

INITIAL FINDINGS REPORT

ON THE FAILURES OF THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

On July 13, 2024, former President Trump survived an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania—an incident that claimed the life of fire chief and father, Corey Comperatore, and injured two other rally attendees. On July 15, Ranking Member Rand Paul and Chairman Gary Peters [announced](#) a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee investigation into the United States Secret Service (“USSS”) at the Butler rally. The Committee has conducted twelve transcribed interviews with USSS personnel responsible for planning and securing the Butler event. During the Committee’s investigation, just over two months later, on September 15, 2024, the former President survived a second attempt on his life while golfing in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ranking Member Paul is releasing his initial key findings based on the Committee’s investigation into the assassination attempts thus far.

Key Findings:

1. ***USSS FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR BUTLER RALLY –***

- USSS failed to ensure the AGR roof was adequately covered by either USSS or local counter snipers.
 - The USSS Counter Sniper Team Lead never went on the AGR property prior to the shooting, including the roof or inside the building where the local counter snipers were positioned, to evaluate line of sight concerns to the stage.
 - The USSS Counter Sniper Team Lead told the Committee that when he went to the roof of the barn where the USSS counter snipers would be positioned, he said, “[...] I looked around real quick, but I actually wasn't looking independently at all the threat areas. It was more to make sure that the roof was secure for us to stand on.”
- Leading up to former President Trump’s rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, the USSS denied requests from the Donald Trump Detail (“DTD”) for additional assets and resources, including a more advanced C-UAS system with enhanced capabilities.
 - Additional Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems assets (“C-UAS”) were requested by DTD as early as July 10, but those requests were denied by USSS. These additional assets could have acted as a crucial redundancy, as the existing C-UAS system was not operable until 4:33 p.m., nearly 40 minutes after Crooks had allegedly flown a drone over the event.
 - While there was a Counter Assault Team (“CAT”) present at the July 13 rally, CAT liaisons (“LNO”) were requested by DTD and denied by the USSS. The predominate function of CAT LNO is to coordinate tactical assets with local and state law enforcement in advance of the CAT’s arrival to the site.
 - While a Counter Surveillance Unit (“CSU”) was deployed for Dr. Jill Biden's protection at a nearby indoor event, a unit was not requested for former President Trump. USSS agents raised concerns about not having a CSU at the rally, which would have been responsible for identifying suspicious behavior outside the event perimeter. Furthermore, a USSS agent interviewed by the Committee stated that CSU was not a typical asset used for former Presidents, so it was not requested.
 - It has been publicly reported that prior to July 13, DTD requested USSS counter sniper support for previous outdoor rallies but was denied. To date, USSS and DHS have not complied with the Committee’s requests for information related to DTD requests.

2. ***USSS WERE AWARE OF A SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUAL WITH A RANGEFINDER FOR AT LEAST 27 MINUTES BUT DID NOT DELAY PROCEEDINGS OR REMOVE FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP FROM THE STAGE –***

- USSS agents were aware of a suspicious individual with a rangefinder by at least 5:44 p.m. Reports of a suspicious person began to circulate at approximately 5:44 p.m. Between 5:44 p.m. and 6:11 p.m., when Crooks fired his weapon at former President Trump, the USSS Security Room and a number of USSS agents were all made aware of a suspicious person with a rangefinder.
- The USSS Counter Sniper Advance Lead witnessed law enforcement running towards the AGR building with their weapons drawn, but the “thought did not cross his mind” to inform the former President’s protective detail.

- At approximately 6:08 p.m. a local law enforcement officer radioed to other local law enforcement, “Someone’s on the roof. [...] I have someone on the roof with white shorts.” Shortly after, the USSS Security Room was informed that a “suspicious person” was on the roof of the AGR building.

3. *USSS PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND SECURING THE BUTLER RALLY WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THREATS TO FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP –*

- The July 13 Butler event was the first time former President Trump had USSS countersnipers at an event. USSS Assistant Director of the Office of Protective Operations (OPO) told the Committee that sometime prior to July 5 a decision was made that USSS would send USSS countersnipers to all outdoor events for former President Trump going forward based on intelligence and threat information. All but one of the witnesses that the Committee interviewed were made aware of this decision.
- The Lead Advance Agent was told that “credible intelligence” existed of a threat, but still wrote in a security planning document that there was “no adverse intelligence” concerning the visit to Butler, PA. USSS personnel told the Committee that their expectation was that any credible threat or intelligence would appear in the planning document. The Lead Advance Agent also did not inform her superiors or other USSS personnel involved with planning and securing the Butler rally that she was told of a threat.
- On July 10, 2024, the USSS Pittsburgh Office sent a letter to the FBI requesting any intelligence related to former President Trump and the July 13 rally in Butler, PA. The FBI did not respond to the letter or share intelligence information with USSS in response to the letter.
- The morning of July 13, the USSS Intelligence Agent called USSS headquarters and asked if any adverse intelligence had been developed concerning the visit. USSS headquarters said no.
- USSS agents told the Committee that they should have been made aware of any credible intelligence or threats prior to July 13. They also said that had they known about credible intelligence or a threat to former President Trump they would have requested additional assets.

4. *FAILURE TO FULLY COMPLY WITH COMMITTEE REQUESTS –*

USSS, DHS, FBI, ATF, and other federal agencies continue to obstruct the Committee’s bipartisan investigation:

- USSS, DHS, and ATF have not made all requested personnel available to the Committee for transcribed interview.
- USSS, DHS, FBI, and other federal agencies have failed to provide the committee key documents, including information related to requests by the Trump detail for additional security that were denied by USSS.

5. *SEPTEMBER 15 ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT –*

- On September 15, former President Trump was once again the target of an assassination attempt while playing golf at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.
- Former President Trump was playing golf when a member of his protective detail was sweeping the upcoming hole and noticed the barrel of a rifle sticking out of a chain link fence. The USSS agent fired at the assailant, causing him to flee.
- At Trump International, law enforcement found an SKS rifle and a backpack carrying ceramic plates capable of stopping small arms fire.
- According to court documents, Ryan Wesley Routh, travelled from North Carolina to West Palm Beach over a month prior to September 15. Between August 18 and September 15, cell site records show Routh near Trump International and Mar-a-Lago multiple times.
- Furthermore, after Routh was stopped by Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office and Martin County Sheriff’s Office, law enforcement discovered a multitude of concerning evidence.
 - Evidence includes: two additional license plates; six cell phones (one of which containing a search of directions from Palm Beach, Florida to Mexico); the assailant’s passport and driver’s license; 12 pairs of gloves; and a handwritten list of dates in August, September, and October of dates and locations former President Trump was expected to appear.
- Months prior to Routh’s assassination attempt, he had left a box at a civilian witness’ door. The civilian witness did not open the box until after they had learned about the September 15 event. Inside the box, Routh left ammunition, a metal pipe, tools, four cell phones, and various letters. One letter stated Routh’s intentions calling his actions an assassination attempt on Donald Trump and offering \$150,000 to whomever can complete the job.