Secret Service counter snipers' role
7 was.

8 And what I mean by that is, as a counter sniper, you are going to be positioned
9 near the individual you're protecting, looking out, whereas where we were positioned, we
10 were outside looking in, reporting what we could see going on within the rally.

11 Q And, sir, you said you were outside looking in. Would it be fair to
12 characterize it was not that you were outside looking in, you were inside the building
13 looking out? Is that a fair description?

14 A Correct. What I -- we were inside the building looking out. What I was
15 referring to is we were outside the perimeter.

16 Q Thank you for the clarification.

17 A Sure.

18 Q Okay.

19 A That being said, the Secret Service counter snipers -- the way a counter
20 sniper sets up is they are protected from the rear. In their case they had a very large
21 field behind them, and their visibility or their silhouette would have not been visible, I
22 don't believe, from the roadway outside of the perimeter of the rally area.

23 If we position somebody on the roof of the AGR building, we would have a
24 security issue 360 degrees around us, which is not a very wise decision in placing a sniper
25 or counter sniper.

1 Q Can you talk about -- when you say a 360-degree issue, can you explain why
2 that would be?

3 A Like I said, the counter snipers from the Secret Service were protected from
4 the rear. They didn't have to worry about what was going on behind them.

5 Putting yourself completely outside of the perimeter area on the roof of a building
6 where a threat could come from any direction, now instead of focusing on the rally itself
7 and the people inside the arena, you have to be worried about what's going on behind
8 you, to your right, to your left, which is -- it's, in my opinion, a very dangerous position to
9 be in. You wouldn't position somebody in that scenario.

10 Q Would it be fair to say that your assigned post inside the AGR building, that
11 was in line with your expectations in terms of where a reasonable or diligent post would
12 be for a sniper?

13 A Correct. Yes, it is.

14 Q Okay. Did you ever share any pictures of a suspicious person with the U.S.
15 Secret Service counter snipers?

16 A I did not.

17 Q And for the record, again, did you receive any ops plans or information from
18 U.S. Secret Service counter snipers?

19 A I did not.

20 Q Have you ever worked with Beaver ESU in the past?

21 A I have.

22 Q When?

23 A Multiple times. We've done trainings together. We've assisted them on
24 several incidents in Beaver County. They assisted us on a shooting in Butler County.
25 So multiple times.

1 Q Okay. And if you could go back, sir, can you describe specifically your
2 assignment location?

3 A In the AGR building?

4 Q Yes, sir.

5 A So I was on the second floor of the building. I believe it was the southern
6 side of the building, second floor, third window, going west to east.

7 Q And in working with Beaver ESU in the past, is one team typically the lead?
8 How has it worked in terms of assignments in the past?

9 A Yes. The home team will have the lead. The other team is to be assisting.
10 So if an incident occurs in Beaver County and we are asked to assist, we show up and do
11 what is asked of us. And that's the way it's supposed to work both ways.

12 Q And in this particular situation, how did it work?

13 A They -- I can't speak to the other operators from Beaver County that were
14 there that day. I can only speak to my interaction with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

15 It went as normally it would go. [REDACTED] set up on the second window from
16 west to east. [REDACTED] set up for observation on the window at the end of the
17 hallway facing west. We had our area of responsibility. And that's what we were to
18 focus on that day.

19 Q Okay. How many snipers were on your floor?

20 A Originally three.

21 Q And then did that change?

22 A That did. At approximately quarter after 4, [REDACTED] had to leave. I
23 believe he was attending an event with his family, and he left that day.

24 Q How did you account for his departure?

25 A So the way we were set up in the office, my rifle remained at one window all

1 day till, obviously, the shooting; the same with [REDACTED]. So we were able to move
2 throughout that second floor window to window with binoculars to get a better
3 observation of what was going on around the building.

4 Q Okay. Did anyone come to take over [REDACTED]' spot?

5 A No.

6 Q So to be clear, you and [REDACTED] were sort of going between or sort of
7 moving between the three locations, then, rotating?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Okay. And can you go through what the rotations, the timing, how that all
10 worked out? Did you stay at a certain point for a certain period of time? Or can you
11 go into detail on that?

12 A So not specifically. I was at my position, my window, from 10:45 that
13 morning until probably about when [REDACTED] left. The only time I left my -- I had
14 two windows in my office -- or I'm sorry. I had one window in my office, and then there
15 were two other windows that I rotated amongst which was in a matter of 20 feet, rotated
16 between those windows. Short of using the restroom, that was the only time I left.

17 Q Okay. We're going to ask about communications, sir, and then my time is
18 up for this round.

19 A Okay.

20 Q What communication resources or devices did you and others from Butler
21 ESU have available on July 13?

22 A We had our county radio system as well as our telephones, cell phones.

23 Q And were each of those standard communication resources?

24 A Yes.

25 Q During July 13 were you able to communicate with other law enforcement

1 personnel?

2 A Can you explain that? Other members of the team?

3 Q Other -- well, we can start with other members of your team. Were you
4 able to communicate with them?

5 A Yes, absolutely.

6 Q What about Beaver County ESU?

7 A Beaver County's ESU members were also issued Butler County radios so they
8 could communicate.

9 On the channel that we were using, ops 4, that would have been all operators and
10 sniper personnel on scene that day were on that channel.

11 [REDACTED]: Thank you, sir.

12 [REDACTED]: You guys good?

13 Okay. Do you need a break?

14 [REDACTED]: No, I'm good.

15 [REDACTED]: All right.

16 My name is [REDACTED] with the minority.

17 EXAMINATION

18 BY [REDACTED]:

19 Q Just as an initial matter, actually we'll have the same caveats. If you feel
20 like I'm asking you something that is not clear, you or your counsel please interrupt.

21 I also -- I don't at this point have much of an intention to introduce any map as an
22 exhibit. I can. Do you think you need a map to refresh any recollection?

23 A I would -- in all honesty, I would like a map to show you guys exactly where
24 my position is. I think that might clarify things --

25 Q Let's do that.

1 A -- for all of you.

2 Q Yeah, absolutely. And we can do that on the record. That's fine.

3 They're all the same time frame.

4 So why don't I give you -- I have four different maps, and I'm happy to give you all
5 four, and you can just choose whichever one you like best.

6 Does that sound fair?

7 A That's fine.

8 Q All right. Let's do that.

9 Actually, there are two maps, two pictures. I'm going to walk around and I'm
10 going to give you and him -- we'll get them pre-marked.

11 Can we get them marked by the reporters, please?

12 [REDACTED] Exhibits A, B, C, and D

13 were marked for identification.]

14 BY [REDACTED]:

15 Q All right. And for the record, before we start delving into these, just to
16 make it very clear for anyone reading this because they'll have the transcript, but looking
17 at A, can you confirm that is an overhead, sort of looking north on a north-south
18 orientation over the farm grounds and then the AGR building right in the middle?

19 A Yes, I can confirm that.

20 Q All right. Can you turn to B, please?

21 B is also north-south, kind of an overhead of the entire area. Is that right?

22 A Correct.

23 Q All right. Can you turn to C?

24 C is looking southwards with AGR at the bottom of the page with the farm ground
25 in the background. Is that right?

1 A That is not --

2 Q Oh, I'm sorry. Did we get that switched?

3 A Yeah, I believe so.

4 C -- D is the one --

5 Q D is the one I just described?

6 A Right.

7 Q Okay. I got that switched up.

8 Okay. So C is looking northwards, farm ground and the barns in the lower
9 right-hand corner, AGR kind of in the middle at the top looking north.

10 A That's correct.

11 Q And then D is looking south with AGR at the bottom, farm grounds on the
12 top?

13 A Yes.

14 Q All right. Perfect. We're all on the same page.

15 So let's put a pin in that because I do want to hit a few things that they talked
16 about, and then we'll get you right back there.

17 Because my colleagues asked most of the same questions that I had, but I just
18 want to hit a couple things, and then we'll get right into that, and then we'll kind of keep
19 the continuity there.

20 A Okay.

21 Q Have you worked any prior political rallies or political events?

22 A I have not.

23 Q You have not.

24 Have you ever worked in any capacity with the Secret Service before, any similar
25 event?

1 A I have not.

2 Q You said you met [REDACTED] about 10:30 on July 13th. Just about where
3 did you meet him?

4 A So I met him off of Brady Paul Lane. One of the fields there behind the
5 barns was used as a parking area for officers and EMS personnel.

6 Q All right. And then he brought you to the AGR building?

7 A Correct. I took my patrol car over, which all my equipment is in, and I
8 parked it near the CONEX box at the -- in the AGR parking lot.

9 Q All right. Why don't we do this? Do you have a pen or pencil with you?

10 A I have a pen.

11 Q All right. Why don't you -- and which exhibit are you looking at?

12 A Currently I'm looking at A.

13 Q All right. Do you want to mark with an X where you parked your car?

14 A You want to do it with a Sharpie instead? That might --

15 Q Sure.

16 [Witness marking.]

17 [REDACTED]: And you proceeded inside the AGR building where you set up -- I
18 believe you set up at the third window from the left?

19 [REDACTED]: Correct.

20 [REDACTED]: Do you want to circle that window for us, please? This is again
21 on exhibit A.

22 [REDACTED]: Can you see the windows? You can? Okay.

23 [Witness marking.]

24 [REDACTED]: Exhibit C may have a better view of that if you'd like. Defer to
25 you.

1 [Witness marking.]

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q All right. You're circling on exhibit C the window where you set up.

4 Perfect.

5 All right. At any point did you ever think you would be in a counter sniper role
6 that day?

7 A I did not.

8 Q All right. You show up. You meet [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] tells you, hey, you're
9 going to do crowd oversight essentially. Okay.

10 Do you have any sense of whether Secret Service knew of that role that you would
11 be occupying?

12 A It was explained to me that the Secret Service would know where we were
13 positioned.

14 Q But not specifically what you were doing?

15 A I don't recall exactly what was said to me. I mean, they knew we were
16 snipers assigned to the second floor of that building and what windows we would be
17 occupying.

18 Q Got it.

19 Did you talk with Sergeant [REDACTED] or Sergeant [REDACTED] about the crowd oversight
20 role and your location in fulfilling it, about whether that was good, whether that was bad?
21 Any thoughts on sort of how you were set up?

22 A No, I didn't have a discussion with them as far as what our role was that day.

23 Q All right. Did you ever have a discussion -- was Patrolman [REDACTED] ever in
24 the AGR building, to your knowledge, early in the morning on the 13th?

25 A I don't know if he was in the building that day or not.

1 Q Understood. What's your understanding of the security around AGR, either
2 who would be doing it, whether people would be there, how that would be handled?

3 A It was explained that there were to be uniformed officers in the area that
4 day. To my knowledge, that didn't take place.

5 Q Who told you that, if you recall?

6 A If I recall, it may have -- I'm guessing. It may have been [REDACTED].

7 Q Okay. Did he say which uniformed officers and from what agency?

8 A No, he did not.

9 Q Okay. Just someone will be around here.

10 Okay. Communications plan, you said you had a cell phone. So you had your
11 cell phone with you?

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q You were on the group cell phone text thread with the snipers?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you have FirstNet?

16 A No, I do not. I have Verizon.

17 Q Tell me about during the day, just from beginning to the end, how was the
18 cell phone coverage for you?

19 A It didn't seem to affect me, to my knowledge. I was able to receive and
20 respond to text messages from the snipers.

21 Q All right. And then you also had a radio?

22 A Correct.

23 Q And those are the local radios that can go between the different channels.
24 Is that right?

25 A That is correct.

- 1 Q So you can do ops 4. You can switch to ops 3?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q What were you on most of the day?
- 4 A Ops 4.
- 5 Q Do you ever do the scan, or were you guys just on ops 4?
- 6 A You can set the radios to scan. I did not have my radios set to scan that
- 7 day.
- 8 Q Can you just walk me through how that communication is supposed to
- 9 work? In other words, you said earlier you're on ops 4. If you have a problem, you
- 10 report it, and then command relays it out. Is that right?
- 11 A That's correct.
- 12 Q What is your impression of, let's say, patrol on ops 3 has an issue, what was
- 13 your impression that day of how that type of information would get to you?
- 14 A My understanding would be that would be relayed on to command, and
- 15 command would put that out over ops 4.
- 16 Q Understood.
- 17 All right. Moving ahead in the day -- first of all, did you ever see any drones that
- 18 day?
- 19 A I don't recall seeing any drones flying around.
- 20 Q Okay. [REDACTED] leaves approximately 1600, you said, 1620?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q Did he ever send you a text message?
- 23 A Yes, he did.
- 24 Q What did he say to you?
- 25 A He sent a text message just to myself and [REDACTED] stating that there was

1 somebody that had, quote, followed our lead into the parking lot and saw [REDACTED]
2 leaving the building with his rifle so he knows we are up there.

3 Q Okay. Did he ever come back in and alert you of that?

4 A I don't recall if he did come back in the building or not.

5 Q All right. Did he ever give any ideas or thoughts on what to do about that,
6 or was he just like, hey, we're kind of -- someone has seen me?

7 A Just somebody had seen me.

8 Q All right. Let's walk forward, kind of more into the 1700 time frame.
9 What happens next? And at any point did you observe Mr. Crooks?

10 A I did. For the record, I'm referring to my after-action report.
11 Shortly before 1700 hours is when I observed Crooks initially.

12 Q I'm sorry. You said 1700?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And tell me about that observation just generally. Why did that stand out
15 to you?

16 A What I observed Crooks doing was -- to me he looked -- he stood out. He
17 was walking around the grassy area between AGR and the secondary fence line, kept
18 looking up, looking at the building. One point that is what raised my suspicion is he was
19 looking directly at the window I was positioned at.

20 Q Can you turn to exhibit alpha or A, please?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you have that in front of you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Can you just do little circle? I know you said he was walking about. Can
25 you just do a circle about where he is?

1 A Okay.

2 [Witness marking.]

3 Q Sort of in that little gap between the first and second buildings of the AGR
4 complex. Is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q All right.

7 A To the west of the building.

8 Q Yes, sir. Okay.

9 So he's walking around.

10 Let me ask you this. How many people other than Mr. Crooks were around that
11 area at the time?

12 A So initially throughout the entire day nobody was in that area.

13 Q In that separate corner or --

14 A In that whole area between the AGR and the outlying fence.

15 Q Okay.

16 A The final speaker stops speaking, and there was a period of time where they
17 were playing music and stuff prior to President Trump arriving. That is when people
18 started gathering in that area. Roughly 4:30 p.m. people started gathering along the
19 fence. Initially it started off with two or three people, and then the crowd started to
20 grow from there.

21 Q At its peak or, let's say, moving it to 1800, about how many people were
22 there, give or take estimate?

23 A I would estimate 150 people.

24 Q Lots of folks?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Kind of moving about, staying in place, every which way?

2 A Both. They have had set up lawn chairs. There was a female riding a
3 horse back and forth with a flag up and down the fence line.

4 Q Did that raise any concerns for you, any thoughts about, hey, what are all of
5 these people doing here?

6 A I understood what they were doing there. I didn't understand why they
7 were allowed to be there.

8 I will say the Pennsylvania State Police and a trooper and a female sheriff's deputy
9 attempted to get them to leave the fence line. But as soon as they walked over and
10 asked the people to move, they started moving. As soon as the officers walked away,
11 the people went right back to where they were at.

12 And at one point there was a maintenance -- the gentleman from AGR that was in
13 charge of maintenance that let us in the building originally, he also showed up along the
14 fence line trying to get people to move, and they weren't having it.

15 Q Essentially there weren't enough people to disperse that crowd?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Okay. To your knowledge, was that ever radioed in prior to the shooting,
18 that, hey, we need some help out here and, hey, get those folks away?

19 A I'm not aware of that.

20 Q Let's go back to your first sighting of Mr. Crooks.

21 So you see him kind of wandering around. What happens next?

22 A He -- like I said, he looked up at the window I was positioned at and kept
23 looking at it. He walked directly towards the window and underneath of it up against
24 the building to the point where I couldn't see him.

25 That made me feel as though he was looking or could -- was potentially looking at

1 the window to see if there was somebody inside the building. And when he went up
2 against the building to where I couldn't look down on him, I found that to be very
3 suspicious.

4 Q Now, I think this has been made clear, but you were not -- your rifle was
5 recessed from the window. Is that right?

6 A That's correct. And there was a screen in the window.

7 Q To your knowledge, would it have been possible for him to have seen up into
8 the window where you guys were?

9 A Potentially. I can't speak 100 percent. I can tell you that having screens
10 in the windows with the lights out in a given room that that window is part of, it is very
11 difficult to see inside the room.

12 Q Did Sergeant [REDACTED] ever observe Mr. Crooks around that time?

13 A So what had happened was I had observed him. When he disappeared
14 along the lower edge of the building, I couldn't see where he went any further. I walked
15 over and spoke to [REDACTED], and I asked him if he had seen this individual. And I
16 described him with the long hair, gray T-shirt, khaki shorts. At that time [REDACTED] had not
17 observed him.

18 Q Okay. Just walk me through what the next steps were for you guys.

19 A A short time later [REDACTED] tells me that he does see the individual I described.
20 So I walk back over to [REDACTED], and at that point [REDACTED] had showed me -- he had taken two
21 photographs of Crooks. I identified him as that was the individual I was describing
22 earlier. At that time he was sitting on the concrete wall at the southwestern edge of the
23 AGR building that we were in scrolling through his phone.

24 Q Okay. And you guys see him. You take the picture. What's the next
25 interaction or involvement you guys have with observing Mr. Crooks?

1 A At about -- it was minutes later. I had returned back to my post in that
2 office. [REDACTED] yells to me, "[REDACTED]", he's out here again. He has a rangefinder."

3 Q About what time is that?

4 A I would estimate about 5:10 p.m.

5 Q For the rangefinder is about 5:10?

6 A Correct.

7 Q So shortly after you guys see him for the first time?

8 A Correct. I mean, like I said, we had seen him before 5 o'clock originally -- I
9 had seen him. [REDACTED] -- it was probably about a few minutes after 5 when [REDACTED] had
10 alerted me that he had seen him and taken a picture of him.

11 Q And now maybe I missed this. Approximately when was the first time you
12 saw him? I thought you said 1700, so obviously I misheard that.

13 A Well, what I have written here was shortly before 1700.

14 Q Okay. So all kind of around that time frame. I know you're not, of course,
15 like checking your watch specifically because you're looking out into the crowd.

16 A Correct.

17 Q So you guys see him, see him with the rangefinder. Tell me how that
18 reaction happens from there?

19 A So once [REDACTED] had seen him with the rangefinder -- I did not personally
20 observe him with the rangefinder -- he again returned to that cement wall area of the
21 AGR building. And then, according to [REDACTED], he walked north along the western side of
22 the building.

23 Q All right. And let's do this at this point. If you have a Sharpie, can you
24 draw a little arrow on exhibit A the path that he took?

25 [Witness marking.]

1 Q And where did he stop? Was there a location, an item --

2 A We couldn't see him. We lost sight of him.

3 Q Okay. What did you all do from there?

4 A I text message Officer [REDACTED], who was part of our QRF, who was stationed
5 near the inner fence line, the corner of the fenced area where the State Police troop car
6 and female sheriff's deputy's car were both sitting near where the combine was that day.

7 Q All right. Just because you're pointing at it, can you draw an X now where
8 you said Officer [REDACTED] was?

9 [Witness marking.]

10 Q And he's with the QRF?

11 A Correct.

12 Q All right. So please continue.

13 A So I look across, and I see Officer [REDACTED] standing over there looking at our
14 building with binoculars. So I text message Officer [REDACTED], and I said to him -- this is right
15 about 1715 -- I said, "Do you see the guy at the base of our building?" described him, and
16 said that he has a rangefinder.

17 I did not get a response from [REDACTED] for about 20, 25 minutes.

18 Q What did [REDACTED] eventually respond with?

19 A He called me.

20 Q Okay. And he called you. So 1715. What time did he call you?

21 A It was 1740-ish, 1735, somewhere in that general area.

22 Q Okay.

23 A [REDACTED] called me. We discussed it over the phone. He said he was
24 also -- he did observe Crooks. He was also watching another, I believe, one or two
25 suspicious individuals that he could see from his vantage point.

1 Q Okay. So in that -- let's take a step back.

2 Between 1715 when you text him and 1735 when you called, what kind of actions
3 are you and [REDACTED] taking? Because at this point he's moved -- Crooks has moved around
4 the building, right?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q And you're no longer able to see him?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q So what are you guys doing in that time period?

9 A So we are essentially going window to window with binoculars trying to
10 pinpoint where he's at.

11 At that point, like I said, you probably have 100, 150 people now gathered out
12 there. So locating him was -- that made it more difficult. You're looking at everybody
13 in the crowd now at this point.

14 Q Sure.

15 Okay. So [REDACTED] calls, says he observes Mr. Crooks?

16 A Yes, that is correct.

17 Q Okay. Where does he say he is?

18 A He lost him going around the western side of the building.

19 Q So maybe I'm confused. I thought him going around the western side of
20 the building, I thought you said happened at 1715.

21 A So he did go around the western side of the building at 1715.

22 Q Yeah.

23 A But he had come back again, got to the open area, I'm going to say multiple
24 times, two -- two, three times.

25 Q So at this point Mr. Crooks is still kind of wandering around aimlessly?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. 1735 [REDACTED] calls and says, "Hey, I lost him but I had him," right?

3 A Yeah. He did observe him. He did confirm that he had observed him.

4 Q All right. So what did you and Sergeant [REDACTED] do at that point?

5 A So at that point we did notify through our text thread [REDACTED], through
6 the sniper text thread, so all snipers were aware at that point.

7 [REDACTED] sent the text message along with the two photographs to the sniper text
8 thread. [REDACTED] responded with "Notify command." And then he forwarded the
9 pictures on to Secret Service counter snipers and command staff.

10 Q Do you know that from him telling you? Or how do you know that [REDACTED]
11 forwarded those pictures on?

12 A I've seen his text messages to [REDACTED].

13 Q Okay. So [REDACTED] directly texting individually with [REDACTED]?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you know where [REDACTED] was set up?

16 A I believe he was on -- I'm not 100 percent sure. He was on one of the
17 rooftops.

18 Q On one of the rooftops?

19 A I believe he was part of the southern group, but I'm not 100 percent sure.

20 Q All right. So let's keep going.

21 What do you guys do? 1735 you guys -- [REDACTED] sends those texts. [REDACTED]
22 forwards them on. People are now kind of alert to the fact that, hey, there's this guy,
23 rangefinder, acting a little bit off.

24 What do you do guys do next and what kind of communications are had?

25 A So, like I said, at 1738 [REDACTED] did forward that out. He did notify command

1 via radio. [REDACTED] confirms description of the male, which I believe I misheard -- or [REDACTED]
2 may have misspoken or I misheard [REDACTED], and I made a correction over the radio saying that
3 it was a gray shirt. I believe I heard green shirt.

4 And then that's when it was notified -- everybody was notified over the radio on
5 ops 4.

6 Q And I'm sorry. Say that one more time. What time was that,
7 approximately?

8 A Probably 17 -- right around 1745, 1750.

9 Q All right. Did you ever see law enforcement -- let's focus -- let me actually
10 ask you this.

11 When do you reacquire or resee Mr. Crooks?

12 A So at that point I didn't see him again.

1 [2:26 p.m.]

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q Okay.

4 A [REDACTED] did. Like I said, as we're going from window to window, I need to
5 note that there was a suspicious package and bicycle -- package meaning backpack -- and
6 bicycle sitting next to a gas meter off of the northwest corner of the AGR complex.

7 Q Okay.

8 A So that being said, that was also put out to command, and they advised that
9 they would have officers responding to not only check out Crooks but to check out the
10 suspicious backpack and bicycle.

11 Q I want to ask, at any point do you ever see -- and, again, prior to the
12 shooting -- do you ever see Mr. Crooks with a backpack?

13 A I did not.

14 Q You said Sergeant [REDACTED] eventually saw Crooks again. Tell me about your
15 experience with that. You said you didn't see him, but tell me what he then told you
16 and about what time it was.

17 A So I had returned to, again, return back to my window and was continuing to
18 look over the crowd. At that time, [REDACTED] yells across the second floor to me that now
19 Crooks is at a picnic table with a backpack.

20 Q Okay. Can you put a box, like a little square, approximately where [REDACTED]
21 was when he saw Crooks.

22 A With the backpack?

23 Q Yes, sir.

24 [Witness marking.]

25 Q And you were back at your window?

1 A Yeah. I was back over here [indicating].

2 Q Got it. What happens? And then what does he say? What is your
3 experience with that?

4 A So I immediately run to [REDACTED]'s location. [REDACTED] tells me Crooks took off not
5 in a run but at a -- essentially a brisk walk north. He then disappeared in between these
6 two portions of the AGR building.

7 We did not know that was all interconnected. But [REDACTED] observed him head back
8 here. And then that's when [REDACTED] said, "I'm going to try to locate him." And that's
9 when he left the second floor.

10 Q All right. Did anything precipitate that event? In other words, when
11 he -- when Crooks started moving around that time, were you hearing anything from the
12 event that might have changed or cued that sudden movement for Mr. Crooks?

13 A Not that I'm aware of. I mean, there was music playing loudly. Nothing
14 that I would say that changed during that time frame.

15 Q Okay, yeah. Let me ask you this also. About how long after that, if you
16 recall, did President -- former President Trump begin to speak?

17 A I would say, from the last time -- you mean when [REDACTED] had seen him with
18 the backpack?

19 Q Yeah, from -- so Mr. Crooks leaves backpack. From that time until Mr.
20 Trump took the stage, about how long was that?

21 A I don't recall.

22 Q Okay.

23 A If you could tell me what time he took the stage. I'm not 100 percent sure
24 what time he did.

25 Q Short time frame, long time frame?

1 A Short time frame.

2 Q Short time frame, okay.

3 So tell me about the decisions then. He leaves the site. Sergeant [REDACTED] leaves
4 his post -- leaves the area. Tell me about that decision-making and how you observed
5 that situation.

6 A There was no decision-making on my part. He just said he was going to
7 look for him and off he went. There was no discussion. There was no --

8 Q Okay.

9 A And from my position, at that point I was focused on looking to where
10 Crooks had disappeared around the building, but I could also see the suspicious backpack
11 next to the gas meter.

12 Q So you sort of have these two things in your mind, both suspicious, not rising
13 to any further level? Or how do you view those two items, Mr. Crooks and the
14 backpack?

15 A The backpack itself by the gas meter obviously seemed suspicious. It had
16 been left there for quite some time. Nobody was around it. So that did seem
17 suspicious.

18 Crooks, seeing him with the rangefinder obviously raised some serious suspicion.
19 And it felt like it progressed. The next time we saw him, he now has a backpack. The
20 next time he's observed he has a backpack.

21 Q All right. Between when Sergeant [REDACTED] left and when obviously you heard
22 the shots, are you just continuing to look around in that general area of the windows at
23 the end of the hall --

24 A Yes.

25 Q -- for either of those two things?

1 A I am still diligently looking, trying to locate Crooks amongst the crowd that
2 had gathered out here, but also keeping my eye on that package, waiting for what I was
3 assuming was going to be uniformed officers showing up over there.

4 Q Did they ever come to that area prior to the shots?

5 A So uniformed officers did not. It turned out that the two individuals I saw
6 walk over to the backpack were undercover Pennsylvania State Police troopers.

7 Q Got it.

8 Prior to the shots, did you ever -- you say the radio was on ops 4, right?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Did you ever hear anything come over ops 4 prior to the shot after Sergeant
11 [REDACTED] left?

12 A The only thing I heard was Commander [REDACTED] activating one of the QRFs.

13 Q And that was immediately preceding the shots?

14 A Correct.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay. I have 2 minutes left, but the next part obviously goes into
16 the shooting and afterwards, and I don't want to start that up, and my majority
17 colleagues may want to take us back.

18 Do you have anything?

19 All right. Why don't we cut a little bit early, because I think this is a good
20 breaking point, unless you guys have anything you want to cut in. Okay, perfect.

21 So we can go off the record at 1432.

22 [Discussion off the record.]

23 [REDACTED]: So we are back on the record, 2:33 p.m., majority round two.

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q Sir, if we could just drill in on -- following up on the minority's questions.

3 So you indicated you observed Crooks at 1700, approximately. You initially
4 observed him and he looked suspicious. He stood out.

5 Did you make any efforts to detain him at that point?

6 A Not at all.

7 Q Is there a reason why you didn't at that time?

8 A Yeah. There's several, actually, one being that I was specifically assigned to
9 a post as a sniper that was to remain hidden. I was not about to give up my position and
10 leave my post.

11 Secondly, that is not necessarily a scenario where a SWAT operator is to respond.
12 That could be viewed as an excessive use of force.

13 Q Whose responsibility or who would have been able to go observe or follow
14 that individual and make that detainment?

15 A The most -- best case scenario, uniformed patrol.

16 Q Did you make any efforts to notify uniformed patrol?

17 A Initially when we observed him, no.

18 Q And why was that?

19 A We were waiting -- I mean, the level of suspicion -- him looking up at my
20 window raises suspicion to me. Would that raise suspicion to a general civilian?
21 Probably not.

22 I made -- like I said, I made [REDACTED] aware of the individual. And we were
23 essentially keeping our eye on him, trying to, to see if it did progress.

24 Once it did start to progress with the rangefinder is when, yes, we did reach out to
25 command and ask for someone to respond over there.

1 Q And do you think it would have been helpful for patrol on the ground to also
2 have been made aware of this sort of initial ID of suspicions that you had had?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you have a way of getting in touch with any of the local or the patrol on
5 the ground?

6 A Could I have?

7 Q Yes.

8 A Yes. Is that our protocol? No, it is not.

9 Q Okay. So then, sir, you kept track of the eventual shooter, Mr. Crooks, you
10 kept track of his whereabouts?

11 A The best that we could.

12 Q Okay. And so you had indicated your role was to provide information, also
13 to address threats.

14 So other than indicating to [REDACTED], correct, about the suspicious person, was
15 there anything else that was done at that time?

16 A As far as?

17 Q Providing information to anyone else.

18 A Initially, no. It was between him and I and trying to determine, okay, is this
19 a person of interest? Is this somebody that we need to elevate this to have someone
20 intervene, have uniformed patrol, what have you, intervene with him?

21 Q Okay. And then you indicated you texted [REDACTED] 1715. Do you see
22 the guy? Said he had a rangefinder.

23 Now, with sort of the existence of a rangefinder, obviously, this further heightens
24 suspicions.

25 Would that then rise to the level to prompt -- you indicated you didn't feel

1 comfortable leaving your post. Would that then be a reasonable time to prompt patrol
2 on the ground?

3 A Patrol to respond?

4 Q Yes.

5 A Absolutely.

6 Q Okay. And were any efforts made to contact patrol to respond?

7 A I did not make that -- that -- I did not attempt to contact patrol. That was
8 relayed to command, who, my understanding, did relay that to patrol, and we were told
9 that uniformed officers would be responding.

10 Q And can you go into who that was relayed to and then how you were under
11 the impression that patrol would respond?

12 A So when we relayed that to Commander [REDACTED], he said -- I don't recall the
13 exact verbiage -- but we would have uniformed patrol check it out, as well as the
14 backpack.

15 [REDACTED]: Was that the standard operating procedure that you were aware
16 of --

17 [REDACTED]: Correct.

18 [REDACTED]: -- if you needed to have patrol check something out?

19 [REDACTED]: Yes.

20 BY [REDACTED]:

21 Q And did [REDACTED] ever follow up with you as to whether that actually did
22 happen?

23 A We had -- I'm trying to remember. I don't recall, to be honest with you,
24 what the radio transmissions were. I didn't have interaction with Commander [REDACTED] via
25 phone. It was just over the radio.

1 Q So you all didn't seek confirmation that [REDACTED] sort of proceeded in terms
2 of having patrol go check it out? He didn't follow up with a confirming patrol's on the
3 ground or confirming patrol's going to check out this situation?

4 A If I'm not mistaken, he did say something over the radio that patrol would be
5 responding. That's the extent that I recall.

6 Q Okay. So just for the record, there was -- you don't recall any confirmation
7 that that actually occurred?

8 A No, I don't recall.

9 Q Okay. Were you concerned, sir, that Crooks, Mr. Crooks, was wandering
10 around?

11 A At the point after we observed him with the rangefinder, yes.

12 Q Okay. And, sir, if you could go into when a suspicious person is identified,
13 what is the protocol, to continue to monitor this individual's movements? Could you go
14 into what is then the protocol?

15 A Essentially, yes, to monitor that person to see if it rises to any type of a
16 threat.

17 And that being said, there were multiple people along that fence line that did
18 appear suspicious at one point or another that day. I mean, you had some intoxicated
19 people there doing some random things that we were keeping our eyes on them as well.

20 Nothing that arose to any type of level of threat that we perceived.

21 Q Sir, what sort of details or other hallmarks would you look for for something
22 to rise to the level of threat? Would a rangefinder qualify as one of those things?

23 A I still would not classify seeing someone with a rangefinder as a threat. Is
24 that suspicious? Yes, 100 percent, especially at a political rally.

25 At a distance that if I was looking to take a shot at any amount of distance, a

1 rangefinder would be quite necessary to make an accurate shot, although that's coming
2 from somebody who does that on a regular basis. I use rangefinders on a regular basis
3 with my training.

4 Q So, to be clear, the existence of a person that you initially deemed
5 suspicious, then the addition of the rangefinder, that did then not trigger you to deem
6 Mr. Crooks as a threat yet?

7 A Not as a threat.

8 Q You then indicated that the threat, quote, "progressed." This individual
9 now not only is suspicious, he has a rangefinder as well as a backpack.

10 Would you say it was at that juncture you deemed Mr. Crooks a threat?

11 A I would -- no, I don't think you can say even at that point.

12 What I consider a threat is some sort of instrument that has the potential to cause
13 physical harm or death. Had he had a knife of some sort, yes, I would absolutely
14 consider that a threat. Any other type of weapon, yes. Rangefinder, I can't classify
15 that as a threat.

16 Q So it would have had to have been a weapon that would have been openly
17 visible for you to have deemed Mr. Crooks in this instance to be a threat?

18 A Correct.

19 Q How do you rectify labeling someone as a threat if they are carrying a
20 weapon that is not openly visible?

21 [REDACTED]: Could you restate that?

22 [REDACTED]: Sure.

23 How would you rectify, sir, the fact that, for example, if a weapon was not visible?
24 Could it be the case where somebody is still considered a threat but you don't see a
25 weapon?

1 [REDACTED]: I would consider someone a threat if they maybe attacked
2 someone else with their bare hands without a weapon. But in the sense of somebody
3 being classified as a threat to the point where I would use deadly force, no, I can't say
4 that I would, if that's where you're going with that.

5 I wouldn't be able to intervene unless I did see some sort of a deadly weapon or
6 some -- something along those lines.

7 [REDACTED]: And if we move sort of below deadly force, you certainly have other
8 options available to you, such as detainment or addressing someone. Is that right?

9 [REDACTED]: Is your question as to just any police officer or him in the
10 second floor of the AGR building?

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q In that situation that day?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay.

15 A No, I did not have the ability to --

16 Q Okay. And, sir, just moving quickly. So [REDACTED] had left the second floor
17 at that juncture after the backpack to try to locate Mr. Crooks.

18 Did he inform anyone else, any agency or other local law enforcement, that he
19 was doing this?

20 A That I'm not aware of.

21 Q Okay. So you were now alone on floor two?

22 A Correct.

23 [REDACTED]: Do you know which door he left the AGR from?

24 [REDACTED]: So my understanding was he went back downstairs the way we
25 came in through the building. We were not given an inside tour of the building. It's

1 quite complex in there. Where he went when he got down there to the first floor, I do
2 not know.

3 [REDACTED]: And would he be able to get back into the building after he left?

4 [REDACTED]: Truthfully, no. The building was supposed to be locked down
5 with key cards. However he did get back into the building, I have no idea.

6 BY [REDACTED]:

7 Q Okay. Sir, so it's our understanding that at approximately -- and you had
8 indicated this during minority's rounds -- at approximately 747, you updated the
9 description of the suspicious person, that the male was wearing a gray T-shirt, light khaki
10 shorts. His hair was down past his chin. He was wearing glasses.

11 Is that an accurate description of what you did, sir?

12 A Correct. I don't know that you had the time correct there. I didn't --

13 Q 1747?

14 A I thought you said 747.

15 Q Seventeen.

16 A Okay.

17 Q Is that accurate?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Okay. What prompted you to make this update?

20 A When Commander [REDACTED] repeated the description over the radio, I believed
21 he said green shirt. That's why I came back over the -- and I don't believe that [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] gave the full description either.

23 Q And you made this update over the radio, to be clear?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Did you make it via any other channels?

1 A No, just ops 4.

2 Q And then to clarify for the record, who was the distribution list for ops 4?
3 Who was over ops 4?

4 A So it would have been all of the Butler County ESU members that were there
5 that day, including members from the Washington County team and the Beaver County
6 team that were also there that day. They were issued county radios.

7 Q Were you aware of if U.S. Secret Service got an updated description?

8 A I was not aware.

9 Q Did command post? Did one of the command posts get an updated
10 description, to your knowledge?

11 A I mean, I gave it to our command post, who, from after the fact, I was told
12 amongst these committee meetings that, yes, [REDACTED] did contact Trooper [REDACTED], or I
13 believe Sergeant [REDACTED] now, via phone, and provided that information to [REDACTED] over the
14 phone.

15 Q Sir, were there any efforts to keep former President Trump from going up on
16 stage?

17 A Not to my knowledge.

18 Q And why do you believe that was not the case, even though a suspicious
19 person was sort of lurking around?

20 [REDACTED]: He can't answer that. I mean, that's a Secret Service
21 question. That's not an ESU question.

22 [REDACTED]: Would local law enforcement have any ability to make that type of
23 recommendation to Secret Service?

24 [REDACTED]: That was a discussion we had after the fact. I don't believe that
25 the local law enforcement can make a call like that. That would have to come directly

1 from the Secret Service, to stop the event or get him off stage in some sort of emergency.

2 [REDACTED]: So we can slightly alter that, sir. In terms of making the ultimate
3 call, I understand that U.S. Secret Service would be the ultimate sort of arbiter there.

4 But what about a recommendation to U.S. Secret Service about keeping him off stage?

5 [REDACTED]: I mean, I'm going to let you go to the places you need to go,
6 but, I mean, I think he's just speculating. I don't think he can answer that question.

7 [REDACTED]: I would assume --

8 BY [REDACTED]:

9 Q Was there an ability to communicate to U.S. Secret Service that there was a
10 concern?

11 A Me directly?

12 Q Yes, sir.

13 A No, ma'am.

14 Q Would anyone at the command post be able to relay a concern to Secret
15 Service about former President Trump getting up on stage?

16 A To my knowledge, it would have been indirect.

17 Q Okay. So there would be no direct communication channels?

18 A Unfortunately. My understanding was the way our command post
19 communicated with the Secret Service command post was via phone through [REDACTED] and
20 [REDACTED] from Pennsylvania State Police.

21 Q Okay. Did you know, sir, that the suspicious person with a rangefinder,
22 backpack, [REDACTED] had gone to try to go find him, things were just progressing as usual?

23 At any juncture, did you hear any information or communications about efforts to
24 keep former President Trump off stage or was the rally just to continue as planned?

25 A It just continued as it had been, to my knowledge.

1 Q Okay. Sir, moving to the shooting and right prior to that.

2 So did you ever see anyone on the roof of the AGR building?

3 A No, I did not, not till after the shooting.

4 Q Did [REDACTED] ever communicate to you that he saw someone on the roof of
5 the AGR building?

6 A No, he did not.

7 Q So, sir, if you could briefly describe the moment that you heard the first
8 gunshots.

9 A So I will describe a few minutes leading up to that.

10 As I was standing at that window where [REDACTED] had seen Crooks take off to the
11 north and then to the east, still observing the backpack near the gas meter, I did observe
12 those two undercover State troopers at the package.

13 Moments later, suddenly a wave of people that would have been coming from the
14 southwestern area where they had all set up there, a wave of people started running.
15 And I specifically hearing -- remember hearing a woman scream.

16 I immediately take off running back to the room where my rifle's at. As I'm
17 coming into the room is when I hear the QRF launched. And as I grab my rifle, I hear the
18 gunshots.

19 Q So did you ever hear back from [REDACTED] as to his whereabouts?

20 A No.

21 Q Did you ever check in with him as to his whereabouts?

22 A No. At that point, my concern -- I was not concerned about [REDACTED]. I was
23 concerned about where the shots came from and they need to be stopped.

24 Q Prior to hearing the shots, did [REDACTED] and you communicate as to any
25 successes or failures as to locating Mr. Crooks?

- 1 A You mean did [REDACTED] locate him again?
- 2 Q Did [REDACTED], when he left his post to go try to find Mr. Crooks --
- 3 A Sure.
- 4 Q -- did he radio back to you --
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q -- hey, can't find him, hey, any updates, I'm still looking for him? No
- 7 communication with you --
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q -- after he left to try to go find him?
- 10 A No. As a matter of fact, I don't know that [REDACTED] had his radio with him at
- 11 that point.
- 12 Q Did you text at all with [REDACTED] about his whereabouts?
- 13 A No, I did not.
- 14 Q Okay. So you indicated after the shots sort of -- what was your reaction at
- 15 that point? What did you do in the immediate aftermath of the shots?
- 16 A As I'm grabbing my rifle and hearing the shots, I picked my rifle up, went two
- 17 rooms down. And as I came into what appeared to be a small conference room, as I'm
- 18 coming through the doorway I could see someone on the roof.
- 19 With a conference table similar to this in the way, I made my way around the
- 20 conference table, brought my rifle up on target. And as I was coming up to the window
- 21 is when the Secret Service fired. I saw Crooks drop, roll over, and the rifle fall out.
- 22 Q And how did you know, sir, that it was the Secret Service who fired?
- 23 A I didn't until after the fact.
- 24 Q Okay. So you weren't aware of who was firing at that time?
- 25 A Correct.

1 Q Did you see any local law enforcement shoot at the AGR roof?

2 A I did not, not from my vantage point.

3 Q Okay. So you just knew that shots were being fired. You then saw Mr.

4 Crooks fall down or his head fell down?

5 A Yes. I saw a large amount of blood.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Obviously, I knew he had been struck.

8 Q Okay. Did you make any attempts to go on the roof at that point?

9 A Not at all. I held crosshairs on him until our team got on the roof.

10 Q Okay. Can you describe the communications via radio or in person or other
11 means during the shooting?

12 A I radioed out. Once I looked through my scope and determined that he
13 was deceased, I did radio out over ops 4 that the shooter was down.

14 Q Okay. And then how long after you learned or observed that the shooter
15 was down did you see Secret Service personnel by the AGR building on approaching the
16 AGR building?

17 A That's a hard guess. Our guys were already on the roof near the body, and
18 it was -- I can't even -- I can't even estimate the time until the one individual from the
19 Secret Service got on the roof. Maybe 15 minutes, 20 minutes.

20 Q Okay. Thank you, sir.

21 A I'm not 100 percent sure.

22 Q After the shooting, did you receive any communications or updated
23 information from the Secret Service regarding what you should do?

24 A No.

25 Q And what was your assignment after the shooting?

1 A Initially, when they were setting up a perimeter around the AGR building, I
2 radioed -- we had two, I believe it was two entry teams come into the AGR building to
3 search it. Finding us upstairs, at one point one of the troopers said to me, "We need a
4 perimeter set up around the AGR building, a hard perimeter."

5 I did radio out I believe back to command stating that PSP wants a perimeter set
6 up around the building. I stayed on the second floor until I was evacuated due to a
7 threat of explosives on the first floor.

8 Q Okay. Did you assist with the State Police, Secret Service, or FBI
9 investigation on July 13th?

10 A Initially, when I exited the building, there was a Secret Service agent
11 asking -- he was the original Secret Service agent on the roof that is viewed in the body
12 cam footage. He did ask me to tell him what I had observed that day.

13 I did take him around to show him where I had observed Crooks. I then took him
14 around to the picnic table where Crooks was last seen with a backpack.

15 And then we walked around to the back side where Crooks had disappeared
16 around the building, where him and I both observed handprints on the fascia of the roof
17 appearing to where Crooks -- we thought Crooks had climbed up.

18 After that, I had no contact with the Secret Service or the State Police until I was
19 interviewed that night.

20 Q Okay. And did you participate in any debriefings related to July 13?

21 A Team debriefings, yes.

22 Q Who was a part of those team debriefings?

23 A I don't know that I would call it so much a debrief. It was more of a mental
24 health meeting with -- I think they're called CISM.

25 Q That's okay, sir. You don't have to go into that.

1 A Okay.

2 Q Thank you.

3 Were there any other operational, to be more specific, debriefings that you
4 attended?

5 A No. Just mainly, if we did -- the team did get together. It was just a
6 general discussion. It's not so much about a debrief of the incident, more just checking
7 up with everybody, making sure everybody's all okay.

8 Q And was there a discussion kind of going over any kind of operational holes
9 or failures with the team?

10 A Not to my knowledge. We discussed our individual roles. Like I said, we
11 had to do an after-action report. And those were all turned in to command.

12 Q And has the Secret Service spoken to you at all since July 13?

13 [REDACTED]: I mean, I can answer that.

14 He's been interviewed by the State Police and FBI as part of their criminal
15 investigation. There was also like a group interview with Department of Homeland
16 Security, one of their investigative groups. That was at the Butler County 911 Center.

17 To your point, Secret Service, their internal affairs group did interview [REDACTED] like a
18 week or 10 days ago. And they did several other interviews as well. And then Senator
19 Grassley's group did kind of a group interview.

20 Were you there for that?

21 [REDACTED]: Yes.

22 [REDACTED]: You were there for that, okay.

23 And so that I think is the full scope of what was done other than meeting with you
24 guys at BC3 (ph).

25 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

1 BY [REDACTED]:

2 Q And quickly with respect to DHS, did you observe them, sir, at the rally site at
3 all?

4 A I observed -- I don't know what the individuals were, what department they
5 were from. There were multiple people with canines that were in plainclothes.

6 I didn't observe anybody specifically in any type of uniform other than our law
7 enforcement, whether it was the State Police, Sheriff's Office, or some local officers.

8 Q So no identifying DHS vests or anything of that nature?

9 A Not that I observed.

10 Q Okay.

11 BY [REDACTED]:

12 Q So backing up.

13 Before the shooting, you mentioned that you saw a county deputy and a State
14 Police trooper try and disperse the crowd?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Do you remember roughly what time that was?

17 A So with my after-action report, it was about 1630 is when the civilians
18 started gathering along the fence line. So it would have been between then and 1700.

19 Q Okay. And then did you ever see any other law enforcement try and
20 disperse the crowd after that?

21 A No, no.

22 Q And then early on you said that you had no contact with Secret Service prior
23 to July 13th. You just told us about some contact you had post-shooting.

24 Did you have any contact with Secret Service on July 13th before the shooting?

25 A No, not at all.

1 Q Okay. Were you supposed to have any contact with Secret Service on July
2 13th?

3 A Me directly?

4 Q Okay.

5 A No, not to my knowledge.

6 BY [REDACTED]:

7 Q One more question, sir. And you've been incredibly helpful.

8 Was the Secret Service at all time apprised of Mr. Crooks, when he was first ID'd
9 as a suspicious person, as the ID was updated, further relevant details with respect to him
10 having a backpack? Was the Secret Service apprised of all of those details, sir?

11 A Ma'am, to be honest with you, I have no idea. I relayed the information as
12 we normally would to command, and it's command's responsibility to then forward that
13 information on.

14 I do know for a fact that [REDACTED] was.

15 Q Who is [REDACTED], sir?

16 A He is the counter sniper team leader for the Secret Service.

17 Q Okay. And then who from Butler ESU was at the command post who had
18 the ability to communicate with Secret Service?

19 A So [REDACTED], our team leader, was not at the command post.

20 Q Okay.

21 A He was assigned on the southern portion of this as our sniper team leader,
22 also participating as a sniper that day. [REDACTED], our team commander, was in the
23 command post that did have some sort of communication, whether direct or indirect,
24 with Secret Service.

25 Q And [REDACTED] was apprised of the details insofar as the description of Mr.

1 Crooks?

2 A Absolutely. That's who -- when we radioed -- when [REDACTED] radioed it in to
3 command, [REDACTED] then repeated it. That's when I corrected what I thought he had
4 misspoken. Whether he did or not, I don't know. But so then, yes, he did confirm that
5 over the radio. And then --

6 Q And [REDACTED], did he indicate that he would be communicating that info to
7 the Secret Service at all?

8 A I don't recall exactly what the radio transmissions were. I've only listened
9 to them once.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 Do you have anything else, [REDACTED]?

12 [REDACTED]: No.

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

14 [REDACTED]: Sure.

15 [REDACTED]: Our colleagues generously asked most of the things we were going
16 to cover, so we do have some more questions. Again, happy to take a break, happy to
17 plow on.

18 What's best for you guys?

19 [REDACTED]: I can keep going.

20 [REDACTED]: All right. Good with the court reporter?

21 [REDACTED]: Yes.

22 [REDACTED]: All right.

23 BY [REDACTED]:

24 Q So a couple quick hitters. I want to make sure it's clear. And some of the
25 questions we have are also to make it very clear in the transcript so that anyone reading it

1 is able to summarize this information.

2 A Sure.

3 Q So I want to make clear, sir. [REDACTED] leaves, texts you about someone
4 outside. You then begin to get suspicious of Mr. Crooks around 1700?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Around 1710 is when [REDACTED] sees him with the rangefinder.
7 You then put in a text to [REDACTED] 1710, 1715 --

8 A Yes.

9 Q -- because you guys have lost him.

10 A Correct.

11 Q 1715, 1735, you guys are continuing to look for Mr. Crooks.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q A lot of people around, so you're not having the easiest time identifying him.

14 A Correct.

15 Q 1735, [REDACTED] gives you a call, says, "I had him but now I've lost him."

16 A Correct.

17 Q At that point, was it just a call or was it just a culmination of things? What
18 triggered you guys then to report that up the chain of command?

19 A I had mentioned it to [REDACTED] that we need to notify command. And as we
20 continued to look for him to see if that was progressing any further from a suspicious
21 person, I can't tell you exactly what made us do it at that point, but that's when we
22 reached out to our team leader -- well, the sniper team leader, [REDACTED]. And then he
23 said go ahead and forward that on to command.

24 Q Got it. So you had said reach out earlier to [REDACTED], but then it didn't happen
25 until afterwards, because you guys were continuing to look?

1 A Correct.

2 Q Fair enough.

3 You said [REDACTED] had a view of you guys. Do you have any concept of was [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED] able to see the AGR complex from where he was in the grandstand, or do you not
5 know that?

6 A He was able to see it. You're also talking 384 yards away.

7 Q So he'd see the people, but there would be a lot of folks and he had a longer
8 view?

9 A Whether he could actually see the people on the ground, I don't believe he
10 could. I don't know 100 percent. He could see the rooftops. He could see my
11 windows from what he described. But I do not know if he could see the people on the
12 ground gathering there.

13 Q From what he has told you -- and, of course, he can be asked these
14 questions -- but from what he has told you, did he ever witness that event or was he
15 more focused on the crowd at that point?

16 A No. He was -- from what he's told me, he was focused on the crowd.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Just like we were.

19 Q Because that was his assignment?

20 A Yes, correct.

21 Q So he never saw Mr. Crooks at any point that you're aware?

22 A Not that I'm aware of.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Now, keep in mind, they had their own suspicious people that they were
25 looking into as well on that side of the venue.

1 Q Absolutely.

2 I want to briefly make sure I'm giving a timeline. I think we will be able to do this
3 without having to go back to our maps and marking it up.

4 But around -- [REDACTED] -- Sergeant [REDACTED] leaves slightly after 1800?

5 A Correct.

6 Q You're on the second floor looking north-northwest of that building?

7 A Yes.

8 Q At some point prior to the shot, you hear people started screaming, saying
9 things, making some sort of commotion?

10 A Yes.

11 Q You immediately return to your rifle, which is at that third window?

12 A Yes.

13 Q About how long does it take you to get from there to your rifle?

14 A Probably about 7, 8 seconds.

15 Q Okay. As you're getting your rifle, you hear on ops 4 QRF launch?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Shortly thereafter, you hear shots?

18 A [Nonverbal response.]

19 Q Okay.

20 [Reporter clarification.]

21 BY [REDACTED]:

22 Q Yeah, sorry, you're right. We do have to --

23 A Yeah, I apologize. I nodded my head.

24 Q So yeah. And please correct me if I'm wrong, but, yeah, I'll make sure we
25 get that.

1 So gets the shot, you hear the shots. And just to be very clear, in that immediate
2 preceding timeline, other than the commotion outside there was nothing that
3 precipitated you returning to your rifle?

4 A Correct.

5 Q No one radioed you to return to your rifle?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay. Help me understand. You're at your rifle. You hear the shots.
8 Do you have then the aim on Mr. Crooks at that point or do you move rooms?

9 A I had to move two rooms down.

10 Q And that is the last room on the east side of that hallway facing south?

11 A So --

12 Q If you want to return to the map, you can as well.

13 A It is not. You would have to -- the inside of the building is difficult to
14 describe.

15 So from the hallway, we walked into this open area where there were three
16 different offices or three different rooms.

17 You had the conference room. Then you had a small -- I believe it was an office.
18 It was an office. That window I don't believe opened that day. So that room wasn't
19 chosen as an observation point.

20 Then you went into the office I was in. There was an area --

21 Q You can circle it just to make it really clear.

22 A This area here was a break room [indicating].

23 Q Can you draw the number 1 above that just to help demarcate it from the
24 first one.

25 [Witness marking.]

1 A Okay.

2 Q And this is on exhibit A. Okay.

3 A So that was a break room. And there was a restroom just outside of that
4 break room there.

5 Q And that is where you were able to see Mr. Crooks from?

6 A No.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I believe when you guys were here the original -- the first time, I was
9 describing the conference room as a break room, and I had misspoken. It was the
10 conference room that I observed Crooks out of, conference room window.

11 Q And is that the one where you have 1 circled, or which --

12 A No, it's actually right here [indicating].

13 Q Okay. So why don't you circle that with a 2, the room where you
14 eventually saw Mr. Crooks.

15 [Witness marking.]

16 Q Okay. And so hearing you describe it, you're moving around to these
17 windows. You get to that 2, and that is when you look out the window and see Mr.
18 Crooks. Is that right?

19 A Correct. As I'm coming into the room, I can see out the window on an
20 angle, and I could see someone on the roof.

21 Q Is that window open at that point?

22 A It is open, but there's a screen in it.

23 Q All right. Do you knock the screen out or keep the screen in?

24 A I did rip the screen out of the window.

25 Q All right. And just very -- again, it was said before, but just what -- do you

1 see Mr. Crooks? What do you see?

2 A As I'm coming up with my rifle on the window is when the shot came that
3 terminated Mr. Crooks, and I saw him go down like this and the rifle fall off to the side of
4 him.

5 Q Very clear that that shot is what killed him, in your mind?

6 A Yes. I mean, it -- I had to look through the scope to verify. But yeah,
7 yeah. That shot clearly ended.

8 Q Did you see Mr. Crooks take any shots?

9 A I did not.

10 Q How many -- were you able to determine how many counter-shots there
11 were?

12 A No. I --

13 Q You just hear some shots, you look out the window, and the first shot you
14 then hear is the shot that hit Mr. Crooks, presumably?

15 A Correct.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay.

17 I don't have any other factual questions. I have a couple wrap-up, but I'll turn it
18 over to my colleague, who has a couple things I think he wants to go over.

19 BY [REDACTED]:

20 Q Yes, a few things.

21 So we have reason to -- we have heard that as of July 11th, ESU was notified that
22 they actually did not need their tactical team to be covert.

23 Was that ever passed along to you?

24 A No. Prior to the event, no. I mean, I've heard this stuff after the fact,
25 but --

1 Q At some point, you mentioned that you had a radio and a cell phone, that
2 they were standard communication resources. What does that mean?

3 A So the radio is our county radio that we use. It's used for my primary job,
4 where I'm police 1. When we do an operation for Butler ESU, it's almost always ops 4 or
5 ops 3 that we're on.

6 Q And would the cell phone also be a standard communication resource?

7 A Sure. There's times where I've been on operations out early as a sniper
8 that you don't want to key your radio up in a hidden position sitting out in the middle of
9 the woods at night, where I'll communicate directly with my cell phone to command.

10 Q Okay. So --

11 A Via text message, not via -- not voice.

12 Q Can you look at exhibit B. I think it's like an aerial map.

13 A Yes.

14 Q Can you sort of draw kind of like a triangle indicating what your field of view
15 would have been, like what your assignment was to look at. And if it's helpful, you can
16 also do the field of view for [REDACTED].

17 [Witness marking.]

18 Q And then maybe if you could put like an [REDACTED] inside your cone.

19 [Witness marking.]

20 Q And did you have an understanding of what [REDACTED] was supposed to look at?

21 A Yes. Yeah. I had an understanding of where [REDACTED] was supposed to be
22 observing, where [REDACTED] was supposed to be observing.

23 Q If you can indicate that as well with a [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED].

24 [Witness marking.]

25 Q And you said that when [REDACTED] left, you and [REDACTED] would alternate to also

1 cover the view that [REDACTED] would have held?

2 A Correct. Initially, [REDACTED]' primary focal point would have been just off the
3 AGR building there, but also up to the main gate. He was able to observe the main gate
4 should anything erupt at the gate when people were trying to get into the event.

5 [REDACTED]: You know, I have some similar questions.

6 I think your counsel has made it very clear you participated in quite a few of these,
7 hopefully for you not too many more.

8 Without getting into the particulars, because I know there's some sensitivity about
9 not repeating questions that are asked, just generally, anything that has come out of any
10 of your other interviews that you think would be pertinent for us to know or that you
11 want on this record?

12 Anything else. That's not a leading question in any way. I'm just giving you the
13 chance if there's anything that you think that we haven't covered that you think is
14 important for us to know.

15 [REDACTED]: And you don't need to speculate. I mean, it's just if it's
16 something I think really factual is what he's asking.

17 [REDACTED]:

18 Q Absolutely. Yeah, like a big like, hey, you guys really should have asked me
19 about X, Y and Z, and you don't know what you're talking about, let me help you out, that
20 kind of thing.

21 A No, nothing that I could think of.

22 Q All right.

23 A If there is, I'll ask if I can bring it up at another point during this.

24 Q Yeah, I'm sure that will be fine.

25 I think the other question I had was -- again, not asking you to speculate, not

1 asking you to go outside your lane -- but to the extent you've seen either coverage of this
2 or discussion of this, are there any major areas that you think have been either
3 misinterpreted or speculated on in an incorrect way that you want to, again, just have the
4 opportunity to make sure is correct in the official record of this entire event?

5 And, again, there may be nothing. I just want to give you that chance, because I
6 know, obviously, there has been a lot of coverage and you guys have received plenty of
7 attention and other such things.

8 A Sure. I mean there's been a lot of fingers pointed at us, but I believe the
9 truth is now coming out.

10 Q Fair enough.

11 And lastly, I think it's been made very clear by you guys at Butler ESU and you in
12 particular about sort of, hey, my assignment was this, this was our focus, right?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Anything, looking back on it, that you think would have put you in a better
15 position not to prevent something, because that's maybe outside the scope, but just for
16 your particular job on that particular day, anything that, looking back, would have been
17 helpful for you to execute that assignment or were you given everything you needed?

18 A The only thing I could think of that day that would have probably helped a
19 little bit more -- well, one, obviously, uniformed officers around the AGR building.

20 When I mentioned worrying about a 360, we have two -- at the time of the
21 shooting, two officers in a 100,000-, 200,000-square-foot building that we
22 were -- believed was locked down and no one could get inside.

23 But the idea was to have uniformed officers not only there for keeping people off
24 that fence line but to provide security for us as well and possibly an extra set of eyes in
25 the building at that point. But that's just Monday morning quarterbacking at this point.

1 Q Sure.

2 [REDACTED]: All right. Well, we, again, really appreciate you guys being here,
3 answering the questions, and going through this. Thank you so much.

4 [REDACTED]: If the minority doesn't mind, I just have one follow-up question.

5 [REDACTED]: Absolutely.

6 [REDACTED]: Sir, very, again, informative and in terms of the truth coming out.
7 Can you help us understand what is coming out now in terms of the truth in this scenario?

8 [REDACTED]: You mean like these proceedings that we're involved in? I
9 think that's what her question is.

10 Or is there something else?

11 [REDACTED]: So, yes, I believe with these committee interviews that we've done,
12 the truth is coming out in the sense that there was a lot of misinformation put out there
13 by members of other teams that were there that day.

14 Also, stuff that was -- people see this stuff online and they make their own
15 judgments that is completely inaccurate to what actually took place that day.

16 So that's what I mean by I'm glad the truth is finally coming out. What did occur.
17 We provided information. The radio transcripts are -- that is what it is. It can't be
18 changed. I mean, it is what it is that day.

19 And I'm just happy to see that that's what's coming out now at this point, that
20 people are -- you guys are getting into that detail and that is what's going to be recorded.

21 [REDACTED]: Good. Thank you so much.

22 [REDACTED]: Sure.

23 [REDACTED]: All right. We can go off the record.

24 [Whereupon, at 3:17 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

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

Witness Name

Date

Majority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
██████████ dated September 12, 2024

[None noted]

Minority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
██████████ dated September 12, 2024

[None noted]