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5 TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF DONALD J. TRUMP,

6 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

7 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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13 INTERVIEW OF:



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Thursday, September 5, 2024

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Washington, D.C.

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The interview in the above matter was held at the Pittsburgh Marriott North,
Sewickley Room, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, PA, commencing at
1:56 p.m.

1 Appearances:

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

6

7 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

8 [REDACTED], DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

9 [REDACTED], SENIOR COUNSEL

10 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

11 [REDACTED], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

12 [REDACTED], MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

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25 [REDACTED]. Today is September 5th, 2024, and this is a transcribed interview of

1 [REDACTED].

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

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

7 [REDACTED]. My name is Sergeant [REDACTED].

8 Let me turn my radio off.

9 [REDACTED]. Thank you, [REDACTED]. My name is [REDACTED], and I'm a senior
10 counsel for the task force majority staff.

11 I want to thank you for coming in today for today's interview. The task force
12 recognizes and appreciates that you are here voluntarily.

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

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

15 [REDACTED]. I do not.

16 [REDACTED]. Next, starting with the majority, then minority, can the additional
17 staff members please introduce themselves with their name, title, and affiliation?

18 [REDACTED]?

19 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], senior counsel, task force majority.

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

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

22 [REDACTED]. [REDACTED], staff director for the minority.

23 [REDACTED]. Thank you all.

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

25 The way this interview will proceed is as follows: The majority and minority staff

1 will alternate asking questions, 30 minutes per side per round, until each side is finished
2 with their questions. The majority staff will begin and proceed for 30 minutes, and then
3 the minority staff will have 30 minutes to ask questions. We will then alternate back
4 and forth in this manner until both sides have no more questions.

5 If either side is in the middle of a specific line of questions, they may choose to
6 end a few minutes past an hour to ensure completion of that specific line of questioning,
7 including any pertinent followups.

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

10 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh.

11 [REDACTED]: There's a court reporter taking down everything I say and
12 everything you say to make a written record of the interview. For the record to be clear,
13 please wait until the staffer questioning you finishes each question before you begin your
14 answer, and the staffer will wait until you finish your response before proceeding to the
15 next question.

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

20 Do you understand?

21 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

1 Do you understand?

2 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

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

8 Do you understand?

9 [REDACTED]: Yes.

10 [REDACTED]: Although you're here voluntarily and we will not swear you in, you
11 are required pursuant to 18 U.S. Code, section 1001, to answer questions from Congress
12 truthfully. This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in an interview.

13 Do you understand?

14 [REDACTED]: Yes.

15 [REDACTED]: If at any time you knowingly make false statements, you could be
16 subject to criminal prosecution. Do you understand?

17 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

20 [REDACTED]: There is no --

21 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

22 Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement today that
23 assertion must apply with the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

24 For the chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony and statements,
25 witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted and the

1 reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance.

2 Do you understand?

3 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

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

10 We plan to take a 5-minute break at the end of each 30 minutes of questioning,
11 but if you need a longer break or a break before that, please let us know, and we're happy
12 to accommodate. However, to the extent that there is a pending question, we would
13 ask that you finish answering the question before we take a break.

14 Do you understand?

15 [REDACTED]: Yes.

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

17 [REDACTED]: I have no others.

18 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

19 It is now 2:02. Majority staff will begin questioning now.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY [REDACTED]:

22 Q [REDACTED], if you could initially tell us your job title and description of your
23 responsibilities.

24 A My job title is sergeant. I'm the 2:00-to-10:00 supervisor for evening shift.
25 I'm a supervisor no matter what, whether it be daylight or evening shift.

1 So I have -- we have all the deputies in the office. We have three other
2 supervisors -- three other -- or two other sergeants plus myself, so that would be three
3 sergeants. So we supervise the deputies.

4 So that's my main function.

5 Q Okay.

6 For the July 13th event in Butler, Pennsylvania, for a campaign rally for Donald J.
7 Trump, when did you first become aware of that event? And were you present?

8 A I was made aware of a message from the sheriff saying that we might be
9 assigned to work the detail --

10 Q Okay.

11 A -- which was about a week before.

12 Q Okay. And just leading up to the event, how did you become aware of your
13 responsibilities for that particular event?

14 A After we were advised by the sheriff that we might be assigned to this event,
15 it was later the following week that I was approached by Chief [REDACTED] that I would be
16 placed in the Butler County command post.

17 Q And what is the Butler County command post?

18 A Butler County command post is a big trailer with all radio devices in
19 there -- multiple radio devices -- I don't know how many are in there -- computers as well.
20 That it's a command post for major incidents.

21 Q Can you describe the types of radios that you have access to in the local
22 command post?

23 A That would be police, fire, and EMS radios and all our TAC channels and
24 operation channels.

25 Q And were you responsible for any particular channel of communication in

1 the local command post?

2 A My responsibility during that whole event was to monitor our sheriff
3 channel.

4 Q Being in the local command post, do you have other individuals in the local
5 command post with you?

6 A Yeah, there was an individual from Butler County 911. He was in the
7 command post. He was on the other side of the trailer. There was an ESU command
8 person that was in there, as well as another Butler ESU person.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A So, as total assigned personnel for that command post -- one, two, three,
11 four -- there would be four of us.

12 And then there was occasionally a fire chief from Connoquenessing Township that
13 would -- occasionally he'd be in there, and then he would be gone. But once the EMS
14 calls started really coming in, like, one after another after another, we didn't see him.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A He was out with the firefighters and EMS agencies doing all the calls.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 Do you recall the name of the Butler County 911 personnel that you mentioned?

19 A Yeah. That would be [REDACTED].

20 Q And for the Butler ESU command, who was that person?

21 A Butler ESU was [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

22 Q And who was the other Butler ESU staff in the command post?

23 A That would be [REDACTED] -- oh, what's [REDACTED]'s last name? [REDACTED].

24 Q And so you were informed by the chief deputy of the sheriff's office that you
25 would be in the local command post monitoring the sheriff channel of communication,

1 correct?

2 A Correct.

3 Q I think there are other local police channels that were on the radio that day.

4 Butler ESU had a channel, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Butler Township Police had a channel, correct?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And was there also a combined channel that was able to track

9 communications from Butler ESU, Butler Township, and the sheriff's office?

10 A I believe they used TAC 3 for conversations between everybody.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A I think there was one channel that just the ESU teams used. But there was
13 another channel -- I think it was TAC 3 -- that they were using.

14 The sheriff's deputies that were assigned to their posts were not assigned to any
15 other channel but the sheriff's channel. So that was my role in monitoring the sheriff's
16 channel. If there was any incidents or any occurrences, they would contact me, and
17 then I would contact the guys on the other side of the trailer and let them know what was
18 going on.

19 Q So, outside of those radio channels that the folks in the local command posts
20 were responsible for monitoring, those channels that we just worked through --

21 A Yes.

22 Q -- what other communication devices were relied on by the people that were
23 assigned into the local command post? Email, text, laptops, email, was that all available
24 to folks, and did those folks use them?

25 A I believe on the other side, the guys from the ESU and Butler 911, those guys

1 had computers.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A I did not have a computer.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A All I had was a radio and my portable.

6 Again, our guys were positioned at their posts. So, if they were sitting in their
7 cars, they could also scan and monitor whatever TAC channel -- TAC 3, TAC 4 -- or the
8 Channel 2, which would be Butler Township Police Department --

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A -- would be the zone for that area. So it would be up to those guys to
11 decide whether they wanted to scan and listen or not.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A But their main channel was the sheriff's channel.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A Because if I would need to get a hold of them or they would need to get a
16 hold of me, they would use that channel, because we wouldn't want to go on the other
17 channels and violate any radio communication orders that were already probably put
18 out --

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A -- which I was unaware of.

21 Q What would be the way for you to get in contact with an official from the
22 Secret Service to relay information on that day?

23 A On that day, I would just reach over to the other guys on the trailer if
24 need -- if needed to be, you know.

25 Q And by "other guys," can you be more specific?

1 A I'd reach out to [REDACTED]. He was the Butler County 911 person in the
2 trailer --

3 Q Okay.

4 A -- who was responsible for the trailer.

5 Q And how did you know -- would you receive confirmation in any way from
6 that individual that your information was received by the Secret Service?

7 A If I had an incident and responded to him and told him of an incident and
8 then he put that dispatch out to Secret Service or whoever, he would've probably yelled
9 over, "It was dispatched."

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 Had you worked in a command post like this before where there's two different
12 command posts, there's a Secret Service security room and there's a local command post
13 that's separate from the Secret Service's or another entity's post?

14 A I have never worked in a multi-command-post environment. There's
15 usually one command post.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A And for that whole day, from the time I got there to the time I left, my hand
18 did not shake one hand with a Secret Service agent or I had no conversations with a
19 Secret Service agent at any time while I was there.

20 Q Did you see anyone from the Secret Service during the day on July 13th
21 enter into the local command post?

22 A None entered into my command post.

23 Q Uh-huh. And were you there the whole time? When did you first report
24 to the local command post?

25 A I arrived, I think it was, around 9:45, 9:50 in the morning. And I went into

1 the command post probably around 10:00-ish.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A And I think the first medical call was, like, 10 after 10:00. And after that it
4 was just constant.

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A So my goal was to make sure my guys received proper relief, as Chief
7 [REDACTED] was on a golf cart. So it was proper for him to go around to make sure our
8 guys got enough food and water to keep them going, because it was pretty hot that day.

9 Q We understand that there may have been personal radios left for Secret
10 Service countersnipers or countersniper officials. Did you have any awareness of
11 personal radios being left for Secret Service?

12 A I have no knowledge of that whatsoever. Could they have been in that
13 command trailer? They may have, but I was not aware of a location of those radios.

14 That would be a question for [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to answer.

15 Q Thank you.

16 In the local command post, if any of the people that were in the command post
17 needed to get information to the Secret Service countersniper team, how would they
18 have gotten that information to the countersniper team?

19 A I think that would've been directed to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], who had those
20 radio communications with those teams.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 Okay. So you arrived at Butler Farm Show at around 9:45 --

23 A About 9:45, 9:50-ish, yeah.

24 Q And I understand they're getting the site ready for the campaign rally.

25 A Uh-huh.

1 Q There are some meetings taking place the day of. Did you attend any
2 meetings?

3 A I attended no meetings whatsoever. From the time the sheriff first sent
4 the notice out saying, hey, we might be going to this, I was not involved in any meetings
5 in Pittsburgh, not involved in any local meetings whatsoever, never met any Secret
6 Service agents, no ESU people, nothing.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 So, that day, on Saturday, July 13th, folks are starting to come into the event.
9 You know, they're entering through magnetometers, they're entering the campaign rally,
10 they're getting ready for former President Trump to speak.

11 In the events leading up to that, when Trump takes the stage, we're aware of lots
12 of reports of identifications of Thomas Matthew Crooks, the would-be assassin, you
13 know, appearing on or around the campaign rally site, what appears to be the outer
14 perimeter of the campaign rally site.

15 Can you talk us through your identification, your knowledge of, like, suspicious
16 individuals at the event?

17 A Well, on that day in the command post, when I received the information
18 from ESU [REDACTED], he had his phone, had a picture of that subject, which I took a
19 picture on my phone --

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A -- to send to all my deputies, and all the messages failed. So they could not
22 go out.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A I also put it out verbally on the radio to all my guys that were positioned at
25 their posts, especially the two who were on that side closest to that water-tower area

1 and that patch of grass. That would be Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED].

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A So I put that information out to them, with special attention. It was
5 confirmed that they received my message.

6 And then one deputy said, hey, could you send us a photo, and I attempted. And
7 after a while, I was like, wow. Messages were failing.

8 And then I decided to say, hmm, wonder if we can get on the WiFi of the trailer
9 and maybe send out the message via email to all the deputies.

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A So I guess a lot of deputies were turning off their phones and turning on
12 their phones. So some of them got my original text, but then some of them were able
13 to get the emails, which was pretty odd.

14 But they got the pictures, they got the photos. But it took a long time to get
15 those.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A But all I was getting back on mine was "failed," "failed," "failed."

18 Q Uh-huh.

19 A Because originally I wanted to send it out as a group message, but I couldn't.
20 So then I said, well, let me try sending it out single. And then it still came back failed.
21 So I knew that the system was overran with people sending out messages via text or any
22 other way. But getting on the WiFi seemed to help off the trailer.

23 And I don't have, like, FirstNet, I don't have any of that first responder through my
24 cell phone. If I would've had that, maybe I could've got the message out.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A I know I attempted to message the sheriff prior to the former President
2 arriving, and that message failed.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A So that started probably around, what, 5-, maybe 5:35, somewhere around
5 there --

6 Q Okay.

7 A -- where the messages were actually coming on the phone. Because
8 everybody else was saying they didn't have service as well.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 And that picture that you were trying to send, where did you receive that image
11 originally? Was that from [REDACTED] ?

12 A Yes. I received it off of his phone.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Because he received it from someone else, and then he passed it along to
15 me.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A And then I passed it along to my deputies.

18 Q Okay. And you don't know where he got that picture from? Did he
19 mention where he might've received that?

20 A I believe he said he got it from one of the ESU members, but I don't know
21 who it was.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A I think on the top of the picture it had the person's name on the top of the
24 picture. But I can't assume it was that person, because that picture could've gone
25 around to all of the teams.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 And I think at one point the suspicious individual, later to be identified as Thomas
3 Matthew Crooks, it was known that he had a rangefinder.

4 Were you aware of the fact that he had a rangefinder when you were observing,
5 you know, reports of -- or hearing reports of a suspicious person?

6 A Well, other than the sheriff's radio, we didn't get any reports of that. In the
7 trailer, the only thing I got was from [REDACTED], that picture, which I put out to my
8 guys, with a rangefinder.

9 Q Uh-huh. What did you think about that, a suspicious person with a
10 rangefinder?

11 A A person with a rangefinder at an event like that, I thought that that whole
12 area should've been swarmed by local law enforcement, Secret Service, anybody. We
13 should've locked that whole area down until we found him.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 You know, I think Crooks, you know, he was moving at different points, and
16 different folks were seeing him at different points, before he was identified on the
17 rooftop with a weapon.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q You know, with the connectivity issues, with email, text, and otherwise, y'all
20 were still tracking Crooks's whereabouts as best as you could, correct?

21 A I wasn't tracking him. I can't answer for ESU teams and what their job
22 function was or what they were doing.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A But if I was on an ESU team and I was a commander or leader of that team,
25 I'd most certainly want to track that individual down ASAP.

1 Q Uh-huh, uh-huh.

2 A Not arrest them, but you could detain them --

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A -- and find out what's going on.

5 Q For the July 13th event, what did you understand the Butler Sheriff's Office's
6 role would be, like, in securing the event?

7 A So the inner perimeter was supposed to be controlled by the Pennsylvania
8 State Police. And I had six deputies there posted in their post positions to secure those
9 areas. And I believe there were State troopers around where my deputies were posted
10 just as well.

11 So you had communication from the sheriff's office; you had State Police radio
12 communication. And I don't know if the Secret Service command post had State
13 troopers in there with radios, but I would assume they would've, so if there was an
14 incident or an issue, they would be able to hear it in that command post.

15 Q I think there was reports of, you know, the AGR building being secure at one
16 point, that the AGR building, American Glass Research building, was secure. And that
17 was reported out by local law enforcement at some point.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 Q You know, after you identified Crooks and got, you know, those messages
20 out, what were the next steps for you in terms of tracking that suspicious person?

21 A I had no role in that.

22 Q Okay. Okay.

23 A That role was on the other side of the trailer. I had no knowledge of any of
24 their communication. I wasn't listening to any of their communication.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A The radio next to me was the fire radio, where the fire chief was, and that
2 radio was just going off like crazy because of all the calls they were getting.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A But my main focus that whole time was my deputies at their posts --

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A -- so if anybody would go down or if someone was trying to jump over fences
7 or whatever, then they would report to me.

8 Q Okay.

9 And in terms of Secret Service, your engagement with Secret Service leading up to
10 the event, did you attend any briefings or meetings with the Secret Service leading up to
11 the event?

12 A Zero.

13 Q Zero?

14 A I attended no briefings whatsoever.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A And I can't answer for the sheriff; I can't answer for Chief [REDACTED].

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A I know, myself, as the sergeant assigned to the command post, I never talked
19 to any agents, never was aware of what my full job function was there.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A But being in law enforcement for all these years and being a former Federal
22 officer, I knew what I needed to do in there. And I've had all the NIMS training, FEMA
23 NIMS, so I've had all that training. So I understand the role of the command post.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A So I understood my role.

1 Q What did you think about not, you know, being involved or touching base
2 with Secret Service at any point leading up to the day of the event and during the event?

3 A I thought I should've been -- if I was in that command post, I should've been
4 part of the role, I should've been at those meetings.

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A Maybe I could've asked certain questions, and maybe they could've had the
7 right answers. Maybe. I don't know.

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A But I was not invited to any of those meetings.

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A And usually with those meetings, it's usually the higher-ups -- the chief, the
12 sheriff, maybe the captain. But I was not invited to any of those meetings. Should I
13 have been? Probably, if I was going to be there.

14 Q Yeah.

15 A Should all of our deputies maybe have been at these meetings? Maybe.

16 Q Had you worked in the local command post before?

17 A No. This was the first time me working in the Butler County command
18 post.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A I was aware of the command post being there and its job function because
21 we were setting up a major sporting event for the next week, which the command post
22 was going to be utilized. But we didn't get to utilize the command post for that event.
23 That was the following week.

24 Q Okay.

25 Just to -- and Chief Deputy -- is it "[REDACTED]"?

1 A "[REDACTED]."

2 Q -- [REDACTED], you know, his role on the golf cart, can you describe that more?

3 A I think his role was to make sure everybody was doing their job, make sure
4 they're maintaining their post. And I think he was also the liaison for our office with any
5 of the other agencies as well.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A I know him and I would meet outside the trailer there, because the trailer
8 was quite cold inside with the AC, and I had to go out a couple times just to warm up.

9 And my -- also concerning was, behind the trailer, there was a house back there
10 with a fence, and I really didn't see anybody back there.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A So in my mind of a physical-security-type deal: Hey, I need to go out there,
13 keep checking to make sure nobody's trying to climb over.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A Because I believe I did see the homeowner back there, but he's taking care
16 of his property, but I really never seen anybody patrolling that area. I saw one State
17 trooper walking by there, and that was the last time I saw him. I didn't see anybody else
18 back there.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 Are you aware of how the local command post's location got chosen for that day?
21 Were you part of any discussion --

22 A I was not aware, nope.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Nope. No discussion with me, no input, no meetings I went to for that.

25 No.

1 Q So the sheriff's office chief deputy told you prior to the event that you're
2 going to be --

3 A In the command post.

4 Q -- you're going to be in the command post. And with your career in law
5 enforcement, you knew that -- you knew what you were going to have to do that day?

6 A I think he knew. I think he knew that, with my knowledge and my
7 experience in law enforcement and my medical background, that he knew that I would be
8 the right person to be put in that command post.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 And the physical structure of the command post, you've mentioned there being
11 multiple sides, where certain individuals are and aren't. And you were on one side, and
12 other folks were on the other. And I think on the other side of the command post,
13 you've described that there was Butler 911 or EMS over there on that side.

14 Can you just describe how it was set up?

15 A I can describe it.

16 So, if I'm in the trailer and I'm in the center of the trailer, where my radio
17 was -- and then there was -- it's the center of the trailer, and there was, I think, four
18 radios in front of me. I was in position, I think, we'll say, position 2.

19 Behind me, there was -- I don't want to say a table, but there were computers
20 there for access.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A To the left of me there was a big table and, like, a big roundabout sitting
23 area. And then above that was a big TV.

24 To the right of me, then you have to go through the walkway door there, there
25 was another small room. And, again, it had the computers, and it had, you know, where

1 you can put your keyboard and radio, whatever, like a table-type setting.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A To the left of that, you had your door. And then to the left of that, there
4 was a big enclosed area from -- it looked like, to me, there might've been radio
5 equipment in there, recording equipment, and so on.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A But I don't know. I didn't ask.

8 Q Okay.

9 A But, again, the center was my area where I was at. Then to the right of me
10 was Butler and the ESU guys. To the left of me was just a sitting area with a table, like, if
11 you wanted to have a little meeting.

12 Q Okay.

13 A But they had a TV there. And then on the other side, there was also a TV
14 there, so --

15 Q Okay.

16 A And they had their camera system up and running.

17 Q Okay. And was there WiFi in the local command post?

18 A Yeah, there is WiFi, but I found out, like, at the last minute, should we say.

19 Q Who told you that there was WiFi in the local command post?

20 A [REDACTED].

21 Q Okay. Okay.

22 A Yeah. And they all told me; they said, yeah, we have WiFi. I'm like, okay.
23 And then they gave us a thing to put our passwords in. There was, like, separate
24 passwords.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 And as far as windows go, could you observe the crowd? Could you observe the
2 event?

3 A There was no windows, no. Huh-uh. Unless we had the door open.

4 Q And where you were situated, you know, sitting next to Butler ESU and
5 Butler 911, EMS, were you guys in close quarters, close capacity? Like, were you
6 listening on headphones? Was everything open in the air for audio?

7 A From my radio, it was just microphone. We had no headsets.

8 On their side -- they were on that side. Again, the air conditioner was running,
9 so I couldn't hear their radio communications. So, if we wanted to communicate, we'd
10 have to communicate verbally.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A But I know they were on the radio systems in there, the handheld radios and
13 the regular mobile radios that were already in there. So --

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A I'm not privy to any of their conversations with any of their radio systems.

16 Q Uh-huh. So, in the local command post, there was no direct channel from
17 the radios that you handled that would go directly to a Secret Service official?

18 A On my end, no. I had no contact with Secret Service whatsoever.

19 On the other side, where [REDACTED] was, from Butler County, and [REDACTED] and
20 [REDACTED], they had their portable radios they were operating off of. I don't know
21 if they had any contact with Secret Service or State Police.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 [REDACTED]: We're almost at time here. Okay. We can go off the record.
24 Thank you.

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah, no worries.

1 [Recess.]

2 [REDACTED]: We can go on the record.

3 EXAMINATION

4 BY [REDACTED]:

5 Q I'm just going to ask two quick questions and then turn it over to a colleague.
6 But if I could just clarify two things that you just talked about with my other colleagues.

7 One was just -- I think there was a question to the effect of, you know, if you
8 needed to get in touch with Secret Service, how would you have done it. And you
9 mentioned, basically, [REDACTED] was sitting there in the local command post.

10 I think my question was just, was it -- like, [REDACTED] is in the local command
11 post. He has a colleague from county EMS in the Secret Service command post. So
12 they communicate directly -- which I assume is kind of what you meant by that, right?

13 A Well, I believe there was someone from the county over in the Secret
14 Service, which would be, I think, the director, [REDACTED].

15 Q No doubt. Agreed.

16 What sometimes is not clear to us is whether it was known that [REDACTED] and
17 [REDACTED] were there with the official job of being a bridge between the two
18 command posts, or was it that they were each, in their respective command posts, doing
19 their EMS jobs and they happened to be in both command posts, if that makes sense.

20 But was the plan at the beginning of the day --

21 A It makes -- it makes absolutely sense. I would think in my own mind, yes,
22 they had communication between both command posts as long as that person was in
23 that command post.

24 Q Like, did somebody say to you at the beginning of the day, if you ever need
25 to get a message to the Secret Service, tell [REDACTED], and he'll tell [REDACTED]?

1 A Nobody ever said that to me, but in my own mind of how the system works
2 and how ICM and FEMA works, yeah, you have that person in that command post that is
3 your point of contact for dispatching. Because [REDACTED] would hear all these EMS calls,
4 and, you know, they would send it to the other command post, which would say, hey, we
5 got this person, now this person.

6 Q Totally logical --

7 A Yes.

8 Q -- in terms of who was where.

9 A Right.

10 Q It makes perfect sense. I just was not always clear on whether, like, that
11 was a plan that people had talked about and agreed to. It sounds like not.

12 A I was not part of any of that planning. If I was part of the planning, there
13 would only be one command post with multiple -- EMS, fire, sheriff's, State Police, Secret
14 Service in one command post.

15 Q My only other quick one; then I'll get out of the way: There was a little bit
16 of chatter about the extent to which [REDACTED] from Butler ESU -- like, the way in which he
17 would've been communicating with the Secret Service, if at all.

18 You do not know whether [REDACTED] actually was communicating by radio directly
19 with Secret Service countersnipers, either way?

20 A I don't know that. All I know is he had a radio. I don't know if he was on
21 Op 3, Op 4. I don't know what channel he was on. All I know is, those guys handled
22 that side of the trailer; I handled the center.

23 Q I appreciate it. Thank you.

24 A Yep. Thank you.

25 BY [REDACTED]:

1 Q Great.

2 So I wanted to briefly go through your background before we talk about some
3 planning stuff. I'm from New York. I might talk fast. If I talk too quickly, let me know.

4 A That's all right.

5 Q But I know we've got some time constraints.

6 A All right.

7 Q You mentioned doing Federal work. Can you quickly give us an overview of
8 your 39 years of experience?

9 A I've always been in law enforcement. I've served in EMS for 42 years, so
10 I've been an EMT for that long. I'm on my last certification here. I've been in law
11 enforcement, like I said, for about 39 years.

12 First started in the military, in that phase, being in the military, being under a
13 law-enforcement-type title. And then I advanced myself, my career. Went through
14 the police academy, worked police jobs, full-time and part-time jobs.

15 I worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs full-time. I retired in 2016 as a
16 VA police officer, Federal law enforcement officer. And then I got hired here at the
17 sheriff's office.

18 Q Great.

19 A And I've been here ever since.

20 Q Cool. And did you work on any other prior rallies in the Butler area?

21 A I did. I worked on the last time the former President was here, when he
22 was President, when he came to the Butler Airport.

23 Q Was that in 2020?

24 A Uh-huh. Yes.

25 Q Then, do you recall that there was one command post?

1 A I don't remember how the command post was set up. I think it was set up
2 in the bottom of a building. There was [REDACTED], and then I think down at
3 the bottom of the building, I think that's where there were offices set up for a command
4 post, because I was pretty close to that command post.

5 But I was assigned to a Secret Service agent. And I think a lot of the deputies
6 that were there -- and I can't recall the number. I think maybe we might've had 13
7 deputies there for that rally. And I think pretty much mostly all the deputies were
8 assigned with a Secret Service agent at that time.

9 Q And what does that mean, to be assigned to a Secret Service agent?

10 A You were next to that agent.

11 Q Okay.

12 A I know my assignment was next to an agent that had the proper technical
13 gear to knock down drones.

14 Q And you mentioned earlier that you were not a part of any planning
15 meetings with the Secret Service, Pennsylvania State Police, Butler ESU, no one, right?

16 A Correct. I was not part of any of the planning whatsoever.

17 Q Did the sheriff's department meet internally to discuss the rally?

18 A No, we did not meet internally.

19 Q Okay.

20 A I did not meet with the chief, I did not meet with the sheriff, I did not meet
21 with all the guys that were going to be posted. We did not have any meetings
22 whatsoever.

23 Q So the extent of your, sort of, planning was the chief telling you, hey, you're
24 going to be in a post on this day?

25 A Yes. And then showing up that Saturday morning.

1 Q Did you have to go through a vetting process to be a part of the rally?

2 A Not that I'm aware of.

3 Q Who is [REDACTED]?

4 A [REDACTED] is our former deputy chief.

5 Q Okay.

6 A Or chief deputy.

7 Q So the good thing is, whenever I'm quiet, I'm skipping questions --

8 A Oh, okay.

9 Q -- if ever you're wondering.

10 A That's okay.

11 Q Is your understanding that the chief deputy was responsible for being a part
12 of the planning meetings with the other agencies?

13 A I would assume, with him being at the title he's in, as chief deputy, I would
14 assume him and the sheriff would be part of all those meetings.

15 Q But you couldn't say one way or the other?

16 A I can't say one way or another whether he attended meetings or not. I'm
17 not part of that. Again, I'm on the evening shift, so whatever happened during the
18 daylight shifts I'm not privy to.

19 Q You mentioned there were six deputies posted along the perimeter. Was it
20 six or seven that day?

21 A There were six deputies posted along, and they had their post perimeter
22 points. I was in the command post. The sheriff was doing his thing. And then Chief
23 Deputy [REDACTED] was on the golf cart doing his thing.

24 Q So six deputies on the perimeter, you inside the post, and then the chief on
25 the golf cart surveying the area.

1 A Yes.

2 Q I'm going to introduce an exhibit. I expect you will say you have not seen it,
3 but just to make sure, we'll call this exhibit 1.

4 [REDACTED] Exhibit No. 1
5 was marked for identification.]

6 BY [REDACTED]:

7 Q This is the first six pages of the Pennsylvania State Police ops plan.
8 Could you just quickly flip through and tell me if you recognize it?

9 A Okay. Page -- we're going to say page 12 and 13, I'm not aware of. Page
10 14 and 15 and 16 -- I would say that's "16" -- this is what we received when we got there,
11 and we received those three pages.

12 Q Okay.

13 A But for the front two pages, 2 and 3, I did not receive.

14 Q Okay. And just for the sake of clarity, I'm interpreting that as page 4
15 through page 6.

16 A Yeah, correct. I just saw that, page 4, 5, and 6. Sorry. I said 15, 16.

17 Q That's why we're here working together.

18 A Yeah.

19 Q All right. Well, let me -- and when you received it -- you can hold on to it.
20 When you received this the day of, did you have an opportunity to read through it?

21 A Again, I looked at the diagrams on 4, 5, and 6, which already had my guys
22 positioned.

23 Q Yeah.

24 A And their names were handwritten in.

25 Q There's a section on page 6, "Outside Stationary/Roving Security Members."

1 Do you see that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Was that a part of what you would have seen the day of the rally?

4 A I don't think I actually got that part.

5 Q So I'll highlight the two sections that I'm thinking might be the most relevant,
6 and you just tell me if it rings a bell.

7 The second paragraph says, "All members shall conduct a threat assessment of
8 their designated post and surrounding area upon arrival. Members are reminded to
9 relay any safety, security, or threat issues to the command post."

10 Did the sheriff's deputies get a similar instruction for being on the field?

11 A You know what? We need to go back and correct this. Because I'm
12 looking here at 4 -- yes, I believe we got that page. And then 5 and 6, I don't think I got
13 that page, but the page I have in front of me is what was given to me by someone at the
14 rally. So all the names that are on 4, 5, and 6 are kind of different from my names on
15 this page.

16 Q So, just to make sure I understand, you didn't necessarily get an excerpt of
17 the ops plan, but you got a similar list.

18 A Similar, yes. Yes, I did not get their full plan, but I got a similar list with the
19 position of where all the posts were located.

20 And I believe there was one other one, which I don't have it here in front of me.
21 It actually showed -- I don't have it. It actually showed where I think the Secret Service
22 snipers were supposed to be located.

23 Q Okay.

24 And just for the record -- and you can tell me if I'm wrong -- Sergeant [REDACTED]
25 would've seen the map that's on page 4 of exhibit 1, and he also would've received a list

1 similar to what we see from page 4 to page 5 in exhibit 1?

2 A Correct. Correct.

3 Q All right.

4 So Pennsylvania State Police, they wanted their members to do a threat
5 assessment of their surrounding area and post and to stand outside of their vehicle and
6 maintain situational awareness. Were the sheriff's deputies expected to have a similar
7 protocol during the rally?

8 A Our deputies at that point in time were advised to monitor those posts,
9 those areas, and if there was anything suspicious in nature, that they would get back to
10 me.

11 Whether they were sitting in the vehicle in air conditioning or whether they were
12 outside -- and I know these guys, so I know they would probably be in and out of the
13 vehicle, watching those areas very closely.

14 Q Yep.

15 All right. I'm going to move along some.

16 All right. So, just, you were never in touch with [REDACTED] at State Police,
17 right?

18 A The only -- I saw him a couple times. He'd pull his car up close to the
19 command post. Because I'm working with him on another Veteran Response Team
20 program that we're initiating here in November, so I knew who the lieutenant was. So
21 him and I would, you know, wave and say hi.

22 The only other interaction I had with him was after the shooting, when I had guys
23 posted. I needed to get them relieved because it was time to go. And since everything
24 was turned over to the State Police at that point in time, I needed relief for my guys.
25 And that was the only interaction I had with him later that day.

1 Q Understood.

2 And you didn't have any input for the role of yourself or for the other sheriff's
3 deputies at the rally, right?

4 A I did not.

5 Q Did you have an understanding that the AGR building was outside of the
6 secure area?

7 A I can make my own assertion, yes, it was outside, because it was on the
8 other side of the fence of the Farm Show.

9 Q Did you have any concerns about it being outside of the secure area?

10 A At first, when I found out there was supposed to be two people in the
11 building. And then I was thinking to myself, well, why isn't there anybody on the
12 outside perimeter of that building? Why isn't that whole area secured? Why
13 isn't -- it's like, there was people along the fence line -- 75, 100 people; I don't know how
14 many -- as was reported by my deputy, reporting back to me via radio that there were
15 people there. Why wasn't that area secured? That area should've been locked down
16 tighter than a military base.

17 Q Wouldn't you have the opportunity to relay that concern to the TAC team,
18 Secret Service, State Police?

19 A Pretty much after the fact. I had no knowledge of any of the plans or any
20 of the commitments that we were all supposed to have. All I know is, my guys were at
21 their posts. That was my role, to make sure my guys were safe, make sure my guys
22 reported any suspicious activity, and then I would report it. But I'm not privy to
23 anything from the AGR, any physical security measures that needed to be taken there,
24 any posts that needed to be put there.

25 In my own mind is, if you have ESU agents that said that that area should've been

1 secured, why wasn't it secured, either by State troopers or Secret Service agents?

2 Because the township police, they had their role, and they were already, I mean, taxed at
3 what they were doing. We had our role, and we didn't have enough deputies there, so
4 we couldn't assist them.

5 So, if you had ESU members there saying, hey, that's a concerning building, why
6 didn't they put a few more people over there? I hate to be the devil's advocate, but
7 why didn't they put more people there? Or why didn't the State Police put more people
8 there? It seemed to me that State Police, all they wanted to do was ride around in golf
9 carts.

10 Q So, as you look at it, you could've had ESU, State Police, or Secret
11 Service -- somebody could've sent additional bodies to patrol the area.

12 A Yeah. If you had two State troopers in a golf cart just making rounds
13 around the AGR building, maybe that could've played a big role.

14 Or maybe if you would've had a Secret Service agent in the Butler command post
15 when the initial picture came out, maybe everything should've been shut down at that
16 point in time and said, hey, the President is on his way -- or, the former President is on his
17 way; maybe we shouldn't have him come in yet until we secure that area and find this
18 suspicious person --

19 Q Right.

20 A -- you know, or until we secure that area.

21 [REDACTED] . Can I ask one quick one?

22 [REDACTED] . Sure.

23 [REDACTED] . If you recall, on the day of the event -- because it sounds like you
24 had an awareness that there was, I think, an ESU team in the AGR building?

25 [REDACTED] . Yes.

1 [REDACTED]: Great. Do you recall whether you sort of understood at that
2 time, in real time, that it was not so much that those folks were there to secure the
3 building per se or the area around the building, maybe it's that they were in the building
4 but doing a pretty specific narrow job? Like, what was your understanding of who they
5 were, what they were doing there?

6 [REDACTED]: My understanding is they had a specific job function to do, and that's
7 why they were in the building. I wasn't privy to what their job function was, but, like I
8 said, I had that one map that showed where they were located, so I kind of figured in my
9 own mind what their job function was.

10 And then you had the other ESU team that was behind the podium, that was in a
11 building, that was there to respond to any incidents. Once that suspicious person came
12 out, why wasn't there a response?

13 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

14 [REDACTED]: And more than enough time. As a former Federal officer and a
15 military member, why wasn't there enough response in that area to just saturate it and
16 just start picking people -- I don't care what cards they were wearing, whatever -- just,
17 "Hey, who are you? What's your name?" Eventually you're going to find that person.

18 BY [REDACTED]:

19 Q You mentioned that, the day of, you had a radio; you also had what you
20 called a portable. What is a portable?

21 A A portable radio --

22 Q Okay.

23 A -- alongside. I mean, just in case there's an issue, then I have a portable
24 radio, then I can hear. And even if I'm outside the trailer, while I'm standing there
25 looking around, if someone called on the radio, I still have access.

1 Q And you did not have a laptop, but did you have a smartphone?

2 A I did not have a laptop. I had my phone, which didn't work for a while
3 because everything was locked down.

4 Q But is that what enabled you to send the emails that you sent?

5 A Yes, because we all have --

6 Q Okay.

7 A -- we have email access on our phone, some of us. Most of us do.

8 Q Earlier, you mentioned that if you needed to relay a message to Secret
9 Service, it would've gone to [REDACTED]. And my colleague inquired about whether
10 that was an expectation.

11 Did you hear that happening? Did [REDACTED] or anybody else go to [REDACTED] and
12 say, talk --

13 A I'm not aware of anybody coming into the trailer to try to get a hold of
14 Secret Service. I would just make the assumption that they had radio contact with
15 someone maybe over in the other command post, whether it be [REDACTED] or if
16 there was another radio assigned over there. I'm not part of that, but I would hope
17 there was a radio in there.

18 Q Yeah. Were you in a position to hear whether [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] was
19 in touch with the Secret Service command post?

20 A No.

21 Q So, like, you were not in earshot?

22 A No. No. Too much radio chatter on fire, EMS, and the air conditioning
23 unit and -- yeah.

24 Q Did you use Signal or any other type of text message apps?

25 A No.

1 Q Were you ever given instructions as to whether to be on the lookout for
2 drones?

3 A No.

4 Q Do you recall seeing any drones flying around?

5 A I don't.

6 Q Around 3:45, 4 o'clock, would you have been inside the trailer?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q And there were no windows?

9 A No windows. Personally, I never saw any drones or heard any drones at all.

10 Q There was an incident around 10:30, 11:00, with a vendor, and some law
11 enforcement had to respond to that. Do you recall that?

12 A Yes. They told me to respond two deputies to that location because there
13 was a vendor arguing with someone else. I was sending two deputies there, and then I
14 was told by my chief deputy that those guys couldn't leave their posts.

15 But I guess that was all handled. I think the sheriff was over in that area, and he
16 handled that incident --

17 Q So who would --

18 A -- with those vendors.

19 Q I'm sorry. Go ahead.

20 A Yeah. He handled that incident with those vendors. So my guys were still
21 at their posts.

22 But where that vendor was, where there was a problem, there was a deputy that
23 was close by. But the sheriff was close by there, so he handled it.

24 Q Who would have told you whether -- who outside of the sheriff's team
25 would've relayed that there was an issue with a vendor?

1 A [REDACTED] from the other side of the trailer told me to send the two deputies
2 over there.

3 Q So did he walk over to you and say, hey --

4 A Well, he just yelled out --

5 Q Okay.

6 A -- between the wall, between the door. It's a little door frame.

7 Q So we have the vendor around 10:30, 11:00. We have a missing child that
8 we'll talk about --

9 A Oh, yeah.

10 Q -- if we have enough time. And then we have who ultimately turned out to
11 be Crooks.

12 Do you recall any other suspicious persons that day?

13 A I don't.

14 Q All right.

15 You mentioned being a prior military, so I think this answer will be different for
16 you than it might be for others. What does a rangefinder mean to you at an event like
17 that?

18 A I was Air Force. If you had asked a Marine or an Army guy, it might -- whole
19 different story.

20 No, a rangefinder is something that I believe is serious because it's basically -- it's
21 what it's meant. It's a rangefinder. You're seeking that range, that distance. And
22 that's concerning.

23 Q If there are law enforcement within the vicinity at a post, whether it's
24 troopers, State Police, whomever, would the notice of a rangefinder be adequate for
25 them to perceive it as a threat and address it?

1 A I can't answer for the State Police and their policies and their procedures for
2 suspicious persons, but I'll tell you what: As a supervisor for the sheriff's office, yeah, I'd
3 consider that suspicious, and I'd have my guys definitely look for that person and/or
4 detain that person.

5 You know, detaining someone, that doesn't mean they're under arrest. You're
6 just trying to find out, hey, what are you doing here?

7 Q So, around 5:45 -- well, 5:44 is when we have a rangefinder notification sent
8 out.

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q And that was in response to the Law Enforcement Officer [REDACTED] at 5:42
11 describing Crooks with a rangefinder and a bike.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q And then at 5:45, [REDACTED] tells Ops 4 that the Pennsylvania State Police and
14 the sheriff should be en route.

15 Did he ever discuss that with you?

16 A He never discussed that with me. All I know is, two of my deputies -- when
17 everything started going down at the AGR building, two of my deputies left their post,
18 and they went down to the AGR building, and they assisted the locals down there.

19 I know one deputy assisted on the inside doing the search. I think one of my
20 other deputies was outside assisting, and I think he secured the bike -- suspected e-bike
21 or bike that was there alongside the building.

22 Q Which two deputies were those?

23 A So that would be Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED].

24 And I tried to get a hold of them on the radio, you know, after the shots were
25 fired. My concern was, oh, safety. I didn't know if one of them were down or

1 something happened to them.

2 So I said, hey, if anybody sees eyes on Deputy [REDACTED], I need him to call me
3 ASAP because I need to know where he is and what he's doing, because he left his post.
4 Deputy [REDACTED] told me he left his post and where he was.

5 But, finally, [REDACTED] called my phone and told me he was down there assisting
6 and then they got into the traffic detail and assisted the locals for that.

7 So, yeah, that was my concern. I thought maybe one of my guys got hit.

8 Q I understand the concern.

9 So we have a condensed timeline: 5:54 (ph), PSP Sergeant [REDACTED] (ph) sends out
10 a message. 5:45, [REDACTED] sends out a message about the same topic, a suspicious person.

11 A Uh-huh.

12 Q Then also at 5:45, you send out a BOLO to your deputies telling them to be
13 on the lookout --

14 A Yes.

15 Q -- for a young white male with a backpack, might be on the AGR fence line.

16 A Yes.

1 [2:59 p.m.]

2 BY [REDACTED]:

3 Q Are you near [REDACTED] at this point? Like, how did you get your message
4 relayed so quickly?

5 A I am still in my seat, and they're in the room, and then [REDACTED] came
6 over and relayed that message to me.

7 Q Okay.

8 A So we got that info out as soon as possible.

9 Q Do you happen to know how -- so the Pennsylvania State Police were with
10 the Secret Service post, right?

11 A I believe so.

12 Q Fair. Do you happen to know how they would have become aware of the
13 threat at the AGR building, the Pennsylvania State Police?

14 A I don't know.

15 Q So at some point you are communicating with Deputy [REDACTED] --

16 A Uh-huh. Yes.

17 Q -- and you tell her to be on the lookout for someone with Crooks's
18 description on a bicycle.

19 A Yes.

20 Q And then she says at 5:47, "There's a bunch of people over here, but I don't
21 see anybody else on a bicycle matching that description."

22 Do you know -- so was the instruction at that point for her to look for someone on
23 a bicycle?

24 A I believe, if I recall, keep looking and searching for an individual fitting this
25 description, and report back to me if you see this person.

1 Q And, at this point, are you listening to multiple transmissions or are you
2 sticking with the --

3 A No, I'm sticking with my sheriff's radio. My guys are important.

4 Q At 5:49, you explain to [REDACTED] that Crooks had a rangefinder and a
5 backpack suspicious in nature.

6 Do you think that [REDACTED] or the other deputies would've had an
7 appreciation for what a rangefinder is?

8 A Yes, they would've. They all have extensive years in law enforcement, so
9 they all should be aware of what a rangefinder is.

10 Q And around this time, you -- at 4 minutes past 6:00, you advise the deputies
11 to be on the lookout for a missing child.

12 I think you said earlier that Butler ESU and those other guys were handling the
13 Crooks search, so you had some deputies go over, but you were focused on your people
14 and --

15 A Correct.

16 Q -- other stuff. So, at this point, are you focused on the other deputies?

17 A Yeah, I'm focused on them. But when that incident with the child came
18 out, I got that information out to my guys as well, because, you know, they're positioned
19 in their posts, so it's a perfect opportunity for them to look outside their post areas, from
20 inside the post, to see if they can see that child.

21 Q Great.

22 [REDACTED]. And I will pause. I think we're at time. So they have 5
23 minutes, and then I'll come back and do 5 more minutes of questions.

24 [REDACTED]. Okay.

25 [REDACTED]. We can go off the record.

1 [Recess.]

2 [REDACTED]: We'll go back on the record.

3 BY [REDACTED]:

4 Q Real quick on the paperwork before July 13th. You know, my colleagues
5 shared a Pennsylvania State Police operating plan with you.

6 A Uh-huh.

7 Q You were in possession of at least a map of the Butler Farm Show grounds.
8 Do you recall seeing any other maps? Did you rely on any other maps or aerial
9 diagrams for your work on July 13th?

10 A I did not.

11 Q The shooting takes place around 6:11 in the evening. After shots rang out,
12 can you describe the actions that you took in your role in the local command post?

13 A I was in the trailer.

14 Q Yeah.

15 A We had the trailer door open because we wanted to kind of listen to the
16 speech. And once the shots were fired, I was like, are those gunshots? So I went to
17 the trailer door, and I'm standing there, and there's more shots, and I'm like, holy shit.

18 So I was kind of cautious, because I didn't know if, you know, distance-wise, if the
19 trailer was going to get hit. So I wanted to position myself at least behind something
20 kind of solid. And then I just -- I sat in the chair, and I was like, what just occurred?

21 And my focus was on my guys. Like I said, two of my guys, they were already
22 down, you know, heading towards that building, so --

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A -- my other focus was on my other guys that were positioned at their posts.
25 Because once those shots rang out, we all know what happens; people are going to start

1 racing towards the exit.

2 But, to be honest with you, that was the most cool, calm, collected people I ever
3 seen leave an area like that, with all that people there, other than one of my deputies
4 calling on the radio saying someone was having a medical issue by his post and I had to
5 get EMS units over there.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 After the shooting and as people are leaving, leading up to the time where you left
8 the Butler Farm Show grounds, did you have any interaction with Secret Service after the
9 shooting?

10 A Zero.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A And I waited. I waited a long time. And I gave my notes to [REDACTED] that I
13 wrote down on a piece of paper.

14 Q All right.

15 A Nobody interviewed me, nobody came to me, so I left.

16 Q From the sheriff's office, have you been responsible for preparing any type
17 of after-action report or paperwork associated with the events of July 13th, in the
18 sheriff's office role?

19 A The only thing that I typed up was a request from the sheriff to solicitor [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED], dated 7-22-2024, basically my timeline.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A And that was submitted to solicitor [REDACTED].

23 Q Thank you.

24 As far as, you know, the Secret Service investigating what happened, the FBI
25 investigating what happened, do you have any awareness, you know, of their interviews?

1 Have you been a part of any interviews associated with after-action --

2 A Correct. I did interview with the FBI agent and a State Police trooper at
3 that point.

4 And I interviewed with [REDACTED], organized by [REDACTED], at the
5 [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. We had a talk with -- there were three other
6 members along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I think she's from Secret Service.

7 And we had that interview -- when did we interview? Monday, August 12th, 2024, 7:30
8 p.m. And I believe they were under Department of Homeland -- okay.

9 Q Just going back to the local command post and the role of the different local
10 law enforcement entities that were there that day, I know that, you know, for the sheriff's
11 office, you were looking out for your team and you were responsible for your team,
12 monitoring radios for your team.

13 Can you describe just how you viewed the other local law enforcement entities
14 that day, like, in terms of, like, their roles? Can you describe their roles?

15 A I can't describe their roles, because I don't know what they were assigned to
16 do. All I know is just from me seeing.

17 There were people there with his coats on that were attached to State troopers in
18 other locations, which I thought was weird. Homeland Security Investigation services is
19 at a Trump rally? Okay.

20 Seen Secret Service agents -- there was one female Secret Service agent on a golf
21 cart going by the command post all the time. Saw her.

22 As far as the State troopers, yeah, they kept on coming to command post wanting
23 golf carts.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A And they were positioned up at the magnetometer area, in that area, along

1 with my deputies that were there, but I don't know what their role was. And to be
2 honest with you, I don't know what the his role was.

3 I know I had two guys positioned in their posts, and in between those guys there
4 was a State trooper and an his agent. So there was always a trooper close enough to my
5 deputies --

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A -- so if there was a major incident or a problem, they could report it to them
8 just as well.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 And did you know about those locations and those individuals, like, where they
11 were coming from, you know, based on the Pennsylvania State Police operating plan?
12 Or was this just information that came up while you were in the local command post or
13 you saw these people and you were like, I know that they're stationed there?

14 A No. I'm not aware of any of their positioning or their posts or what their
15 job functions were.

16 Q Okay.

17 [REDACTED]: At the point in time where you mentioned the missing boy and
18 around the same time the individual walking over towards Sheetz, would you say that
19 they had about the same urgency level to anyone listening?

20 [REDACTED]: To be honest with you, I think the missing kid -- he's in a confined
21 area. Most likely the kid will be found. Do I think the suspicious person with the
22 rangefinder was more of a priority? Oh, yes.

23 BY [REDACTED]:

24 Q All right. Is there anything, you know, else that stood out to you from the
25 July 13 event management that you want to let us know about and describe, just in terms

1 of the planning, execution?

2 A I thought the planning and the execution was the poorest thing in my whole
3 career that I have ever seen.

4 I feel like I failed, number one. I feel that our team, as deputies, we had our
5 position and our posts that we were to monitor. I feel that the whole thing was a
6 failure.

7 Miscommunication. You don't have two command posts. You need one
8 command post. If there was a Secret Service agent in that command post, in the Butler
9 command post, when this first initial picture came out, at that point in time things
10 should've been held off. Whether the former President was en route on route 422 or
11 not, it should've been stopped until we got that individual in custody.

12 That whole area, the AGR, should've been saturated. Not only that, that whole
13 area should've been closed off. There shouldn't have been anybody on the fence line
14 whatsoever.

15 Do I think it was a colossal failure? Most certainly. Most certainly.

16 As a person who's been in law enforcement, prior military, who worked for the
17 Federal Government, I know how the system works, I know how physical security works.
18 I know how things are, especially for a rally, especially for a person who has a hit list,
19 people want to do him in. Why would you not secure a perimeter that should have
20 been far away from the AGR building?

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 Thank you, Sergeant [REDACTED].

23 A That perimeter should've been way out there.

24 Q Uh-huh.

25 A I just -- I don't -- I don't get it. I don't get it.

1 For me, I feel -- yeah, I had a job to do in the command post, but I failed. I feel I
2 failed.

3 [REDACTED]. Thank you, Sergeant [REDACTED].

4 We're at the end of our time. We'll go off the record.

5 [Recess.]

6 [REDACTED]. We can go back on the record now.

7 BY [REDACTED]:

8 Q Just one point of clarification. You said you sent your timeline to [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]. How do you spell the surname?

10 A What's that?

11 Q How do you spell the surname? [REDACTED]?

12 A [REDACTED] -- yes. Solicitor [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
13 [REDACTED].

14 Q Understood. Thank you.

15 So, going back to some times during the rally, 8 minutes after 6:00, a Butler
16 Township Police Department officer said someone was on the roof of the AGR building.

17 Around the same time, you and Deputy [REDACTED] discussed confiscated property.

18 Did the sheriff's department know that Crooks was on the roof at that point?

19 A I don't think so. At that point in time, when Deputy [REDACTED] asked me the
20 question about the confiscated stuff, what needs to be done with it, I said, that's not our
21 problem, that's State Police.

22 Q That's right.

23 A They need to take control of that.

24 Q And then at 9 minutes after 6:00, command informs the Butler Township
25 Police that there is no one from ESU on the roof.

1 And then around the same time, Butler Township Police on Ops 3 said that they
2 have him. Not in custody yet, but in front of them by a pine tree.

3 Were you aware of that statement being made?

4 A No, not aware of any of those calls, radio calls, whatsoever.

5 Q So, also 9 minutes after 6:00, Deputy [REDACTED] inquires with Deputy
6 [REDACTED] if she can see the roof of AGR.

7 Do you know how [REDACTED] would have known that Crooks was on the roof at
8 that point?

9 A I do not know.

10 Q Then at 6:10, you say that -- 1126, is that [REDACTED]?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You say, 1126, BT units are en route.

13 Is that Butler Township?

14 A Yes, Butler Township.

15 Q So why did you relay that to [REDACTED] at that point? And how did
16 you know that they were en route?

17 A If I recall, I believe someone said in the room that they were en route. And
18 I think there was a radio communication. It was very fast. I thought it was [REDACTED]
19 voice, [REDACTED], saying the building was surrounded and that the township was there.
20 Yeah, it's at that point in time --

21 Q Right around the same time --

22 A Right.

23 Q -- [REDACTED] says, State and local law enforcement officers have the AGR
24 building surrounded.

25 A Right. Correct.

1 Q And then 6 seconds later -- well, at 6:11, [REDACTED] -- so Butler Township Officer
2 [REDACTED] saw Crooks on a roof and notified law enforcement that Crooks is armed.

3 Six seconds later, Deputy [REDACTED] relayed that information to the other deputies.
4 Do you know how he knew so quickly?

5 A I don't. I wasn't there at his location, so I don't know. [REDACTED] is a former
6 Pennsylvania State trooper, retired State trooper corporal. So I don't know how he got
7 his information. He might've been close-knit with another trooper. I don't know.

8 Q All right.

9 So I'm going to jump into, like, post-shooting questions.

10 Are you aware of Crooks firearm being moved by anyone other than FBI?

11 A I do not. Not aware.

12 Q You mentioned debriefing with the Pennsylvania State Police, the FBI, and
13 someone named [REDACTED]. Did you talk to anyone else about this prior to
14 speaking with us today?

15 A No.

16 Q Have you made any public statements about July 13th?

17 A No.

18 There was one guy that was at our Can-Am events. He was from the news media
19 out in Slippery Rock, and he just wanted to ask questions. And I just basically told him,
20 the truth will come out. Because I didn't want to entertain his conversation, because
21 you know how the news media are. You know, they'll try to turn things. But my focus
22 was on these police, fire, and EMS games. And he tried to get more out of me, and I was
23 like, no, the truth will come out; eventually the truth will come out.

24 Q So I assume that you haven't made any social media posts or made any
25 videos about this?

1 A Oh, zero.

2 Q So, based on our visits to Butler -- this is our second time in the area -- it
3 seem like former President Trump has a lot of support and that it's unlikely that local law
4 enforcement officers would've been a part of some conspiracy against him.

5 What's your take on that?

6 A I just had this conversation with someone the other day about conspiracy.
7 And I looked at him, I said, yeah -- I said, yeah, we all got together the day of that, and we
8 had this conspiracy that we're all going to commit this crime against the former President.
9 I said, get out of here. That never happened, number one.

10 Number two, no law enforcement officer would ever consider doing something
11 like that. I mean, this area is well-respected. A lot of Republicans in this area. I
12 mean, he came here the last time, and there were what? 55,000 people, and it was
13 freezing cold out. Look at how many people showed up on the 13th, August 13th. I
14 mean, yeah, they support the former President, you know, wholeheartedly.

15 But local law enforcement, yeah, we had a job to do. Yeah. We had a job to do
16 that day. I cannot answer for Butler Township's job. I can't answer for what they did
17 that day. Only from, you know, hearing what happened and the officers, you know,
18 what they did that day.

19 Especially the officer that had his hands up on the roof and he pointed the AR-15
20 at him. I would've done the same thing. There was no way you could reach down and
21 grab your handgun. This isn't, you know, a John Wayne movie. This is real life.

22 Q Yeah.

23 A You know, this isn't -- you know, we're not shooting sideways and risk
24 shooting other people. No. Our job as law enforcement, if we're going to shoot
25 someone, we have that target acquisition, we know who's there.

1 So, yeah, I would've done the same thing.

2 But if I was over on that side of that building -- I'm 6-foot-6. It would've been a
3 lot easier for someone to climb on my shoulders and get up on that building. But, you
4 know, I wanted to run over there. I wanted to assist people that I saw that were being
5 dragged, that were, you know, injured and -- I wanted to help, but my focus was that
6 command post and my guys at their posts.

7 And like I said before, I feel -- I feel like I'm a failure. I feel I failed that day, you
8 know? Until, I don't know, maybe when he comes to town, maybe I can meet him and
9 maybe he can shake my hand and say, hey, you didn't fail. Maybe that could change my
10 mindset. I don't know.

11 Q Well, look, I -- I understand.

12 I'm going to pause to give my colleagues a chance to see if they have any
13 questions, but before I do, I want to thank you for your almost 40 years of service and --

14 A Oh, I appreciate it. Thank you. I'm on my last 2. So I'm hoping to be
15 gone in at least 2-1/2 years.

16 BY [REDACTED]:

17 Q Congrats.

18 I just have two very quick questions for you.

19 A Okay.

20 Q Were you guys, the sheriff's department specifically, your deputies, given
21 any specific ROE, rules of engagement, guidance prior to the event or that day at the
22 event?

23 A We were not given any of that. But under Pennsylvania law and under the
24 training that we have, we are aware of our rules of engagement under Pennsylvania law.

25 Q Okay.

1 And then, final question -- and thank you so much for your time.

2 A Thank you.

3 Q But when you were talking to the reporter and you said the truth will come
4 out, what is the truth? Like, how would you articulate that if there was a followup
5 question?

6 A Being properly investigated, and the truth will come out with a proper
7 investigation, and not try to point blame and hide things.

8 Q Okay.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 [REDACTED]. I think that's all.

11 [REDACTED]. That's all. Off the record.

12 [REDACTED]. Thank you.

13 [Whereupon, at 3:21 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

1 Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

2

3

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

6

7

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10

Witness Name

11

12

13

14

Date

15

Majority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of
[REDACTED] dated September 5, 2024

[None noted]

Page	Line	Change
2	10	CHANGE "██████████" TO "██████████"
39	9	CHANGE "Sergeant ██████████" TO "Sergeant ██████████"
47	18	CHANGE "sheriff's department" TO "Sheriff's Department"