

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
3 AND THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS
4
5

6 INTERVIEW OF

7 **Witness**

8 SERGEANT-TECHNICIAN, U.S. SECRET SERVICE
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11

12 Room SD-342

13 Dirksen Senate Office Building

14 Washington, D.C.

15 Thursday, December 5, 2024

16 1:06 p.m.
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1 APPEARANCES:

2
3 On Behalf of the Witness:

4 [REDACTED], Counsel

5 [REDACTED], Deputy Chief Counsel, U.S. Secret
6 Service

7 [REDACTED], Assistant Special Agent in Charge,
8 Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Secret Service
9

10 On Behalf of Chairman Peters:

11 [REDACTED], Chief Counsel/Chief Investigative Counsel,
12 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
13 Committee

14 [REDACTED], Senior Investigative Counsel,
15 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
16 Committee

17 [REDACTED], Senior Investigator, Senate Homeland
18 Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

19 [REDACTED], Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate
20 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
21 Committee
22

23 On Behalf of Ranking Member Paul:

24 [REDACTED], Chief Counsel, Senate Homeland
25

Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

APPEARANCES (continued):

On Behalf of Ranking Member Paul (continued):

HSGAC Minority, Investigator, Senate Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

On Behalf of PSI Chairman Blumenthal:

PSI Majority, Counsel, Permanent Subcommittee
on Investigations

On Behalf of PSI Ranking Member Johnson:

PSI Minority, Staff Director, Permanent Subcommittee
on Investigations

PSI Minority, Chief Counsel, Permanent
Subcommittee on Investigations

PSI Minority, Deputy Staff Director, Permanent
Subcommittee on Investigations

P R O C E E D I N G S

HSGAC Majority : Good morning. This is the transcribed interview of Sergeant-Technician Witness , being conducted by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

This interview was requested by Committee Chairman Gary Peters and Ranking Member Rand Paul, as well as Subcommittee Chair Richard Blumenthal and Ranking Member Ron Johnson, as part of the Committee's investigation of the July 13, 2024, assassination attempt on former President Trump, and the U.S. Secret Service planning and advance and response related to the events in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024.

On July 25, 2024, Chairmen Peters and Blumenthal, and Ranking Members Paul and Johnson requested voluntary transcribed interviews with individuals within the Secret Service related to this event, including of Witness .

We will proceed to make introductions today of the four different offices who have combined and are conducting this interview, and then we'll explain how we intend to proceed. And with that first I'd ask if you, for the record, would introduce yourself, and if counsel could then introduce themselves.

Witness : Sergeant-Technician Witness , U.S. Secret

1 Service Counter Sniper Team.

2 [Witness Counsel] : [Witness Counsel] , attorney for [Witness] .

3 [Agency Counsel] : [Agency Counsel] , Deputy Chief Counsel,
4 U.S. Secret Service.

5 [Agency Counsel] : [Agency Counsel] , Office of General
6 Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

7 [HSGAC Minority] : [HSGAC Minority] , Investigator for U.S.
8 Senator Rand Paul, and I'll be joined shortly with our
9 counsel, [HSGAC Majority] .

10 [PSI Majority] : [PSI Majority] , Senior Counsel with
11 PSI Chairman Richard Blumenthal. With me I have [Redacted]
12 [PSI Majority] , Counsel for PSI Blumenthal.

13 [PSI Minority] : Good afternoon, [Witness] . I'm [Redacted]
14 [PSI Minority] . I'm Staff Director for Senator Johnson on PSI, and
15 along with me is [PSI Minority] , Chief Counsel for
16 Senator Johnson, and [PSI Minority] , Deputy Staff Director
17 for Senator Johnson. Thank you for being here.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : We are going to plan to conduct our long
19 sessions of questions by office, to be as efficient as
20 possible, and then to break after an hour, or as needed.
21 So should you need a break during our questioning we are
22 happy to take one. Just let us know.

23 We will do our best not to have more than one person
24 speaking at once. Should somebody have a follow-up
25 question we will try to do so orderly so you're not

1 confused about who is asking the question. If, for
2 whatever reason, the question is unintelligible or hard to
3 understand or confusing, just please ask us to restate it
4 and we will be happy to do so.

5 The reporter is going to create a verbatim record of
6 what we discuss here today, and with that in mind, as I'm
7 sure you are aware, please respond verbally because the
8 reporter can't properly record any nonverbal response. Do
9 you understand?

10 **Witness** : Yes, I do.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : This interview is being conducted in an
12 unclassified setting, and to the extent practicable we
13 intend to ask for information that should not implicate
14 classified information. However, should any question raise
15 information you know to be classified, please indicate that
16 the question has implicated classified information and you
17 cannot answer it in this setting, and answer as best to
18 your ability any information you can provide that is not
19 classified, that can be responsive to the question.

20 If necessary, and as needed, once you have clarified,
21 should the Committee have a need for additional information
22 that implicates classified information, we have the
23 capability to do so, and can arrange to receive that
24 information in a classified setting. Do you understand
25 that?

Witness

Yes, I do. Thank you.

HSGAC Majority

It's the Committee's practice to honor valid common law privilege and claims as an accommodation to a witness when those claims are made in good faith and accompanied by a sufficient explanation, so that the Committee can evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to honor these privileges, the Committee will weigh its need for the information against any legitimate basis for withholding it. This interview today is being conducted without prejudice to any future discussions the Committee may require, and we reserve the right to request your participation in a future interview should we need to.

If you need to take a break, as I've mentioned, please just let us know. In addition, we have water available, and if you have a need just let us know and we'll try to accommodate you.

You are required to answer questions before Congress truthfully. Do you understand that?

Witness

Yes.

HSGAC Majority

This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in interviews, including today's interview. Specifically 18 USC Section 1001 makes it a crime to make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations in the course of a congressional investigation. Do you understand?

1 Witness Yes.

2 HSGAC Majority Is there any reason that you would be
3 unable to provide us today with truthful answers to our
4 questions?

5 Witness No reason.

6 HSGAC Majority Finally, we would ask that you not speak
7 about what we discuss in today's interview outside of the
8 room, to help us maintain the integrity of our
9 investigation. And we also ask that you not remove or make
10 any copies or photographs of any materials or exhibits. Do
11 you understand?

12 Witness Yes.

13 Agency Counsel Just for the record, the Secret Service
14 and DHS have made available to the Committee, consistent
15 with the Chairman's request, info and records that we would
16 not ordinarily release publicly. We feel these records
17 fall under the Privacy Act, personnel and other privacy
18 information, FOUO, intelligence law, and sensitive records
19 information.

20 While we have made these records available, and the
21 information available, any discussions is not intended for
22 public disclosure. The Secret Service aren't waiving any
23 protections under these laws. The transcript and
24 attachments are protected from dissemination, we feel,
25 based on these authorities.

1 And lastly, we just want to confirm that there is no
2 audio or video recordings of today's proceedings except, of
3 course, for the court reporter.

4 We appreciate that. Thank you, HSGAC Ma.

5 HSGAC Majority : Consistent with our prior interviews and
6 this investigation, our understanding as well is that the
7 only recording being made today is for the purposes of
8 making the transcript of this interview, and that's our
9 understanding of this, as well.

10 With respect to the transcript of this interview
11 itself, that will remain the property of this Committee.
12 We will provide all counsel opportunity to review the
13 transcript and to provide any factual corrections to that
14 transcript.

15 As is the case, and has been explained in our other
16 interviews, but for your information, the Committee does
17 intend to rely on the information we learn today in future,
18 including public hearings or reports. And as has been the
19 Committee's practice and was the case with respect to the
20 Committee's Interim Report, released in September of this
21 year, in advance of making any non-public information,
22 including information we learn today, public, our practice
23 has been, and our intent is, to provide counsel and
24 witnesses with an opportunity to review that information in
25 advance of it becoming public, and to provide any factual

1 corrections to any errors that may exist.

2 Are there any questions about that?

3 Witness : No, sir.

4 HSGAC Majority : With that we will begin the first hour of
5 our questioning with Chairman Peters' staff starting. So
6 before we begin with our questioning, if you have any other
7 questions we are happy to entertain them now.

8 Witness : No.

9 HSGAC Majority : I'll turn it over to my colleague, [REDACTED]

10 HSGAC Majority .

11 HSGAC Majority : Sergeant-Technician Witness, my name is

12 HSGAC Majority . I'm a Senior Investigator for Senator
13 Peters on the Committee here. Thank you for being here.

14 Could you start with telling us how long you've been
15 with the Secret Service?

16 Witness : I've been with the Secret Service for
17 almost 24 years.

18 HSGAC Majority : How long have you been a counter sniper
19 for the Secret Service?

20 Witness : Over 21 years.

21 HSGAC Majority : So in those roughly two or three years
22 before you were a counter sniper, what was your role with
23 the Secret Service?

24 Witness : I was assigned as a Uniformed Division
25 Officer down at the White House branch.

1 HSGAC Majority : Did you have counter sniper experience
2 before joining the Secret Service?

3 Witness : No, I did not.

4 HSGAC Majority : Did you have law enforcement experience
5 before joining the Secret Service?

6 Witness : No, sir.

7 HSGAC Majority : Could you walk us through if there is a
8 typical career progression for a counter sniper, what that
9 typical career progression is. Was yours typical? In
10 other words, you start with the Uniformed Division?

11 Witness : So before you join the counter sniper team
12 you will have to be part of the Uniformed Division for
13 approximately two years, or for two years, before you can
14 apply and start the process.

15 HSGAC Majority : Do Secret Service counter snipers
16 generally spend any time in the field in Investigations
17 Division?

18 Witness : No.

19 HSGAC Majority : Has that typical progression changed in
20 all of the years that you've been with the Secret Service?

21 Witness : No, it has not.

22 HSGAC Majority : Regarding Secret Service agents, so not
23 counter snipers, to the extent that you're familiar with
24 their typical career progression, are you aware of that
25 progression changing in recent years? In other words,

1 shortening the amount of time the agents spend either in
2 the field or in investigations before they're assigned to
3 high-level protectees such as the former President?

4 [Witness] : I don't understand anything with the
5 special agent side, only the Uniformed Division side.

6 [HSGAC Majority] : Are you aware of any special agents
7 being assigned to either POTUS, VPOTUS, or FPOTUS with
8 minimal experience, such as one or two years out of the
9 Academy, or less?

10 [Witness] : No.

11 [HSGAC Majority] : And you are a counter sniper as opposed
12 to a sniper. Is that right?

13 [Witness] : Yes.

14 [HSGAC Majority] : And you were a counter sniper at the
15 July 13th rally?

16 [Witness] : Yes, I was.

17 [HSGAC Majority] : What's your understanding of the
18 difference between sniper and counter sniper.

19 [Witness] : So as a counter sniper my responsibility is
20 to look for that long-range threat, the lone gunman in most
21 terms. In some cases you're also looking for the organized
22 attack onto a protectee or to a site.

23 [HSGAC Majority] : At outdoor events is there ever any use
24 for snipers looking into the site or is it only counter
25 snipers looking outside of the site, as you said, for long-

1 range threats.

2 [Witness] : So as a sniper and a counter sniper, one of
3 your responsibilities or one of your duties is to provide
4 observation, your real-time intelligence for that location.
5 You're watching people. You're seeing what's going on. So
6 regardless of a sniper or counter sniper role, your one
7 duty is to provide real-time knowledge and observe.

8 [HSGAC Majority] : Have you worked Secret Service
9 protective events before where there were snipers looking
10 into the site?

11 [Witness] : Yes, I have.

12 [HSGAC Majority] : And that were state or local snipers.
13 Is that right?

14 [Witness] : That's correct.

15 [HSGAC Majority] : And then shifting towards preparations
16 for this July 13th rally, it's our understanding this was
17 the first time that Secret Service sent counter snipers to
18 any protectee other than POTUS, VPOTUS, or an official
19 candidate. Is that your understanding?

20 [Witness] : As far as I know, this was the first time
21 we've ever covered for this year.

22 [HSGAC Majority] : When did you become aware that Secret
23 Service counter snipers would be sent to this event?

24 [Witness] : I learned the Tuesday before the event.

25 [HSGAC Majority] : Do you know who decided that?

1 Witness : My operations section that's responsible
2 for our schedule assigned me to that detail.

3 HSGAC Majority : Do you know why it was decided to send
4 counter snipers?

5 Witness : No. I get my assignment and I move
6 forward.

7 HSGAC Majority : So in your 23 years with the Secret
8 Service, this was the first time you or any other counter
9 sniper had been sent to a former President. Is that right?

10 Witness : As a former President, yes, but we've also
11 covered candidates in the past.

12 HSGAC Majority : Candidates, right, but not a former
13 President.

14 Witness : This was the first time we've ever had a
15 former President.

16 HSGAC Majority : So what was your reaction to that
17 decision?

18 Witness : Get my orders and move forward.

19 HSGAC Majority : Did it strike you as significant?

20 Witness : No. It's just another assignment.

21 HSGAC Majority : Was it at all concerning to you to be
22 assigned to a protectee that you hadn't before, not the
23 individual but the role as a former President?

24 Witness : No.

25 HSGAC Majority : Did that cause you to plan differently

1 at all for this event?

2 [Witness] : No, it did not.

3 [HSGAC Majority] : And to clarify, this was the first time
4 counter snipers were sent to former President Trump since
5 he left office. Is that right?

6 [Witness] : That's correct.

7 [HSGAC Majority] : So you said you learned the Tuesday
8 before the event that counter snipers would be sent. Did
9 that include yourself, that you learned that Tuesday that
10 you personally would be sent? Is that right?

11 [Witness] : I knew that my assignment for the upcoming
12 week would be to provide coverage in Pennsylvania for
13 former President Trump. I didn't look at the schedule to
14 see who else I would be working with.

15 [HSGAC Majority] : You ended up working with three other
16 counter snipers, two 2-man teams. Is that right?

17 [Witness] : That's correct.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : And your partner was [C/S Team Lead].
19 Is that right?

20 [Witness] : That's correct.

21 [HSGAC Majority] : Were you and [C/S Team Lead] both
22 shooters or riflemen? In other words, you both had weapons
23 that you were able to shoot and you weren't exclusively a
24 spotter or observer?

25 [Witness] : That's correct.

1 HSGAC Majority : And so there's no functional difference
2 between your two responsibilities?

3 Witness : No.

4 HSGAC Majority : Regarding planning for the rally, did
5 you have any planning responsibilities ahead of the rally?

6 Witness : No.

7 HSGAC Majority : As sergeant-technician, you were the
8 supervisor for all of the counter snipers at that event.
9 Is that right?

10 Witness : Yes.

11 HSGAC Majority : What was your role and responsibilities
12 as supervisor?

13 Witness : So as a supervisor for the event, depending
14 on what were to happen, I would have to do an
15 administrative role. But my role primarily for that detail
16 was to be what we call a second team member. I am coming
17 in before the event to work a protective assignment and
18 take the command, so to speak, from the team leader.

19 HSGAC Majority : Team leader being C/S Team Lead ?

20 Witness : That's correct.

21 HSGAC Majority : I'm sorry. When would you take the
22 command from him?

23 Witness : So I'm just a working team member. So if
24 I'm assigned to that detail, which I was, I came in on that
25 Friday, and I'm taking all directions from the team leader

1 because he's responsible for that detail --

2 HSGAC Majority : All right. So --

3 Witness : -- for the counter sniper role.

4 HSGAC Majority : Sorry. Say that again.

5 Witness : He's the team leader for the counter
6 snipers.

7 HSGAC Majority : So you may have answered my next
8 question, but does your role as sergeant and supervisor
9 differ at all from the team lead, C/S Team Lead ?

10 Witness : So the team lead would be responsible for
11 the overall counter sniper mission for that detail.
12 Regardless of rank, whether it's a sergeant-technician,
13 lieutenant, or captain, the team leader was responsible for
14 that detail. He understands what's going on.

15 HSGAC Majority : Did you have any role or responsibility
16 to review or approve any of C/S Team Lead planning?

17 Witness : No. Not at all.

18 HSGAC Majority : Did you overrule any of his decisions in
19 the planning and leading up to the rally?

20 Witness : No.

21 HSGAC Majority : Could you have?

22 Witness : It would have to be an extreme case, but I
23 didn't.

24 HSGAC Majority : You did not, you said.

25 Witness : No.

1 HSGAC Majority : What information did you rely on ahead
2 of the rally to prepare? Any documents?

3 Witness : So the team leader provided us with
4 logistics reports and photos that he developed for that
5 site.

6 HSGAC Majority : Did you attend or give any briefings
7 ahead of the rally?

8 Witness : No.

9 HSGAC Majority : And when did you say you first arrived
10 at the site?

11 Witness : To the site?

12 HSGAC Majority : Yes.

13 Witness : That would be on July 13th, the day of the
14 detail.

15 HSGAC Majority : What did you do when you got there?

16 Witness : We went ahead and parked our vehicle,
17 government vehicle, and then attended a site walk-through
18 with C/S Team Lead .

19 HSGAC Majority : And what was discussed on the walk-
20 through?

21 Witness : The walk-through, we basically started at
22 the arrival/departure point where former President Trump
23 would arrive. We went to the tents that he was going to do
24 some photo ops, and then we walked up onto the actual
25 stage, the runway that led up to the stage where the podium

1 was, and was able to get an idea of what was looking in on
2 the site.

3 HSGAC Majority : Did you conduct any kind of threat
4 assessment?

5 Witness : C/S Team L was the one that would be conducting
6 the threat assessment. That's what he does during his
7 advance.

8 HSGAC Majority : Did he make you aware of that on that
9 walk-through.

10 Witness : Yes. He pointed out locations.

11 HSGAC Majority : Was the AGR building one such location
12 that was pointed out as a potential threat or
13 vulnerability?

14 Witness : He pointed out the AGR building, explaining
15 that on the second floor of the AGR building there was
16 going to be a local team positioned on that floor.

17 HSGAC Majority : So in terms of the local positioning.
18 But was AGR noted in any way as a potential threat or
19 vulnerability?

20 Witness : It was in clear sight, so it would be
21 understood that it was a line-of-sight concern.

22 HSGAC Majority : How were those line-of-sight concerns
23 mitigated?

24 Witness : So the line-of-sight concerns that I could
25 see, I mean, they had the stands on either side of the

1 podium. They had the big Jumbotrons on either side of the
2 stage. I remember a combine to the right of the stage,
3 that was on the fence line, flags.

4 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : Were you and the other Secret Service
5 counter snipers part of a plan to mitigate the line-of-
6 sight concern from the AGR building?

7 [REDACTED] Witness : We are. We're placed in locations to
8 mitigate any line-of-sight concerns.

9 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : And how does that work? In other words,
10 you had visibility of that roof, so therefore part of your
11 job was to monitor that roof, to mitigate the line-of-
12 sight. Is that what you mean?

13 [REDACTED] Witness : So we're looking at not just that rooftop
14 but all the areas within the 360-degree circle, out to

15 [REDACTED] LES : That's our area of responsibility.

16 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : I think you mentioned a combine. Is
17 that right? That was part of the line-of-sight mitigation?

18 [REDACTED] Witness : It was on a fence line on the interior.

19 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : Are you aware of whether trucks were
20 used, or discussed to be used, to mitigate line-of-sight
21 concerns?

22 [REDACTED] Witness : I wasn't during that planning process, no.

23 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : Did you later become aware of that?

24 [REDACTED] Witness : I don't remember seeing any trucks on fence
25 lines or anything.

1 HSGAC Majority : Do you remember any discussions about
2 whether trucks were considered?

3 Witness : No.

4 HSGAC Majority : We're handing you a document that's been
5 marked Exhibit 1.

6 [Exhibit No. 1 was
7 marked for identification.]

8 HSGAC Majority : This is Bates 3009 through 3010. This
9 is a July 11, 2024, email with an attachment, called the
10 "Counter Sniper Team Tactical Survey."

11 Did you send or receive this email?

12 Witness : I did not send it but I did receive it.

13 HSGAC Majority : Do you know who sent it?

14 Witness : C/S Team Lead .

15 HSGAC Majority : Was he the one who completed this
16 tactical survey?

17 Witness : Yes.

18 HSGAC Majority : On that document, the second page, it
19 says, "Primary areas of concern," about halfway down, and
20 it includes, the third bullet there, that says "buildings
21 at three o'clock, approximately," and it's redacted "yards
22 away." Does that refer to AGR?

23 Witness : Yes. If it was for the three -- yes.

24 HSGAC Majority : So do you take that to mean that ahead
25 of the rally, one of the three primary areas of concern

1 that were identified was the AGR building?

2 [Witness] : Yes.

3 [HSGAC Majority] : What did you do with that information,
4 if anything? Did it affect your planning or actions in any
5 way?

6 [Witness] : No, it does not. It just gives me like a
7 mental note of what to expect once I arrive on-site,
8 because I received this prior to arriving into
9 Pennsylvania.

10 [HSGAC Majority] : Were you aware of the line-of-sight
11 issues that the Hercules 2 team had in terms of the blocked
12 view of the AGR building, with the trees in between them
13 and the AGR?

14 [Witness] : No.

15 [HSGAC Majority] : Have you since become aware of that?

16 [Witness] : From everything that's gone on now I'm
17 starting to understand it, yes.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : But you weren't made aware before the
19 event or during that Hercules 2 team on the northern barn
20 had a limited view of the AGR building?

21 [Witness] : Not that I recall.

22 [HSGAC Majority] : In the lead-up to the event, did you
23 have any discussions with the local snipers who were going
24 to be positioned in that AGR building?

25 [Witness] : No.

1 HSGAC Majority : Did you know where they would be
2 positioned? Before the event, did you know?

3 Witness : No, I did not.

4 HSGAC Majority : Can you turn back to that Exhibit 1. On
5 that second page, the box about halfway down, below the one
6 we were just discussing, this box says, "Local tactical
7 counter sniper support, Butler ESU sniper team," and it
8 says "located in the AGR glass building." Is that
9 signifying that the local snipers would be positioned
10 inside the AGR building?

11 Witness : That's correct.

12 HSGAC Majority : Okay. So you received this before the
13 event. You just don't recall seeing that. Is that right?

14 Witness : It's been a while so I'm just trying to
15 remember everything that I received for that day.

16 HSGAC Majority : Sure. Fair enough. But you don't
17 recall the time, in the lead-up to the event and during
18 that day, you don't recall being aware that those officers
19 were positioned inside AGR?

20 Witness : No. So when we arrived to the site and we
21 did the site walk-through, C/S Team Lead identified the
22 team that was going to be on the second floor of the AGR
23 building. And he also identified the team that was going
24 to be at the horse stands.

25 HSGAC Majority : Oh, I see. Okay. So it was your

1 understanding that those snipers would be inside the AGR
2 building.

3 [Witness] : That's correct.

4 [HSGAC Majority] : As opposed to on the roof.

5 [Witness] : Correct.

6 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. Did you have any concerns with
7 them being positioned inside the AGR building as opposed to
8 on the roof?

9 [Witness] : No, because [C/S Team L] went ahead and explained -
10 - [C/S Team Lead] explained to me, and to the three of us,
11 that that team has used that location for prior events.

12 [HSGAC Majority] : Did you suggest that they be positioned
13 elsewhere, including the roof or elsewhere?

14 [Witness] : No.

15 [HSGAC Majority] : Was there any discussion of them
16 possibly being placed on the roof?

17 [Witness] : During that time when it was the four of us
18 together, no. Prior to that, I don't know.

19 [HSGAC Majority] : It's been explained to us by other
20 counter snipers that the local snipers are often co-located
21 with you all at other events. Is that right?

22 [Witness] : In my experience, yes.

23 [HSGAC Majority] : Were you fine with the fact that they
24 would not be co-located with you at this event? Did that
25 raise any concerns?

1 Witness : No, it did not.

2 HSGAC Majority : And why is that, if they usually are?

3 Witness : Because it was only two counter sniper
4 teams that were going to be provided for that site. Having
5 the two local teams away from us, neither being co-located,
6 they could provide more eyes on the large area that was
7 going to be for the detail for the site.

8 HSGAC Majority : And what was their responsibility? Did
9 they have a particular area of responsibility? What was
10 your understanding of what their role would be?

11 Witness : From what I can understand from their
12 positioning on the roof, inside the AGR, they would be
13 looking towards the south, and basically everything outside
14 their building and out to the south, and then the team in
15 the horse stands would be providing the line-of-sight
16 coverage for the opposite side of the venue.

17 HSGAC Majority : Was it your understanding that those
18 local snipers inside AGR were part of the plan to mitigate
19 those line-of-sight concerns you described earlier, that
20 came from AGR?

21 Witness : Yes.

22 HSGAC Majority : How would they do that?

23 Witness : By observing out of the windows of their
24 post, they should be able to see anything that's in front
25 of their post location and out through the entire site.

1 HSGAC Majority : So it was your understanding that they
2 would be able to see out their window onto the roof of the
3 AGR building that they were positioned in?

4 Witness : Yes.

5 HSGAC Majority : Did you ever go inside the AGR building
6 before the event?

7 Witness : No, I did not.

8 HSGAC Majority : And can you clarify. So if they were
9 inside the building, how would that give them a view of the
10 roof? Was it your understanding that they had line-of-
11 sight to the roof in front of the AGR building?

12 Witness : That's correct.

13 HSGAC Majority : Is there anything else, in terms of the
14 mitigation plan for the AGR building that we haven't
15 covered? So who else would've been responsible for
16 covering AGR? Not just line-of-sight but securing it from
17 a law enforcement perspective.

18 Witness : Just local ground law enforcement.

19 HSGAC Majority : What was your understanding of their
20 footprint or role?

21 Witness : I don't know exactly where they were going
22 to be positioned, but normally around a site you would have
23 local law enforcement covering the area outside.

24 HSGAC Majority : Did any of the four of you, meaning the
25 Secret Service counter snipers, have the AGR building in

1 your particular area of responsibility?

2 [Witness] : That would be Hercules 2.

3 [HSGAC Majority] : Throughout that day, leaving aside shots
4 fired, but leading up to that moment when the former
5 President took the stage, throughout that day did you ever
6 see any law enforcement around the AGR building?

7 [Witness] : Yes.

8 [HSGAC Majority] : What did you see?

9 [Witness] : Just regular uniformed local officers on
10 the ground.

11 [HSGAC Majority] : Roughly how many?

12 [Witness] : I don't recall. I don't know.

13 [HSGAC Majority] : Were they posted there or were they
14 roving in and out?

15 [Witness] : They were just around the building.

16 [HSGAC Majority] : And when you say around the building,
17 this is on that side of the fence. Our understanding is
18 that there were two fences. One was the security
19 perimeter, and then there was a no-man's land or rabbit
20 run, and then another fence. So you're saying the officers
21 you saw were beyond that second fence?

22 [Witness] : Correct.

23 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. And I know you said that Hercules
24 2 had AGR in their area of responsibility, but you, being
25 on Hercules 1, did you have any responsibilities for AGR in

1 any way?

2 **Witness** : So both teams, basically both teams are
3 responsible for an area of 360 degrees and out to **LES**
4 yards. Because there were two teams you basically split
5 the responsibility up the middle. You still have some kind
6 of overlapping coverage, so you're not just focused on one
7 side, one team is focused on one side, one team on the
8 other. So you are doing some kind of overlapping coverage,
9 checking to make sure your teammates are okay behind you.
10 But basically I was responsible for the nine o'clock side,
11 and Hercules 2 was primarily responsible for the three
12 o'clock side. You don't want all four individuals looking
13 in the same direction, because then you're taking your
14 line-of-sight off of something else.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : Did anyone raise any concerns about the
16 AGR building, including potential threats, vulnerabilities,
17 line-of-sight concerns, that you haven't discussed?

18 **Witness** : No.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : I'd like to talk a little bit about the
20 security perimeter, and when I say -- I understand that
21 there are different levels of security perimeters that the
22 Secret Service refers to. I'm referring to the
23 magnetometers, so the secure area. Just broadly speaking,
24 first, how does the security perimeter affect your
25 responsibilities or duties, if at all, as a counter sniper?

1 Witness : We're responsible for everything from our
2 exact location out to LES yards.

3 HSGAC Majority : Regardless of the location of the
4 perimeters? In other words, you scan beyond the security
5 perimeter?

6 Witness : Correct. Everything from us out to LES
7 yards is in our perimeter.

8 HSGAC Majority : Were you aware of the location of other
9 security perimeter that day, at the site?

10 Witness : I knew of the immediate site security and
11 the fence lines and where the mag point was.

12 HSGAC Majority : Did you have any concerns about the
13 perimeter, including the location of any threats or
14 vulnerabilities, either inside or outside the perimeter?

15 Witness : No, because -- no, no.

16 HSGAC Majority : Did anyone else have any concerns, that
17 you're aware of, about the perimeter?

18 Witness : Not that I'm aware of.

19 HSGAC Majority : And you said you were on Hercules 1.
20 That's the southern barn of those two barns. Is that
21 right?

22 Witness : Correct.

23 HSGAC Majority : What was your rough estimate of the
24 clock position you were positioned in?

25 Witness : So I was positioned, from the stage I was

1 positioned at the seven o'clock position.

2 HSGAC Majority : Is that the position you had initially
3 planned to be in, or that C/S Team Lead planned for you
4 to be in?

5 Witness : C/S Team Lead planned for us to be at that
6 location.

7 HSGAC Majority : Did you have any concerns about that
8 position?

9 Witness : No.

10 HSGAC Majority : Did you consider any other positions?

11 Witness : No.

12 HSGAC Majority : And regarding your responsibility once
13 you're up in position, you said your primary area of
14 responsibility was the nine o'clock side. Is that right?

15 Witness : Correct.

16 HSGAC Majority : Were you primarily scanning the crowd
17 for threats or looking out beyond the security perimeter?

18 Witness : Well, I'm looking at everything inside the
19 venue to include everything outside.

20 HSGAC Majority : And I know you said even though each
21 team had an area of responsibility, you're also all
22 responsible for 360 degrees, generally speaking. So can
23 you walk us through how an area of responsibility works?
24 So in other words, if something comes up in one team's AOR,
25 how does that affect your actions? Like are you supposed

1 to let them handle that and not abandon your AOR, or how
2 does that work?

3 [Witness] : So you want to go ahead and you want to
4 assist them in what they're looking at, but you also want
5 to make sure that it's not a diversion for something else
6 that could be coming from behind you.

7 [HSGAC Majority] : But you're certainly not prohibited from
8 looking in another counter sniper's AOR.

9 [Witness] : Absolutely not, no.

10 [HSGAC Majority] : Was there a direction that you were
11 facing for most of the day?

12 [Witness] : To the nine o'clock.

13 [HSGAC Majority] : Is it common to change the direction
14 you're facing at these events?

15 [Witness] : Meaning?

16 [HSGAC Majority] : Are you generally facing one direction
17 the entire day at these kinds of events, or are you often
18 changing the position you're facing, including the position
19 or direction you're facing with your weapon? Does that
20 change throughout the day at these events?

21 [Witness] : So I was primarily focused on the nine
22 o'clock side. So basically the twelve to six, out to the
23 nine o'clock. And I'm doing a scan from the six o'clock to
24 the twelve, all the way on the nine o'clock side, doing an
25 overlap coverage, you know, check on my teammates behind me

1 at Hercules 2.

2 HSGAC Majority : And did that change throughout the day,
3 or were you primarily facing that direction from the twelve
4 to six, at the nine o'clock?

5 Witness : I was primarily twelve to six, at the nine
6 o'clock.

7 HSGAC Majority : Can you describe for us the view you had
8 of the AGR building from your position?

9 Witness : I mean, it seemed unobstructed from what I
10 could tell. I could see the rooftops. I could see where
11 the local team was positioned, on the second floor.

12 HSGAC Majority : Did you have any visibility of the far
13 slope of the AGR roofs, in other words, the slope of the
14 roof on the north side of that building?

15 Witness : Not from what I can remember. Well --

16 HSGAC Majority : Is it clear what I'm describing? So the
17 slope of the roof facing you was facing down towards the
18 south, towards you.

19 Witness : Correct.

20 HSGAC Majority : And you had clear visibility of that
21 slope, right?

22 Witness : Right.

23 HSGAC Majority : And then the opposite slope of that
24 roof, sloping away from you towards the north.

25 Witness : No, I couldn't see that side.

1 HSGAC Majority : You couldn't see that?

2 Witness : No.

3 HSGAC Majority : Okay. How about the width of the roof,
4 so going west to east, could you see the entirety of that
5 roof from the west to the east edge of that roof, so left
6 to right?

7 Witness : No.

8 HSGAC Majority : What could you not see?

9 Witness : There's just a small portion on the right
10 side.

11 HSGAC Majority : Why were you not able to see that small
12 portion?

13 Witness : There was a tree obstructing the view.

14 HSGAC Majority : So can you describe any more about what
15 was obstructed?

16 Witness : Just a small portion of the rooftop.

17 HSGAC Majority : Did that concern you at all, when you
18 got into position and saw that you didn't have a full,
19 unobstructed view of that roof?

20 Witness : No, it did not.

21 HSGAC Majority : Why is that?

22 Witness : You had the team on the second floor of the
23 AGR building that was covering that line-of-sight.

24 HSGAC Majority : We'll get into all the events that
25 happened when Mr. Crooks got into position and fired, but

1 before that happened, when he got into position, did you
2 ever see him on the roof moving into position?

3 [Witness] : No.

4 [HSGAC Majority] : I'm going to hand you another document.
5 This is marked Exhibit 2.

6 [Exhibit No. 2 was
7 marked for identification.]

8 [HSGAC Majority] : So this is two photographs. The first
9 photograph was taken from the AGR roof, looking towards the
10 barns behind the stage where you were positioned. You
11 probably are aware, the AGR building is actually a series,
12 a complex of multiple roofs. This is three successive roof
13 peaks. So where the photographer is standing here is the
14 northern of the three roofs, looking south towards the
15 barns where you were positioned. The second page on this
16 exhibit is the same picture, just zoomed in.

17 Does that look like your position on that barn on the
18 right? It's easier to see in the second picture.

19 [Witness] : Yes.

20 [HSGAC Majority] : So from your position, looking back
21 towards where this photographer was standing, what was your
22 view beyond that first roof peak where Mr. Crooks ended up?
23 So were you able to see these other two roofs beyond that
24 first roof?

25 [Witness] : I could see that there were other rooftops.

1 HSGAC Majority : And again, the question of the two
2 slopes of the roof. Were you able to see the near slopes,
3 the roof sloping down towards you, towards the south of
4 each of those successive roofs?

5 Witness : No. The only roof that I really had a
6 clear line-of-sight was the first roof that was closest to
7 the site.

8 HSGAC Majority : But you said you were able to see the
9 other roofs beyond that, to the north.

10 Witness : You could see like the ridge line.

11 HSGAC Majority : The ridge line. I see. But not the far
12 slope, sloping away from you to the north?

13 Witness : No.

14 HSGAC Majority : I'm sorry. Can you give a verbal
15 answer?

16 Witness : Oh, no. Sorry.

17 HSGAC Majority : Thank you. I appreciate it. So you
18 were able to see the ridge line of those other roofs. If
19 someone had been running across those roofs, would you have
20 expected to be able to see them?

21 Witness : If I was looking that direction, probably.
22 It depends.

23 HSGAC Majority : What would it depend on?

24 Witness : It depends on if, were they in a full,
25 stand-up sprint across the rooftops or were they using way

1 the rooftops were built, you know, using that as cover,
2 crawling along it.

3 HSGAC Majority : And again, leaving aside the events of
4 when shots were fired, throughout that day do you recall
5 how much time roughly you spent scanning those roofs?

6 Witness : Minimal, because I was focused to the other
7 side of the site.

8 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall observing anything on
9 those roofs before the events of shots fired?

10 Witness : No.

11 HSGAC Majority : Was there a CS response team at the
12 rally?

13 Witness : Yes.

14 HSGAC Majority : What are they responsible for? What's
15 their role?

16 Witness : Their role is to provide the non-lethal
17 mitigation of something. If we see something, they go out
18 and investigate it. So they're LES

19 HSGAC Majority : And what kind of things do they get sent
20 out to investigate?

21 Witness : Suspicious individuals, vehicles,
22 suspicious packages. Just anything that doesn't look clear
23 from our point of view.

24 HSGAC Majority : Does anyone in particular have authority
25 or responsibility for sending them out to investigate

1 something?

2 [Witness] : Normally, once we get on the site and we
3 brief them, they belong to us, and we're the ones that
4 control them.

5 [HSGAC Majority] : Is it common for anyone else in the
6 Secret Service to send them out to investigate, anyone
7 besides the counter snipers?

8 [Witness] : Not in my experience.

9 [HSGAC Majority] : It's our understanding that Agent
10 [C/S Response] was the CS response agent that day. Is
11 that your understanding?

12 [Witness] : I do not remember who the agent was.

13 [HSGAC Majority] : Do you recall being aware at the time
14 what his experience level was?

15 [Witness] : No.

16 [HSGAC Majority] : Have you since become aware?

17 [Witness] : No.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : Apologies if you said this. What time
19 did you arrive at the Butler rally site that day, Saturday
20 the 13th?

21 [Witness] : 1330, I think. I don't remember.

22 [HSGAC Majority] : Where did you come from?

23 [Witness] : I came from -- that morning, you mean?

24 [HSGAC Majority] : Yes.

25 [Witness] : So after having breakfast, we responded up

1 to Butler.

2 HSGAC Majority : Breakfast at the hotel?

3 Witness : No. First Watch.

4 HSGAC Majority : But you stayed in the Pittsburgh area,
5 at a hotel, on Friday night. Is that right?

6 Witness : Right. That's correct.

7 HSGAC Majority : What did you do that night, Friday
8 night?

9 Witness : Stayed in my room.

10 HSGAC Majority : Do you know what the other three counter
11 snipers did that night?

12 Witness : Stayed in their room.

13 HSGAC Majority : Did you have any concerns ahead of the
14 rally that we haven't discussed?

15 Witness : None.

16 HSGAC Majority : I'd like to talk about suspicious
17 persons. So just generally speaking, what is your
18 responsibility as a counter sniper when there is a
19 suspicious person that's been flagged for you or other
20 Secret Service personnel at an event like this?

21 Witness : So once an individual has been identified
22 as suspicious we will try to locate that individual to help
23 provide ground units to investigate to, for lack of a
24 better term, capture, to catch.

25 HSGAC Majority : And before shots were fired at this

1 event, were you aware of a suspicious person in the general
2 area of the three o'clock, which is the north around the
3 AGR building?

4 [Witness] : Yes.

5 [HSGAC Majority] : When were you made aware of that?

6 [Witness] : It was at approximately 1753 I received an
7 email that had his photos and identified him as being
8 suspicious.

9 [HSGAC Majority] : Who sent you that email?

10 [Witness] : [C/S Team Lead], through the local Butlers.

11 [HSGAC Majority] : I just handed you a document marked
12 Exhibit 3. This is Bates 2965 through 2968.

13 [Exhibit No. 3 was
14 marked for identification.]

15 [HSGAC Majority] : Is this the email that you just referred
16 to?

17 [Witness] : Yes.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : So this is from Officer-Technician
19 [C/S Team Lead] to you as well as the other two counter snipers.
20 Is that right?

21 [Witness] : That's correct.

22 [HSGAC Majority] : So this email was sent at 5:53 on July
23 13th from local police near the AGR glass building. "If
24 spotted, please notify PI at [redacted] or go direct with
25 the Security Room. Kid learning" -- and I think that's

1 supposed to be lurking -- "around building we are in, AGR I
2 believe it is. I did see him with a rangefinder looking
3 towards stage, FYI, if you want to notify SS snipers to
4 look out. I lost sight of him."

5 So this said that the suspicious person had a
6 rangefinder. What did that piece of information tell you?
7 Did that raise the level of suspicion or concern in your
8 mind?

9 **Witness**: No. A rangefinder is an observation device
10 with just an added feature. So it's been my experience
11 with being with multiple campaigns that I've worked, he
12 just wants to see, just like everybody wants to see, the
13 candidate speak. So they're just using that to get a
14 closer look.

15 **HSGAC Majority**: Have you seen rally attendees at other
16 events with a rangefinder before?

17 **Witness**: I've seen binoculars. I've seen
18 rangefinders. I've seen rifle scope not attached to the
19 rifle. Or even just a naked eye.

20 **HSGAC Majority**: So a rifle scope is not concerning
21 either, if you see a rally attendee with that?

22 **Witness**: As long as it's not attached to a rifle
23 it's not concerning.

24 **HSGAC Majority**: Is it not concerning seeing that but not
25 knowing whether that person has a weapon somewhere else?

1 Witness : You'll keep an eye on it to make sure that
2 nothing else presents itself.

3 HSGAC Majority : And the other pages of that exhibit,
4 those are the photos of Mr. Crooks, which we know is Mr.
5 Crooks, but that was the suspicious person that they
6 flagged. Is that right?

7 Witness : Correct.

8 HSGAC Majority : So what did you do in response to
9 receiving this information?

10 Witness : So I turned around, based off the image
11 that I received in that email, and see if I could locate
12 him.

13 HSGAC Majority : And where did you look?

14 Witness : I looked at the base of the AGR, looking
15 from the west to the east, around the grounds of the AGR
16 building.

17 HSGAC Majority : So again, even though AGR was not in
18 your AOR, that didn't prohibit you from looking in that
19 direction for this suspicious person. Is that right?

20 Witness : That's correct. But once my search became
21 negative, then I turned back around to my area of
22 responsibility.

23 HSGAC Majority : Roughly how long did you search and
24 determine it was a negative search? Do you recall?

25 Witness : I don't know.

1 HSGAC Majority : What was your understanding of how that
2 suspicious person was being handled, and by whom, beyond
3 your search?

4 Witness : Can you explain again please? Sorry.

5 HSGAC Majority : Are you aware of whether any law
6 enforcement officials, whether with Secret Service or state
7 and local, were performing any kind of tasks to try to find
8 the suspicious person?

9 Witness : I wasn't aware.

10 HSGAC Majority : Do you know if the CS Response Agent
11 C/S Response was deployed or sent out to look for the
12 suspicious person?

13 Witness : I do not recall that.

14 HSGAC Majority : So we spoke with Special Agent C/S Response
15 and he told us that he was sent out by other Secret Service
16 agents, not counter snipers, to look for the suspicious
17 person. Does that surprise or concern you to learn that
18 someone besides a counter sniper sent him out to look?

19 Witness Counsel : Wait, wait, wait, wait. He wasn't aware.

20 HSGAC Majority : Right. And I'm asking him --

21 Witness Counsel : And you're asking him now.

22 HSGAC Majority : Right. We've been told by Special Agent
23 C/S Response that he was indeed sent out to look for the
24 suspicious person.

25 Witness Counsel : So you're asking him to speculate as to

1 whether he would be surprised?

2 HSGAC Majority : No. I'm asking whether he's surprised
3 now, to learn that --

4 Witness Counsel : All right. You're asking are you
5 surprised now --

6 HSGAC Majority : Yes.

7 Witness Counsel : -- that you've just learned that
8 C/S Response was sent out.

9 HSGAC Majority : Surprised or concerned.

10 Witness Counsel : Surprise to you.

11 HSGAC Majority : Because you said earlier that he, the CS
12 response agent, belongs to you, meaning the CS team. So is
13 it surprising or concerning to learn that he was sent by
14 someone else to look for the suspicious person?

15 Witness : I wouldn't say concerning. You know,
16 they're normally ours once we get to a site. But knowing
17 now that they were directed to go to a location, no, they
18 were just trying to help out with the search.

19 HSGAC Majority : And why didn't you send out, you or the
20 other three Secret Service counter snipers, why didn't you
21 send out C/S Response as the CS response agent to look
22 for this particular suspicious person?

23 Witness : I don't know.

24 HSGAC Majority : I'm sorry?

25 Witness : I do not know why he was not sent.

1 HSGAC Majority : In hindsight --

2 Witness Counsel : Can you just repeat the question?

3 HSGAC Majority : Why did you or any of the other three
4 counter snipers not send out CS response agent --

5 Witness Counsel : His question is why -- you're asking why
6 he didn't send anybody out, not why you weren't sent out.

7 HSGAC Majority : Correct.

8 Witness Counsel : Do you understand the question?

9 Witness : Yeah. Why he didn't get sent out --

10 Witness Counsel : Did you have any authority to send him
11 out, or why you didn't send him out. That's the question.
12 Is that relevant to you in any way, in terms of your role
13 there?

14 Witness : No. We would've just continued doing our
15 search, whether he was sent out or not.

16 HSGAC Majority : Should you have known that he was sent
17 out? Because like you said earlier, he, quote/unquote,
18 "belongs to the CS team" --

19 Witness : Right.

20 HSGAC Majority : -- as an asset. Should you have known
21 that he was being deployed by someone else in the Secret
22 Service?

23 Witness : If he's going to be used for something else
24 we need to know, because if he gets tied up with something,
25 then they're basically preventing him from working with us.

1 HSGAC Majority : Understood. Do you know what ended up
2 happening with the search for the suspicious person? Do
3 you know if local law enforcement addressed it or found the
4 person?

5 Witness : No. I don't know what happened.

6 HSGAC Majority : At any other point that day did you
7 receive word about any other suspicious persons?

8 Witness : No. He was the only one.

9 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall hearing Secret Service
10 counter sniper say over the radio that locals were
11 addressing an issue at the three o'clock, about 200 yards
12 out?

13 Witness : I do.

14 HSGAC Majority : What was communicated?

15 Witness : That the locals were working an issue at
16 the three o'clock position.

17 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall who said that?

18 Witness Hercules 2 C/S .

19 HSGAC Majority : And roughly when was that?

20 Witness : I don't know.

21 HSGAC Majority : Can you put it in terms of a frame of
22 reference to the shooting? Was it a few minutes before
23 shooting?

24 Witness : I wasn't looking at my watch to know how
25 many minutes prior to that call being put out.

1 HSGAC Majority : What, if anything, did you do with that
2 information?

3 Witness : Basically turned back around to observe the
4 three o'clock position.

5 HSGAC Majority : And you had received the BOLO email at,
6 I think we said, 5:53, about a suspicious person around
7 AGR, which is the same area as the three o'clock. Did you
8 associate Hercules 2 C/S radio alert about the three
9 o'clock with this BOLO about the three o'clock?

10 Witness : No.

11 HSGAC Majority : And why not?

12 Witness : Because he stated that there was an issue.
13 It's just a blanket statement. He wasn't saying that the
14 suspicious individual was being worked at the three
15 o'clock.

16 HSGAC Majority : But this was the only BOLO that was sent
17 out that day, that you're aware of, right?

18 Witness : Yes.

19 HSGAC Majority : And you said that this was the only
20 suspicious person report sent out that day.

21 Witness : Correct.

22 HSGAC Majority : And they were both in the same area, the
23 three o'clock. But you didn't associate the two in your
24 mind?

25 Witness : No. They were working an issue, so you

1 don't know what they're working.

2 HSGAC Majority : Did you relay over the radio any
3 information about the suspicious person or the area around
4 the three o'clock?

5 Witness : No.

6 HSGAC Majority : You knew that the suspicious person was
7 seen with a rangefinder. I know you said that that isn't
8 totally unheard of. Why not relay that on the radio, the
9 fact that the suspicious person had a rangefinder and
10 there's also an issue being worked at the three o'clock, in
11 the same area?

12 [Pause.]

13 Witness Counsel : Could you just repeat the question?

14 HSGAC Majority : So you were told that there was a
15 suspicious person at the three o'clock, and then you heard
16 this -- and this suspicious person, you were told, had a
17 rangefinder. And then you heard Hercules 2 C/S alert,
18 over the radio, that the locals are working something at
19 the three o'clock. Why not send out a radio alert that the
20 suspicious person in that same area had a rangefinder?

21 Witness Counsel : It already had been out.

22 Witness : It's already been something --

23 Witness Counsel : Yeah.

24 Witness : I don't know if they're one in the same.
25 So you're working each individual call as something

1 separate. You have the suspicious individual, you know,
2 the guy with the rangefinder, the local police are working
3 an issue at the three o'clock. You don't know if it's all
4 the same thing or separate. So you basically take all the
5 pieces and work them individually.

6 HSGAC Majority : But the BOLO was sent via email to you
7 and the other Secret Service counter sniper team, not over
8 the radio. Is that right?

9 Witness : Correct. Yeah, I received that by email.

10 HSGAC Majority : So the shift agents around the former
11 President would've heard Hercules 2 C/S alert about the
12 locals working something at the three o'clock, but they
13 would not have heard anything about the fact that a
14 suspicious person in that same area had a rangefinder. Is
15 that right?

16 Witness : That's correct, because he did put it over
17 the radio channel that the shift would've heard.

18 HSGAC Majority : Sorry. Say that again.

19 Witness : So the radio call that Hercules 2 C/S put out
20 would've been heard by the detail or the shift of former
21 President Trump.

22 HSGAC Majority : But you're not aware of anyone saying
23 over the radio that the suspicious person had a
24 rangefinder.

25 Witness : No, not over the radio.

1 HSGAC Majority : But that wasn't worth communicating at
2 that point, once Hercules 2 C/S alerted everyone about
3 the issue at the three o'clock, to also alert them that the
4 suspicious person in that area had a rangefinder?

5 Witness Counsel : All right. Can we take a moment?

6 HSGAC Majority : Sure.

7 [Recess.]

8 HSGAC Majority : Go ahead, Witness .

9 Witness : All right. So the information was already
10 disseminated via radio that the local PD was working an
11 issue at the three o'clock. You know, I need to observe
12 that area, you know, and keep the air clear.

13 HSGAC Majority : Keep the radio air clear -- is that what
14 you mean?

15 Witness : Right. If something pertinent needs to go
16 out, I don't want to be stepping on somebody else. The
17 information has already been put out. I need to stand by
18 and wait for further information that comes out.

19 HSGAC Majority : Were you ever told that someone was on
20 the roof of the AGR building?

21 Witness : I heard somehow that someone was on the
22 roof.

23 HSGAC Majority : So walk us through that. What did you
24 hear?

25 Witness : Someone was on the roof.

1 HSGAC Majority : When was this that you heard that?

2 Witness : Prior to the shots being fired.

3 HSGAC Majority : Roughly how long before shots fired?

4 Witness : I don't know. Just -- it was prior to the
5 shots being fired.

6 HSGAC Majority : Who said it?

7 Witness : I don't know. I don't know if it was from
8 the crowd that was close by. I don't know if it came over
9 my radio earpiece. But all I kept hearing was "someone's
10 on the roof."

11 HSGAC Majority : So you heard it more than once.

12 Witness : Yes.

13 HSGAC Majority : Do you know if Officer-Technician
14 C/S Team Lead heard that?

15 Witness : I don't know if he heard it or not. I can
16 only speak for myself.

17 HSGAC Majority : What did you do in response to hearing
18 that?

19 Witness : I went ahead and place my rifle into the
20 tripod, facing in that direction.

21 HSGAC Majority : And again, did it occur to you to send
22 out a radio alert about that?

23 Witness : I was trying to do my job and observe the
24 rooftops.

25 HSGAC Majority : Before shots fired, did you see anyone

1 on the roof?

2 [Witness] : No.

3 [HSGAC Majority] : So roughly when did you turn your
4 attention and put your weapon into the tripod facing the
5 AGR building?

6 [Witness] : So when I heard that local police was
7 working an issue at the three o'clock I turned around and
8 stopped facing at the nine o'clock, grabbed my rifle, spun
9 it around, and started facing the three o'clock. When I
10 started hearing that there was an individual or "someone's
11 on the roof," that's when I grabbed my rifle and put it
12 into the tripod, and continued observing.

13 [HSGAC Majority] : So roughly how long were you directing
14 your attention towards the AGR building before shots were
15 fired?

16 [Witness] : I don't know. It was before the shots were
17 fired.

18 [HSGAC Majority] : So after that point, when you started
19 looking in that direction and put your weapon in the
20 tripod, did you ever turn your attention away from AGR?

21 [Witness] : No.

22 [HSGAC Majority] : But you said earlier that you shifted
23 your attention away from AGR when you initially looked for
24 the suspicious person but your search came up negative. Is
25 that right?

1 Witness : That's correct.

2 HSGAC Majority : Okay. But not after this moment where
3 you heard someone's on the roof. After that you continued
4 to look towards AGR.

5 Witness : Because of the severity of everybody, you
6 know, someone's saying, or everybody's saying "someone's on
7 the roof," I need to keep my eyes in that direction.

8 HSGAC Majority : So at that point, when you're looking
9 towards AGR, were you using your eyes, your naked eyes,
10 your scope, your binoculars, or a combination thereof?

11 Witness : I was using my binoculars and the naked
12 eye.

13 HSGAC Majority : Were you ever at your scope before you
14 fired your weapon?

15 Witness : No.

16 HSGAC Majority : And why is that? Can you just walk us
17 through how that works, how you choose which tool to use?

18 Witness LES

19 LES You use your
20 naked eye and also your observation devices, whether it's
21 binoculars or spying scope, to observe an area.

22 HSGAC Majority : So in those moments when you're looking
23 towards AGR, you didn't observe anyone on the roof before
24 shots fired, you said?

25 Witness : No one on the roof.

1 HSGAC Majority : What did you observe around AGR, so on
2 the ground around the building?

3 Witness : I did notice local police moving around the
4 building. You know, it looked like they were looking for
5 something or someone.

6 HSGAC Majority : Roughly how many was it?

7 Witness : I saw at least a couple.

8 HSGAC Majority : Did they have their weapons drawn?

9 Witness : Yes.

10 HSGAC Majority : Were they running?

11 Witness : Jogging. Running.

12 HSGAC Majority : Did that fact, at least a couple of law
13 enforcement officers, weapons drawn, jogging or running,
14 did that raise concerns for you?

15 Witness : Yes, because of their movement. They were
16 looking for something. Something was raising their
17 suspicion.

18 HSGAC Majority : But you didn't relay any information
19 over the radio at that point either?

20 Witness : I did not.

21 HSGAC Majority : And why is that?

22 Witness : I was trying to continue focusing on the
23 building.

24 HSGAC Majority : When Hercules 2 C/S sent out his alert
25 about the three o'clock, locals working something, his

1 radio alert did not mention weapons drawn. Is that right?

2 [Witness] : No, it did not. It just said that they
3 were working something at the three o'clock.

4 [HSGAC Majority] : But you said the fact that the local
5 officers had their weapons drawn did raise concerns for
6 you. Is that not worth relaying over the radio, to let
7 other Secret Service personnel become aware of that?

8 [Witness] : I'm not the only one that's observing that
9 area. Someone else could've also put out the radio call.
10 I'm not just going to go ahead and, you know, just put it
11 on, just myself. There were other individuals.

12 [HSGAC Majority] : But why is it up to them and not you?
13 Can you explain that?

14 [Witness] : I know what I was doing, and I was
15 maintaining focus on the building, looking for something
16 that someone was raising suspicion about. So that's what I
17 kept on doing. The radio call went out about a suspicious
18 individual being, or something being worked at the three
19 o'clock, and then it's up to whoever else is receiving that
20 to take action.

21 [HSGAC Majority] : One of the reasons is because the shift
22 agents around the former President did not have the same
23 information that everyone else did, so they were not aware
24 of the suspicious person. You became aware of it through a
25 BOLO email from [C/S Team Lead], who became

1 aware of it through a text message. So the shift agents
2 were not aware of the suspicious person. They also did not
3 have the bird's-eye view that you had. And some of the
4 shift agents that we have spoken to said that they would've
5 taken different action if they had received more
6 information, potentially including taking the former
7 President off the stage.

8 So is that not something that you can relay down to
9 them, to let them know, "Hey, the officers at the three
10 o'clock have weapons drawn at this point"?

11 **Witness**: I can't speak for what they would've done,
12 receiving any radio call.

13 **HSGAC Majority**: Leaving aside what they would do with
14 the information you give them, you didn't feel that it was
15 your responsibility to relay to them what you were
16 observing?

17 **Witness Counsel**: I'm sorry, but again, I think you're
18 asking questions in hindsight. I would think that you'd
19 want to address his state of mind at the time of the
20 incident, into a rapidly evolving, volatile situation.
21 He's assessing a threat, and he has seconds to decide what
22 to do. So can you explain exactly your state of mind and
23 what you understood your mission was at that moment?

24 **Witness**: I had to be able to react for whatever came
25 next, which I did not know. Going ahead and being able to

1 speak about this, in this forum, and also in other forums,
2 that I've spoken about July 13th, by talking about it makes
3 it look like I had all the time in the world, my teammates
4 had all the time in the world to take action.

5 Within seconds of going ahead and identifying what was
6 going on, the shots were fired. You're already in one
7 state of thought of trying to figure out what's going on,
8 where is this individual that people keep talking about,
9 and then next thing you know a shot's ringing out.

10 So to go ahead and say, in this manner, in a peaceful
11 situation, that I had all the time in the world, I did not.
12 I don't know how much time I had. I wasn't staring at my
13 watch. I don't know how many seconds went by. But I know
14 when I was on that rooftop and I'm looking for a suspicious
15 individual, for whatever it may have been someone's on the
16 roof, seeing police moving around, I don't know what's
17 coming next and I don't know where it's coming from. Is
18 there someone on the roof or is there someone on the
19 ground? And all our attention is being directed in one
20 location. LES

21 LES

LES

22 HSGAC Majority : Understood, and I appreciate it. Before
23 shots were fired, were you made aware of anyone who was
24 armed?

25 Witness

: Civilian or law enforcement?

1 HSGAC Majority : Civilian.

2 Witness : No.

3 HSGAC Majority : At any point before shots were fired
4 were you aware of any discussions or deliberations about
5 potentially taking former President Trump off the stage?

6 Witness : Sorry. Say it again.

7 HSGAC Majority : Before shots were fired, were you made
8 aware of any discussions or deliberations among Secret
9 Service about potentially taking the former President off
10 the stage?

11 Witness : No.

12 HSGAC Majority : I'm going to hand you another document.
13 This is marked Exhibit 4. These pages are Bates 14820
14 through 14823. They're handwritten notes.

15 [Exhibit No. 4 was
16 marked for identification.]

17 HSGAC Majority : Did you take these notes?

18 Witness : I did.

19 HSGAC Majority : When exactly did you write these notes
20 down?

21 Witness : When?

22 HSGAC Majority : Yes.

23 Witness : It was after everything.

24 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall what day?

25 Witness : It was July 13th.

1 HSGAC Majority : Okay. So after the shooting but on that
2 day.

3 Witness : Right.

4 HSGAC Majority : I'd like to just first walk through the
5 notes, just so I understand what we're reading. Some of
6 the words have been redacted by the Secret Service and some
7 of them I'm having trouble reading. So if you don't mind
8 I'll just walk through what it says, and then we can ask
9 about the substance.

10 So first, on that first page, Bates 14820, about a
11 third of the way down it says, "At approximately" -- it's
12 hard to read that time. Is that 1815?

13 Witness : Correct.

14 HSGAC Majority : -- "I noticed people running at the
15 three o'clock position of the site." And by the way,
16 please correct me if I'm getting any of this wrong. "I
17 noticed that there were," and then that was redacted. Do
18 you know what that word or word is?

19 Witness : No.

20 HSGAC Majority : "I noticed that there were [blank] the
21 site and outside the site, moving to the buildings at the
22 three o'clock." Does that jog your memory about what's
23 under that redaction?

24 Witness : Yeah. They were focused on the area to the
25 three o'clock, the building.

1 HSGAC Majority : Sorry. Who was?

2 Witness : They was just talking about law enforcement
3 moving around there.

4 HSGAC Majority : Okay. So under that redaction is some
5 kind of reference to law enforcement, is your
6 understanding?

7 Witness : I guess. I don't remember.

8 HSGAC Majority : So you wrote, "Moving to the buildings
9 at the three o'clock." You had said earlier that you saw
10 local law enforcement moving in that area, right?

11 Witness : Yes.

12 HSGAC Majority : Right. Okay. The next page, Bates
13 14821 -- and again, please correct me if I get any of this
14 wrong -- "I and my teammates positioned ourselves to
15 observe that area that everyone was moving to. I noticed"
16 -- does that say noticed?

17 Witness : Noticed.

18 HSGAC Majority : -- "an individual, white male, white or
19 gray shirt" -- is that right?

20 Witness : Yeah.

21 HSGAC Majority : -- "low crawling" -- is that what that
22 says?

23 Witness : Correct.

24 HSGAC Majority : -- "low crawling on the roof. I noticed
25 an AR-style weapon in his hands. As I moved to observe

1 through my rifle scope I leaned" -- is that what that says
2 at the end?

3 Witness : Heard.

4 HSGAC Majority : Sorry?

5 Witness : "Observed through my rifle scope I heard."

6 HSGAC Majority : Oh, I heard. And then the next page, I
7 think it starts with "weapon."

8 Witness : Correct.

9 HSGAC Majority : And what's the next word?

10 Witness : Weapon fire.

11 HSGAC Majority : Oh, I see. Okay. So "As I moved to
12 observe through my rifle scope I heard weapon fire. I
13 immediately got a laser-rangefinder distance from my
14 weapon-mounted laser rangefinder." Is that right so far?

15 Witness : Correct.

16 HSGAC Majority : "I looked up to see my engagement scope,
17 looked back through the scope, observed the individual" --
18 what's that next word?

19 Witness : Shooting.

20 HSGAC Majority : -- "shooting, and engaged. At that
21 time" -- is that what that says?

22 Witness : Correct.

23 HSGAC Majority : -- "the shooter" -- and what's the next
24 word?

25 Witness : Dropped out.

1 HSGAC Majority : -- "dropped out of my sight." Sorry?

2 Witness : Sight.

3 HSGAC Majority : -- sight in the scope."

4 Witness : Correct.

5 HSGAC Majority : "I confirmed" -- and then what does that
6 say?

7 Witness : Continued.

8 HSGAC Majority : "I continued to" --

9 Witness : Observe.

10 HSGAC Majority : And what's the rest of that note say?

11 Witness : Observe the area as there were reports.

12 HSGAC Majority : And then Bates 14823, "of another
13 individual on another" -- what does that say there?

14 Witness : The water tower at the four o'clock.

15 HSGAC Majority : "On the water tower at the four
16 o'clock." I appreciate that. I know my handwriting is
17 worse than yours, so I appreciate that.

18 So in terms of the substance of these notes, you had
19 said, on Bates 14820, the first page, you saw people
20 running. So again, that's the local law enforcement
21 officers, you said maybe a couple of them with their
22 weapons drawn. Is that what that's referring to?

23 Witness : Correct.

24 HSGAC Majority : And then on the next page, 14821, you
25 said you saw the individual, who we now know is Mr. Crooks,

1 crawling. Does that mean you saw him crawling with a
2 weapon? Did you see him with a weapon at that point?

3 **Witness**: No. What I was trying to get at is when I
4 saw him he was on the peak of the roof, in his firing
5 position, and as soon as he was identified the shots went
6 out. I didn't have time to do any radio call or any other
7 action except to get on my gun and take action on my own.

8 **HSGAC Majority**: So you didn't see him until he was in
9 his position.

10 **Witness**: Correct.

11 **HSGAC Majority**: Okay.

12 **Witness**: In his position and basically at the moment
13 of firing. It sounds like an eternity, but basically as
14 soon as I saw him -- I don't know how long he was there.
15 But once I identified, then the shots went out.

16 **HSGAC Majority**: I see. So when you wrote "crawling,"
17 you didn't mean that in terms of he was actively
18 transporting anywhere. He was in position, static.

19 **Witness**: Yes, sir.

20 **HSGAC Majority**: I see. Thank you. And what was the
21 situation with the individual at the four o'clock?

22 **Witness**: Once everything semi-quieted down with
23 everything that happened with Mr. Crooks, we started
24 getting reports of someone on the water tower. So
25 immediately I went ahead and started to observe the water

1 tower to see if there was anybody on the water tower. And
2 I did not see anyone, so I went back to looking at the AGR.

3 HSGAC Majority : Sorry. This is after you fired and
4 neutralized Mr. Crooks?

5 Witness : Correct.

6 HSGAC Majority : Okay. So after you fired and
7 neutralized Mr. Crooks, then you looked towards the water
8 tower.

9 Witness : Correct.

10 HSGAC Majority : I see.

11 Witness : I continued to observe Mr. Crooks after I
12 took the shot to see if, you know, he may have came back
13 up. Once I noticed that he was down and wasn't coming back
14 into view of anywhere on the rooftop, we heard the reports
15 of someone being on the water tower. And that's when I
16 went ahead and looked at the water tower, saw there was no
17 one there, and went back to the AGR roof.

18 HSGAC Majority : Did you take any other notes that day or
19 since regarding this event?

20 Witness : No.

21 HSGAC Majority : Okay. So I'd like to ask more about the
22 events, you know, leading up and after shots were fired.

23 Agency Counsel : Excuse me, HSGAC Majority . I'm sorry. We're
24 past an hour. The ground rule is we get an hour.

25 HSGAC Majority : Oh, sure.

1 Agency Counsel : That's how you started off, and it's
2 past that. So this may be a good time. Like if you have
3 another, this line. But we're exceeding, and it's not
4 fair.

5 HSGAC Majority : Yeah, no, I appreciate it, Agency Counsel . I
6 think we can take a break.

7 PSI Minority : HSGAC Majority , no, real quick, stay on the
8 record. Bates 14820, does counsel from Secret Service know
9 what that redaction is?

10 Agency Counsel : I don't know. I don't have the
11 information right here.

12 PSI Minority : Could you please find that out for us?

13 Agency Counsel : It's redacted.

14 PSI Minority : Well, go back to Secret Service and
15 figure out what it is and unredact it.

16 Agency Counsel : We'll consider it.

17 PSI Minority : What's the justification for the
18 redaction? There's no justification on there. You guys
19 have not provided any justifications for any of the
20 redactions. You've just provided redactions. So if you're
21 going to consider it, and there is a legal justification
22 for the redaction, provide --

23 Agency Counsel : It's law enforcement sensitive
24 information at this point.

25 PSI Minority : We've gotten lots of law enforcement

1 sensitive information.

2 [REDACTED] Agency Counsel : I don't know what you want me to do at
3 this point. I don't have it right now.

4 [REDACTED] PSI Minority : If you're going to go back to it,
5 right, and you're not going to redact it, provide a reason
6 why it is redacted.

7 [REDACTED] Agency Counsel : Okay.

8 [REDACTED] PSI Minority : A legal reason why it is redacted.

9 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority : All right. We'll go off the record and
10 take a five-minute break. Thank you.

11 [Recess.]

12 [REDACTED] HSGAC Minority : [REDACTED] HSGAC Minority with Senator Rand Paul's
13 office. I think we can definitely agree that the actions
14 that were taken on July 13th, once he was identified as an
15 imminent threat, saved a lot of people's lives, so I
16 personally want to thank you for that.

17 [REDACTED] Witness : Thank you, sir.

18 [REDACTED] HSGAC Minority : And what I want to do is I want to
19 focus more on what led up to the shooting. So everything
20 I'm going to talk to is prior to 1811 hours of that day.
21 Could you kind of explain to us what the purpose and role
22 of the Secret Service Counter Sniper Team is?

23 [REDACTED] Witness : So our mission is to provide long-range
24 protection, to [REDACTED] LES yards. We observe an area, we
25 identify a threat, and then we communicate it. And then if

1 needed we use lethal force.

2 HSGAC Minority : So can you explain the counter sniper
3 advance process and what the purpose of that is?

4 Witness : So as a counter sniper advance technician,
5 their responsibility is to go out to a site or sites,
6 basically walk the footsteps of the protectee. So they
7 start from the LES point of the protectee and
8 identify any line-of-sight concerns. So if you want to
9 start with an LES

10 LES

11 LES everything that looks
12 at them, 360 degrees LES, we will identify
13 that, a Threat Survey, a comprehensive survey, LES

14 LES so

15 LES

16 LES we'll do the same

17 thing. If a protectee is in a building, like if he
18 would've come into this room LES, we would do
19 whatever we can to mitigate line-of-sight concerns. So
20 that's either LES

21 LES

22 LES .

23 HSGAC Minority : So either creating cover
24 concealment.

25 Witness : Correct.

1 HSGAC Minority : Either/or.

2 Witness : Yes, sir.

3 HSGAC Minority : In your experience, what's the main
4 cause in the failure of a Threat Survey security plan?

5 Witness : By people, I would say, basically for us,
6 if we're taken as a subject matter expert, so people come
7 to us to mitigate those line-of-sights. Anything that
8 could be a failure would basically be the non-mitigating of
9 those line-of-sight concerns.

10 HSGAC Minority : Human error?

11 Witness : Yes, sir.

12 HSGAC Minority : What's implemented to minimize the
13 human error in your process in advancing, whether it's
14 supervision or oversight scrutiny?

15 Witness : So we'll make recommendations to a site
16 agent, telling them what we --

17 HSGAC Minority : Specifically the counter sniper's
18 advance report, Threat Survey. What is there to, as
19 oversight or supervision, or do you put 100 percent trust
20 in the advance agent with no oversight?

21 Witness : So they will go ahead and create their
22 paperwork, the Logistics Report, the TAC Survey, and then
23 they'll forward it out back to D.C. And it's hard to look
24 at a piece of paper or read a piece of paper and identify
25 what are our concerns, because you don't have eyes on. So

1 it's difficult to really know what you're looking at.

2 HSGAC Minority: And I apologize if there's some
3 duplicity in my questioning of what our colleague did, but
4 please bear with me. Who selected the Counter Sniper Team
5 for July 13th event? Were you involved in the selection of
6 the team?

7 Witness: No. That was our Counter Sniper Operations
8 Section, the Scheduling Section.

9 HSGAC Minority: Who selected Officer-Technician
10 C/S Team Lead to be the counter sniper advance?

11 Witness: It would also be the Counter Sniper
12 Operations Scheduling Section.

13 HSGAC Minority: And how vital is the advance to the
14 execution of your operation plan?

15 Witness: Very vital.

16 HSGAC Minority: How much do you, and did you
17 specifically rely on that operation advance for the July
18 13th event?

19 Witness: I relied on it a lot.

20 HSGAC Minority: Have you ever worked other events where
21 Officer-Technician C/S Team Lead was the counter sniper
22 advance?

23 Witness: Yes.

24 HSGAC Minority: Did you ever identify or observe any
25 gaps in his ops plan or any issues to mitigate long-range

1 threats in any previous events that you worked with him?

2 [Witness] : No, sir.

3 [HSGAC Minority] : Am I understanding that you also
4 provide his performance reviews yearly?

5 [Witness] : Yes, sir.

6 [HSGAC Minority] : Did you know about the long-range
7 threat that was reported to being the reason why the
8 counter sniper team was sent on July 13th?

9 [Witness] : What long-range threat?

10 [HSGAC Minority] : The one that we were told yesterday at
11 testimony that the [DTD 2nd Sup.] had received and
12 disseminated to the site agents and the advance team.

13 [Witness] : I never received any intelligence prior to
14 arriving to Butler.

15 [HSGAC Minority] : If you had known that would that have
16 raised your, I guess, elevation of concern or, for lack of
17 a better term, threat posture, moving into your positions
18 and maybe taking a closer look at all the areas of
19 vulnerability, to ensure that all those are mitigated
20 properly?

21 [Witness] : I would've continued to do my mission as I
22 was trained.

23 [HSGAC Minority] : But if you were -- the reason I'm
24 asking is your experience is vast, so you've performed
25 multiple advances, I'm quite certain. Am I correct?

1 Witness : That's correct.

2 HSGAC Minority : So would that be something that you, as
3 an advance agent, would have took into consideration to
4 maybe give an extra layer of scrutiny to my operations
5 plan, to make sure that there are no gaps in that plan?

6 Witness : I would've conducted my Threat Survey as I
7 was trained, identifying the line-of-sight concerns, how to
8 mitigate them, and also relay that to my team.

9 HSGAC Minority : So you did not review the ops plan or
10 the security survey, the threat assessments. You've got
11 them to look over, but you're not looking as a supervisor
12 trying to find issues that may be wrong with that. Because
13 as you've testified, you're not on the scene. You don't do
14 the advance. You're relying on his work to operate the day
15 of the event. Correct?

16 Witness : Correct. Yes.

17 HSGAC Minority : Did you review or look at the local
18 Operations Plan?

19 Witness : No.

20 HSGAC Minority : In your experience as an advance agent,
21 have you done that in the past?

22 Witness : No.

23 HSGAC Minority : Can you explain why not?

24 Witness : It wasn't ever provided by the locals.

25 HSGAC Minority : In your experience, in the past, you

1 have never been provided an Operations Plan in 21 years --

2 [Witness] : By a local --

3 [HSGAC Minority] : -- by a local team?

4 [Witness] : No.

5 [HSGAC Minority] : So that's not something you would want
6 to know in advance.

7 [Witness] : They relay to us where they're going to be
8 working, what's their area of responsibility, but as far as
9 they're actually written Operations Plan, no.

10 [HSGAC Minority] : Okay. Officer-Technician [REDACTED]
11 [C/S Team Lead] testified that when, quote/unquote, "his team
12 arrived on July 13th they did a walk-through," and you
13 walked us through that there. He stated that they
14 "mitigated the AGR building by having the CS team" -- this
15 is his quote -- "being able to look at it. We would see
16 that there's potentially a human on top of it or a
17 potential sniper that could be harm to our protectee."

18 So my question is, was his statement accurate? Were
19 you, as Hercules 1 and Hercules 2, able to mitigate the
20 threat of a long-range sniper from the AGR roof?

21 [Witness] : Yes.

22 [HSGAC Minority] : So my question is, can you define
23 mitigation? And again, I understand at 1811 we eliminated
24 the threat. But mitigation is preventing or reducing the
25 threat. So you eliminated the threat at 1811. My question

1 is this. Was the Herc 1, Herc 2 properly positioned to
2 eliminate that line-of-sight issue?

3 **Witness**: So Hercules 1 and 2, we try to get as close
4 as we can to the protectee. Basically we would try to
5 stand on their shoulders. Of course, that is not going to
6 happen. So we try to get as close as we possibly can,
7 looking at everything that looks in on them. And then by
8 identifying any line-of-sight concerns, we will also work
9 with the locals and, you know, have them placed in
10 locations to help mitigate it. One of the teams that was
11 positioned was inside the AGR that would help mitigate the
12 rooftop in that area of the protective site.

13 **HSGAC Minority**: If they could've seen it. And we've
14 heard their testimony that they could not see the roof
15 where the individual was at. Understanding that's
16 information you have now, not that day.

17 **Witness**: Right.

18 **HSGAC Minority**: And I guess the questions I'm trying to
19 get to, because you said in your testimony just earlier
20 that Herc 2 was the primary responsibility of observing the
21 AGR building. Am I correct? And you were 12 to 6, 12 to
22 9?

23 **Witness**: Right. So we're all responsible for that
24 360-degree circle.

25 **HSGAC Minority**: Correct.

1 Witness : So because it's just a vast area, you don't
2 want all four technicians looking in one area at the same
3 time. So you split up the area of responsibility. So
4 myself and C/S Team Lead were positioned basically at the
5 nine o'clock position of the site, so we're covering 6 to 9
6 to 12, with an overlapping coverage to the other team,
7 which is on the right side or the three o'clock of the
8 site, covering from 12 to 3 to the 6, with overlapping
9 coverage.

10 HSGAC Minority : And in your testimony you said you
11 spent minimal time overlapping observation of the AGR
12 building because of Herc 2 being that primary --

13 Witness : Correct. That is in their primary area of
14 responsibility. I hate say area of responsibility. The
15 whole area is ours. However, they were primarily focused,
16 you know, situated, positioned on that side, and we were
17 positioned on the opposite side.

18 HSGAC Minority : You had to have a 360-degree awareness.
19 Correct?

20 Witness : Correct.

21 HSGAC Minority : And then you also stated that Herc 2
22 had limited visibility to the AGR building, that you
23 weren't aware of until you were up there. Am I correct on
24 that?

25 Witness : I didn't see -- I didn't go to their post

1 so I didn't know exactly what they could see or not see.

2 HSGAC Minority : As a lead advance, is that something
3 that you would, in your past, make sure that your team is
4 aware of those limitations before they take their post?

5 Witness : You will identify those. If there's a
6 line-of-sight concern you will let them know. But then, in
7 turn, you will also find something to mitigate that line-
8 of-sight, whether it's blocking vehicles, the curtains,
9 whatever it may be, additional local law enforcement to
10 cover a blind spot.

11 HSGAC Minority : So if you were one of those on Herc 2,
12 the last time you'll want to know that, or you would not
13 want to realize you have a line-of-sight issue when you get
14 on the roof. You would prefer that the lead advance give
15 you that information. Am I correct?

16 Witness : As a lead advance you should be giving us
17 information, but you're trying to get all the information
18 that you've been given, that you've obtained in the short
19 amount of time, you're trying to pass out as much as you
20 possibly can.

21 HSGAC Minority : Under testimony, Hercules 2 C/S
22 said that Hercules 2 never were made aware of any line-of-
23 sight issues until they actually took their post. Is that
24 surprising to you?

25 Witness : I --

1 Witness Counsel : The question is does it surprise you.

2 Witness : That they weren't told?

3 HSGAC Minority : Correct.

4 Witness Counsel : Assuming that they were not told.

5 Witness : No, because as a team leader, you're
6 working on that one site or multiple sites, and you're
7 trying to gather as much information as you possibly can
8 and disseminate that out to the site agent, to your teams,
9 and also to the lead, to help provide that long-range
10 protection. So if something was not communicated, it's
11 just a lot of information that he's trying to get out, and
12 remember that he's trying --

13 Witness Counsel : Okay. The question --

14 Witness : I'm trying to figure out how to say that.

15 Witness Counsel : No, you're good. The question is not
16 whether you are aware whether it was communicated or not.
17 The question is just assuming that they were not informed,
18 are you surprised. That's what the question is.

19 HSGAC Minority : Is that something that you, as a lead
20 advance agent, will let your team members know?

21 Witness : Yes, you try to let them know everything
22 that you possibly can.

23 HSGAC Minority : Just a quick question, to jump in. Did
24 you review C/S Team Lead transcript of his interview
25 with this Committee?

1 Witness : No. I haven't reviewed any of them.

2 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Were you briefed at all by any
3 individual on that transcript, or what he testified to this
4 Committee about?

5 Witness : No.

6 HSGAC Minority : No?

7 Witness : No. Sorry.

8 HSGAC Minority : And what about the other two counter
9 snipers that testified before this Committee?

10 Witness : No, ma'am.

11 HSGAC Minority : Okay.

12 HSGAC Minority : You spoke that the line-of-sight with
13 Herc 2 was going to be complemented by the oversight of
14 Hercules 1, and if I'm not mistaken, the LES which
15 was located within the horse barn area, around the pond, to
16 your nine o'clock --

17 Witness : Correct.

18 HSGAC Minority : -- ten o'clock. Is that a correct
19 statement? Is that correct, who was going to cover the AGR
20 roof area? Since Hercules 2 could not see it, the
21 responsibility would come upon Hercules 1 --

22 Witness Counsel : Hold on. You're good, but he's not aware
23 what Hercules 2 could see or not. That's an assumption.
24 You know, you're bringing facts into the case that he's not
25 aware of at the time. As I understand it, he doesn't know

1 what Hercules 2 is seeing or not.

2 Witness : Yeah.

3 Witness Counsel : If you're asking him whether he
4 understood that there were locals posted in the AGR
5 building, that's a good question.

6 HSGAC Minority : No, let me rephrase it then. I don't
7 want any confusion.

8 Witness Counsel : You should know the answer to that. I
9 mean, he should be able to give you an answer to that.

10 HSGAC Minority : Hercules 2 was primarily focused 12 to
11 3, 12 to 6.

12 Witness : Correct.

13 HSGAC Minority : Primarily, understanding 360-degree
14 totality.

15 Witness : Right.

16 HSGAC Minority : You were 12 to 9 --

17 Witness : Correct.

18 HSGAC Minority : -- 12 to 6. You said that you spent
19 minimal time there, looking at the AGR building.

20 Witness : Correct.

21 HSGAC Minority : So you were working under the -- and I
22 hate to use this word -- assumption that Hercules 2 could
23 accurately, I mean, equitably cover, or correctly cover the
24 AGR roof.

25 Witness : Correct.

1 HSGAC Minority : You had no reason to believe that they
2 could not.

3 Witness : Correct.

4 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Great. Sorry I stumbled through
5 that.

6 Witness Counsel : No, you're good.

7 HSGAC Minority : Glad we got that. You did know the
8 locations of local sniper teams. You did testify that you
9 knew where they were at. Correct?

10 Witness : Yes, I did.

11 HSGAC Minority : Do you know how far LES on the
12 horse barn, was to the AGR building, what was their range
13 distance? Do you know what that was, or can you take an
14 accurate or a close guess?

15 Witness : I never took a distance to find out how far
16 one team was from the other, no.

17 HSGAC Minority : What was your range distance?

18 Witness : From my post to the AGR?

19 HSGAC Minority : Mm-hmm.

20 Witness : At the time when I used my rangefinder it
21 was approximately 200 yards.

22 HSGAC Minority : So let's jump over to some
23 communications. Did you have prior experience in the
24 military --

25 Witness : Yes, sir.

1 HSGAC Minority : -- before you came on. What was your
2 role in the military?

3 Witness : I was a radio operator.

4 HSGAC Minority : So moving into that, what's the
5 inherent risk or issues by not co-locating with local law
6 enforcement? What communications issues does that create?

7 Witness : You don't have that seamless communication.

8 HSGAC Minority : How do you mitigate that or eliminate
9 that issue?

10 Witness : If you don't co-locate then you could just,
11 by cellphone or email you could communicate with each
12 other.

13 HSGAC Minority : So I think you testified earlier that
14 one of the primary roles of counter snipers is to observe
15 threats and provide timely, quick information out to the
16 other people. Am I correct on that?

17 Witness : That's correct.

18 HSGAC Minority : What's the quickest way to get
19 information out?

20 Witness : If everything is working in a perfect world
21 maybe a radio.

22 HSGAC Minority : Was your radio working properly that
23 day?

24 Witness : They were.

25 HSGAC Minority : Do you know if C/S Response stated

1 anything about his radio being not operational that day?

2 [Witness] : No.

3 [HSGAC Minority] : Are you aware of anyone's radios not
4 being operational that day?

5 [Witness] : I'm unaware of any.

6 [HSGAC Minority] : So the ones that you were working on,
7 whatever channel or radio system you were working on with
8 the counter sniper team was working correctly.

9 [Witness] : Correct.

10 [HSGAC Minority] : Are you aware that [C/S Team Lead]
11 did not pick up local radios that were provided to him by
12 local police?

13 [Witness] : I'm aware.

14 [HSGAC Minority] : Did you have an issue with that?

15 [Witness] : No, because we could've gone to secondary
16 communications, which is a phone or email. And in all my
17 years of being with the Counter Sniper Team and with the
18 Secret Service I've never been given a local's handheld
19 radio.

20 [HSGAC Minority] : And did you testify that this is the
21 first time you have not co-located, as well?

22 [Witness] : Yeah. I've not co-located with other local
23 agencies also.

24 [HSGAC Minority] : Okay. So this isn't the first time
25 you've not co-located, and in your practices you don't use

1 local police radios.

2 [Witness] : Correct.

3 [HSGAC Minority] : Can you see the benefit of that, if you
4 would have used those police radios that day?

5 [Witness] : I mean, if I had them it would've been
6 nice, but we had to move through the issue without having
7 them, or work the day without having the secondary radio or
8 their radios.

9 [HSGAC Minority] : I just want to introduce, I think it's
10 Exhibit 5, or 4.

11 [Exhibit No. 5 was
12 marked for identification.]

13 [HSGAC Minority] : Have you seen this email before?

14 [Witness] : Not that I remember. No, sir.

15 [HSGAC Minority] : So you don't know who this is to or
16 where it's from?

17 [Witness] : No.

18 [HSGAC Minority] : Okay. Because the part that I have
19 highlighted here says it came in July 12th, and it says
20 "the majority [blank] assets are local. I will organize to
21 grab one of the radios for the coms."

22 [Witness] : Okay.

23 [HSGAC Minority] : And it came from someone from the
24 Counter Sniper Team, but you're not on that distribution
25 list. Correct?

1 Witness : I don't remember the context of this email.
2 No, I don't remember getting it.

3 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Again, it's redacted so we don't
4 know really who it came from, so we'll move on from that.

5 Witness : On that same email, while we're looking
6 at it, above, on the highlighted portion, it says, I think
7 "Star, no," and then there's what I think is a whited-out
8 redaction, "asset for this visit." Do you know what that's
9 related to?

10 Witness : No, ma'am.

11 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Are you aware of any particular
12 asset that was not available on this visit? I would assume
13 this would be relevant to the counter snipers, given it's
14 an email thread with the counter snipers.

15 Witness : No, I'm not aware of any other asset that
16 would've been provided since I wasn't on the advance of the
17 detail. So I'm not sure what was provided and not
18 provided.

19 HSGAC Minority : Could it potentially be the
20 countersurveillance unit? Is that something that might be
21 relevant?

22 Witness : I don't want to assume what it could have
23 been. I don't know.

24 HSGAC Minority : Are there any assets that are typical to
25 former President protective events that were not there?

1 **Witness** : Well, when you're talking a former
2 protectee, former President, to a sitting President, the
3 assets provided are -- you know, it's totally different,
4 like night and day. You know, you're getting **LES**
5 **LES**
6 countersurveillance. You're getting the **LES**. As
7 a former, or even as a candidate, you're not getting --
8 normally candidates will not receive a **LES**
9 which is **LES**.

10 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay.

11 **HSGAC Minority** : Thank you. This is the first time, as
12 you testified, that you've done a former President of the
13 United States.

14 **Witness** : Correct. I've never had to work a former
15 President ever.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : And I think you've testified, but you
17 didn't have any radio communication with the local police.
18 It was all text, email being sent back and forth. Is that
19 correct?

20 **Witness** : Correct.

21 **HSGAC Minority** : Has that process changed any since July
22 13th? Have you all changed your protocol on communication
23 on-site?

24 **Witness** : I can't say because I just started working
25 back the full duty, so I missed the entire campaign. I

1 don't know.

2 HSGAC Minority : Would you like to see things changed in
3 communication then?

4 Witness : Oh, absolutely.

5 HSGAC Minority : You've got 20-some years' experience.
6 I think that's valuable.

7 So I'll just jump to my last questions here. What
8 changes do you think need specifically implemented to
9 ensure that July 13, 2024, 1811, does not ever happen
10 again?

11 Witness : Two things -- communications and no more
12 outdoor rallies.

13 HSGAC Minority : Good luck with one.

14 Witness : Yeah.

15 HSGAC Minority : I just have a couple quick questions.

16 Are you still C/S Team Lead or in his
17 chain of command?

18 Witness : Yes, ma'am.

19 HSGAC Minority : Have you given him a performance review
20 since the July 13th event?

21 Witness : Yes, I have.

22 HSGAC Minority : And can you tell me a little bit about
23 that performance review?

24 Witness : Just based off his performance for the last
25 year, you know, you're just talking about his performance

1 for the whole evaluation year, what he's done or, you know,
2 guidance on what to do later on, and trying to make him a
3 better advance technician or a counter sniper technician.

4 **HSGAC Minority** : Did that performance review include
5 feedback or critiques based on his advance work from July
6 13th?

7 **Witness** : I don't know if it did or not. I'd have to
8 look. I don't know.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : Do you recall about when -- I won't hold
10 you to a date --

11 **Witness Counsel** : Can I just intervene? Do you know what
12 the performance rating period was when you gave the rating?
13 Approximately when did you give the rating, do you know?

14 **Witness** : It was supposed to be at the end of July,
15 but then everything was extended to September/October.

16 **Witness Counsel** : Of this --

17 **Witness** : Of the year, because of the campaign.

18 **Witness Counsel** : Do you know when the annual performance
19 rating period started and ended, off the top of your head?

20 **Witness** : July to July.

21 **Witness Counsel** : Okay. And July 30th or July 1st?

22 **Witness** : Yeah, the 30th.

23 **Witness Counsel** : Or June 30th.

24 **Witness** : June 30th?

25 **Witness Counsel** : Yeah, so just so you understand, if the

1 performance rating period ended on June 30th it wouldn't
2 include any events of July 13th.

3 HSGAC Minority : Okay.

4 Witness Counsel : I mean, so let's get that straight.
5 That's all.

6 HSGAC Minority : Okay.

7 Witness Counsel : All right.

8 HSGAC Minority : Okay.

9 Witness Counsel : He was rated on his performance prior to
10 July 13th. Okay?

11 HSGAC Minority : For this last performance review.

12 Witness Counsel : All right?

13 HSGAC Minority : For his next performance review, which I
14 guess would cover July 13th, do you plan to review the
15 transcript which is publicly available of Officer
16 C/S Team Lead 's testimony to this Committee?

17 Witness : Once everything is done I will probably
18 review everything and just see what everybody else said
19 versus, you know, what I thought.

20 HSGAC Minority : I guess why when it's done? Why not
21 now? It's probably available.

22 Witness : I know. But I just want to go into this
23 with what I know and not go based off of what someone else
24 said. I have to testify based off of what I did, not
25 someone else.

1 HSGAC Minority : Well, I'm saying for his next
2 performance review, as his supervisor, because he testified
3 to this Committee about the advance work that he conducted.

4 Witness Counsel : That's September of 2025. I mean, that's
5 a long time from now.

6 HSGAC Minority : Sure. I don't know when it is, but I --

7 Witness Counsel : He's got to complete this testimony, and
8 there is more testimony perhaps before the Office of
9 Inspector General.

10 HSGAC Minority : But you plan --

11 Witness Counsel : There's testimony before his Internal
12 Affairs --

13 HSGAC Minority : -- you plan to read his transcript and
14 what he testified to this Committee too, about his actions
15 and his advance work prior to giving him his next --

16 Witness Counsel : Sometime next year.

17 HSGAC Minority : -- review.

18 Witness : Yeah. At some point I may read it, yes.

19 HSGAC Minority : Okay. I would encourage you to review
20 it, as his supervisor.

21 Witness : Yes, ma'am.

22 Witness Counsel : Thank you.

23 PSI Minority : Witness , my name is PSI Minority . I
24 work for PSI Minority . I want to begin by
25 echoing what my colleague said at the start of this round,

1 which is thanking you for what you did on July 13th, for
2 neutralizing the threat that day.

3 **Witness** : Thank you, sir.

4 **PSI Minority** : You mentioned earlier, I believe, that
5 you were aware that **C/S Team Lead** did not pick up the local
6 radios. Is that correct?

7 **Witness** : I am aware.

8 **PSI Minority** : How did you become aware of that?

9 **Witness** : If he had then he would've gave them out
10 early so he would've had one with him. When we arrived at
11 the site I did -- after we conducted the team walk-through
12 he said that he was going to meet with the locals, and I
13 went with him. And at no time was any local radio ever
14 discussed or provided to us.

15 **PSI Minority** : I'm going to turn to Exhibit 6, which
16 we will distribute to you in a moment.

17 [Exhibit No. 6 was

18 marked for identification.]

19 **PSI Minority** : This is the Pennsylvania State Police
20 report regarding the July 13th shooting. It's an 87-page
21 report, but I'm not going to ask you to read the whole
22 thing right now. Have you seen a copy of this report?

23 **Witness** : No. Any paperwork regarding this entire, I
24 have not reviewed.

25 **PSI Minority** : Okay. I'd just like to have you turn

1 to page 21.

2 **Witness** : Okay.

3 **PSI Minority** : And page 21 discusses the moments in
4 which you saw Crooks and the actions that you took. And
5 again, I'm not going to ask you to read it, but in case you
6 need to reference it to help you with your memory for my
7 next few questions, it's right in front of you.

8 But I just want to get an understanding of the moment-
9 by-moment actions that you took as you spotted Crooks on
10 the roof. Specifically, I'm trying to understand how much
11 time occurred between you seeing Mr. Crooks and then you
12 firing at Mr. Crooks. And you mentioned earlier that you
13 weren't looking at your watch during this. So I just want
14 to have you tell us and help us understand how instant, to
15 the extent that it was instant, you had to act after you
16 first saw him.

17 **Witness** : So once --

18 **Witness Counsel** : This is from the time you first observed
19 him.

20 **Witness** : Correct.

21 **Witness Counsel** : Okay.

22 **Witness** : So from when I first saw him, he fired, and
23 then I immediately, you know, pulled my binoculars down,
24 looked in my rifle scope, chambered a round, hit the button
25 on my rangefinder that's mounted to my rifle, got my

1 elevation adjustment, and sent the round, and then
2 chambered another live round just in case. Then it was at
3 that time, after firing, I noticed that Crooks was out of
4 line-of-sight, and I stayed there just in case he came back
5 up or he moved. I wanted to make sure that it was a
6 successful shot.

7 **PSI Minority** : And again, because obviously when you
8 tell us right now it sounds, you know, methodical that you
9 went through different steps. But can you just help us
10 understand how quickly all of that occurred.

11 **Witness** : I don't even know how to explain it. It's
12 one of those that you have to actually be on the gun and
13 ready to go. You know, we trained for, you know, target
14 identification, observing a target, identifying it as a
15 threat, not threat, and then, you know, taking the
16 necessary action that you need. So in all my years of
17 being on this team, just training constantly, and seeing
18 this event unfold in front of you for the first time, there
19 is no hesitation. You have got to take immediate action,
20 you know, not just to go ahead and neutralize a threat, but
21 you know, you're also, in the split seconds, you're
22 identifying that it is a threat, and then you also want to
23 make sure of, you know, what is behind that, you know, what
24 is behind your target, because you don't want anybody, an
25 innocent, getting shot. So what's beyond your target, is

1 it a threat, get your wind call, your distance, and then
2 send your shot.

3 **PSI Minority** : Would you testify today that you acted
4 within split seconds to neutralize the threat?

5 **Witness** : Yes.

6 **PSI Minority** : Did you communicate anything to **█**
7 **C/S Team Lead** at the moment that you identified the threat?

8 **Witness** : I think I said something that "I've got
9 him" or "I see him."

10 **PSI Minority** : And what did **C/S Team Lead** say to you,
11 if anything?

12 **Witness** : "Center. Send it." Gave my wind call.

13 **PSI Minority** : And that's typical?

14 **Witness** : In a perfect world, a center shot is, yeah,
15 no wind, you know, but normally, you know, as soon as you
16 get your distance, he's giving you your wind call for the
17 time that he sees for the way the wind is blowing, so you
18 don't want any delay. So as soon as you get your wind call
19 you want to the shot to go out, because that's what he's
20 seeing at that time. If I would've hesitated and the wind
21 would've shifted, that could cause a round to come off my
22 target.

23 **PSI Minority** : And I think you mentioned earlier that,
24 please correct me if I'm wrong, but did you at first see
25 Crooks with your naked eye and then you saw him in your

1 scope?

2 **Witness Counsel** : It was with the binoculars first.

3 **PSI Minority** : The binoculars and then to the scope.

4 **Witness** : Correct. Because once I identified, you
5 know, what was occurring in front of me, and then he
6 started taking shots, I had to drop my binos and get in the
7 rifle scope, and then get into position. So it took, you
8 know, I was in a kneeling position on the tripod, on a
9 pitched roof, to take my shot. So I had to get into
10 position and make sure I was stable to make sure I took an
11 accurate shot.

12 **PSI Minority** : By the time you put down the binoculars
13 and you began looking into your scope to see Mr. Crooks,
14 had Mr. Crooks already begun shooting, or was it so shortly
15 after the moment that you scoped him, essentially?

16 **Witness** : No. I remember the first shot, and then it
17 was the rapid succession of the next two shots, where I was
18 getting into position to get on him. And then that's when
19 I fired.

20 **PSI Minority** : Did you speak to the other counter
21 snipers in the Hercules 2 position following the events at
22 the July 13th rally?

23 **Witness** : When? Sorry. I mean --

24 **PSI Minority** : Sure. I'll clarify. Do you know who
25 the individuals were in the Hercules 2 position?

1 **Witness** : Oh yes, very well.

2 **PSI Minority** : Yeah. Who are they?

3 **Witness** : It's **Hercules 2 C/S 2** and **Hercules 2 C/S** .

4 **PSI Minority** : -- I'm sorry. **Hercules 2 C/S 2** ?

5 **Witness** : Excuse me. **Hercules 2 C/S 2** . Sorry.

6 **PSI Minority** : That's okay.

7 **Witness** : **Hercules 2 C/S 2** and **Hercules 2 C/S** .

8 **PSI Minority** : And following the events of July 13th,
9 did you speak to either one of them regarding what they
10 experienced that day?

11 **Witness** : No. Basically the only thing we've been
12 doing since July 13th is just kind of checking on each
13 other, morale checks, and making sure we're okay. Just get
14 them back to our families.

15 **PSI Minority** : And to follow up on what my colleague
16 was asking earlier, you have not read any of the
17 transcripts that have been made public from this --

18 **Witness** : No. I have not read any of them.

19 **PSI Minority** : Okay. **Hercules 2 C/S** told us that during
20 the -- as soon as Crooks opened fire he believed that he
21 and his partners had bullets that were being fired directly
22 towards them. Had you ever heard **Hercules 2 C/S** or
23 **Hercules 2 C/S 2** mention that to you?

24 **Witness** : Yeah, now that you -- I'm sorry. Just
25 trying to recall. They did say something about rounds, you

1 know, snapping by them, and I remember **Hercules 2 C/S 2** saying
2 that he heard a distinct round off his left side, which was
3 mine.

4 **PSI Minority** : Oh. So from your understanding, what
5 **Hercules 2 C/S 2** told you regarding rounds near him, it was your
6 understanding that that was actually your round that you
7 fired toward --

8 **Witness** : Well, it was multiple rounds, and
9 unfortunately it was, you know, rounds from Crooks and then
10 mine.

11 **PSI Minority** : What was your reaction to hearing that
12 they felt that in addition to your round that other rounds
13 fired by Crooks came towards them?

14 **Witness** It hit home. I mean, you had someone
15 trying to take the life of two, you know, teammates that
16 you're very close to, you know very well, you've worked
17 with on multiple details, you know, for years, and their
18 life would've been ended right there.

19 **PSI Minority** : Do you have any doubts that rounds were
20 fired directly toward the snipers in the Hercules 2
21 position?

22 **Witness** : For anything that happened that, it
23 wouldn't have surprised me. I mean, I don't know exactly
24 which way Crooks was pointing so I can't confirm whether he
25 was or not. But just to hear from my teammates that, you

1 know, the ballistic crack by their post, by their head, you
2 know, is believable.

3 [PSI Minority] : And as you recall the events of that
4 moment, did you ever feel that bullets were being fired
5 directly at you?

6 [Witness] : No.

7 [PSI Minority] : I want to go back to Exhibit 3. This
8 was the email that was shared earlier that contained
9 pictures of Mr. Crooks. It's Bates number 2965 through
10 2968. Do you have that in front of you?

11 [Witness] : Yes, sir.

12 [PSI Minority] : You testified earlier that you received
13 this email. Is that correct?

14 [Witness] : That's correct.

15 [PSI Minority] : When you received this email did you
16 discuss the contents of this email with [C/S Team Lead] ?

17 [Witness] : No. Being up on post and I was trying to
18 observe, prior to the protectee's arrival, I looked at what
19 the email was about, saw the photos, gained a mental
20 picture of who the individual was, and then went back to
21 work, put my phone away. I can't remember if [C/S Team Lead] and I
22 actually did talk about anything pertaining to it, you
23 know, so it's just a matter of just trying to get back on
24 problem, start looking around.

25 [PSI Minority] : In addition to this email, did you

1 receive any other emails or texts while you were in
2 position on July 13th?

3 **Witness** : No. This is the only one.

4 **PSI Minority** : And what about radio communications.

5 **Witness** : And --

6 **PSI Minority** : Sorry.

7 **Witness** : Correct. There was a First Lady detail in
8 the area, and we had to switch radio channels, so there was
9 an email that did go out.

10 **PSI Minority** : And why did you have to switch radio
11 channels?

12 **Witness** : Because the First Lady was in district, so
13 the channel that we were using for the former President's
14 detail or assignment was basically overlapping. So we had
15 to switch to another channel so we weren't taking up the
16 same channel.

17 **PSI Minority** : What time did that email occur?

18 **Witness** : I don't remember.

19 **PSI Minority** : Were you already in position?

20 **Witness** : I was already on post.

21 **PSI Minority** : And that was an email, you said?

22 **Witness** : Correct. If I remember correctly, I do
23 remember getting told, email or by voice, by **C/S Team Lead**, that we
24 had to switch channels due to the fact that the First Lady
25 was in district and we had to find something else to talk

1 on. And it was for everybody. It wasn't just for us. It
2 was overall.

3 [PSI Minority] : Do you remember who sent that email?

4 [Witness] No, sir. Not off the top of my head.

5 [PSI Minority] : Has anyone from DHS or Secret Service
6 instructed you not to speak with Congress?

7 [Witness] : No.

8 [PSI Minority] : I'm going to turn it over to my
9 colleague, [PSI Minority] .

10 [PSI Minority] : [Witness] , I'm [PSI Minority] again, with
11 [PSI Minority] . What time did you take up your
12 post on the barn on July 13th?

13 [Witness] : I can't remember the exact time. I know we
14 were delayed because the former President was supposed to
15 be at the site hours prior, and he was delayed getting into
16 Pittsburgh Airport, so we delayed our post. It may have
17 been -- I don't know off the top of my head, sir. I don't
18 remember.

19 [PSI Minority] : What time did former President Trump
20 arrive at the Butler rally?

21 [Witness] : I don't recall. I didn't look at my watch
22 when he arrived. I just know when we heard that he was
23 departing Pittsburgh Airport that it was going to be just
24 over an hour of travel time. So that's when we got up on
25 post.

1 PSI Minority : Did you observe a local law enforcement
2 officer take a shot at Crooks on the roof of the AGR
3 building?

4 Witness : No, sir.

5 PSI Minority : Did you hear a shot go off before you
6 fired your weapon?

7 Witness : No, sir.

8 PSI Minority : Did you speak with Butler ESU ph
9 1:52:12], Beaver ESU , or Beaver ESU before, during,
10 or after the assassination attempt?

11 Witness : I don't know if it was them. I did speak
12 to a local officer, but I don't know if it was them. I
13 don't recall who it was. The officer I spoke to was at the
14 horse arena.

15 PSI Minority : Were you able to communicate with these
16 officers positioned inside the AGR building on July 13th?

17 Witness : Only by phone or email.

18 PSI Minority : And at your post on the barn, can you
19 describe to us what other buildings or structures that may
20 have been of a concern that day?

21 Witness : There was AGR. There were two other
22 smaller buildings on the immediate grounds of the site.
23 There were some buildings at the 12 o'clock that appeared
24 to be across the streets. And then at the 9 to the 11
25 o'clock there were other barns. There was the horse stable

1 that the other local team was positioned in, and then
2 buildings beyond them. I don't know if it was barns or
3 sheds, but it was other structures. And then to the south,
4 even though it was not in the immediate vicinity or line-
5 of-sight of the stage, there were private residences in
6 which the motorcade was going to be passing, so we were
7 also watching that too.

8 **PSI Minority** : And on July 13th, did you observe any
9 other citizens on the rooftops of any structures outside
10 the security perimeter on that day?

11 **Witness** : No.

12 **PSI Minority** : I'm going to hand out two exhibits. This
13 will be Exhibits 7 and 8.

14 [Exhibits No. 7 and 8 were
15 marked for identification.]

16 [Pause.]

17 **PSI Minority** : So Exhibit 7 is a one-page with a larger
18 initial narrative that was authored by the Pennsylvania
19 State Police relating to the July 13th assassination
20 attempt. The case number is 2024-9248-98. If you could
21 please turn your attention to the highlighted section,
22 which I'll read now.

23 "Crooks' vehicle is captured on a mobile license plate
24 reader parked along Whitestown Road near the front of the
25 AGR office buildings. Crooks then enters the event grounds

1 and is seen near the vendor areas at approximately 1626
2 hours. Crooks was then observed at approximately 1645
3 hours, on the AGR grounds, outside of the event confines.
4 Both of these sightings were established through cellular
5 telephone camera footage attained from attendees of the
6 event. At approximately 1710 hours, [REDACTED] first observes
7 Crooks watching the event from just below his observation
8 window, and visually scanning the AGR building and windows.

9 "Crooks then traverses the AGR grounds on foot but
10 returns to the area directly from the BC ESU counter sniper
11 position, sits on the concrete wall, and begins utilizing
12 his cellphone. At approximately 1715 hours, [REDACTED] takes
13 several photographs of Crooks as he is stationary below his
14 observation window, and distributes the photographs to the
15 BC ESU command post and the other counter snipers on-site.
16 At approximately 1730 hours, [REDACTED] observes Crooks to
17 begin utilizing a laser rangefinder towards the venue area,
18 also relating this information to the BC ESU command post."

19 If we can turn to the next exhibit, Exhibit 8, this is
20 a text message from [REDACTED] [ph] to [REDACTED],
21 who is a local officer who is stationed inside of the
22 security perimeter on July 13th. In that text message from
23 July 13th, at 1715 hours, says, "Are you watching this guy
24 up against our building, long hair, gray t-shirt, white
25 shorts?" And then at 1716 hours, there is an edited text

1 message from [Butler ESU] that says, "he has a
2 rangefolder" which he changes to "he has a rangefinder."

3 [Witness], are you aware of the fact that at 5:16 p.m.,
4 [Butler ESU], who was stationed in the AGR building, saw
5 Crooks with a rangefinder?

6 [Witness]: I don't know who was positioned in the AGR
7 building.

8 [PSI Minority]: But is this news to you that at 5:16 p.m.
9 on July 13th, local law enforcement inside the AGR building
10 know Crooks has a rangefinder?

11 [Witness]: Just one second.

12 [Pause.]

13 [Witness]: It is new to me that at 1716 hours they had
14 him with a rangefinder, and I didn't receive any
15 information until maybe a half hour later.

16 [PSI Minority]: So this information is not in the
17 Pennsylvania State Police narrative that I read from in
18 Exhibit 7. Is that significant that at 5:16, local law
19 enforcement knew Crooks had a rangefinder?

20 [Witness]: Well, like I stated earlier, as a
21 rangefinder, it's just a magnified device, observation
22 device, that you can see something closer. The addition to
23 the capabilities of that device, you know, whether he was
24 using it or not, you know, I don't want to say this is what
25 he was doing. But, you know, a person could use this just

1 so they can see the protectee, you know, closer, you know,
2 especially with former President Trump speaking at the
3 Butler rally. To me it's just a device. Now if he had a
4 long gun at his feet with the rangefinder, yeah, that would
5 definitely raise a lot more suspicion at the time.

6 **PSI Minority** : Okay. So at 5:16 p.m., **Butler ESU**
7 texts a local officer inside the security perimeter that
8 this individual has a rangefinder. I think we've
9 established that former President Trump arrives at the
10 Butler rally right around 5:30-ish, approximately that
11 time. Would it have been helpful if local law enforcement
12 immediately reported this information in the 5:16 hours,
13 and spread it out to all their personnel, as well, and get
14 it up the chain of command?

15 **Witness** : Yes. As soon as they had something that
16 they were deeming suspicious it would've been nice to have
17 it then versus waiting.

18 **PSI Minority** : Did Thomas Crooks attempt to enter the
19 security perimeter of the July 13th rally?

20 **Witness** : I don't know.

21 **PSI Minority** : Did Thomas Crooks act alone?

22 **Witness** : I do not know.

23 **PSI Minority** : Did you speak with the Pennsylvania State
24 Police on July 13th?

25 **Witness** : No.

1 **PSI Minority** : Were you aware that the Pennsylvania
2 State Police had vice units or plain-clothes officers at
3 and around the Butler rally on July 13th?

4 **Witness** : I mean, I would assume that they would be
5 there, just because it's a protective site.

6 PSI Minority : And what we're aware of, at least two
7 Pennsylvania State Police plain-clothes officers, Trooper
8 PSP Trooper and Trooper PSP Trooper, PSP Trooper . Witness , were
9 you aware that Pennsylvania state plain-clothes officers
10 were dispatched from their position at the Sheetz gas
11 station on Meridian Road to go find Mr. Crooks?

12 **Witness** : No .

13 **PSI Minority** : I'm going to mark the next two exhibits,
14 Exhibits 9 and 10.

15 [Exhibits No. 9 and 10 were
16 marked for identification.]

17 PSI Minority : So Exhibit 9 is an image from security
18 footage from the Sheetz gas station that the Committee
19 obtained, and the two individuals in the image are the two
20 undercover Pennsylvania State Police plain-clothes officers
21 that were stationed at the Sheetz gas station on July 13th.
22 This image is from 5:49 p.m. on July 13th, and they are
23 looking out across Meridian towards the AGR buildings. Do
24 you recognize these individuals?

25 **Witness** : No .

1 PSI Minority : Exhibit 10 is another still shot from
2 those security cameras at the Sheetz gas station, and this
3 one is at 5:51, and this is where PSP Trooper and
4 PSP Trooper leave the Sheetz position and end up walking
5 to the AGR building. We haven't spoken to PSP Trooper
6 or PSP Trooper, why they decided to walk from that position to
7 the AGR building on that day. They had vehicles. Their
8 vehicles are in that line of vehicles in the parking lot
9 there.

10 So once again, you don't recognize these two
11 individuals

12 Witness : No, sir.

13 PSI Minority : So they end up going from the Sheetz down
14 Meridian Road to the AGR buildings in an attempt to find
15 Crooks. Would it have been helpful to you and your
16 teammates and other members of the Secret Service if you
17 could've directly communicated with these individuals
18 outside the perimeter on the day of July 13th?

19 Witness : We normally don't go ahead and communicate
20 to all the entities. We have our Command Post, which is a
21 central location for coms, where one person or
22 representative from each entity will be positioned in
23 there. If we see something, then we pass it off to the
24 Security Room. The Security Room would then pass it off to
25 all their counterparts that are in there, and then it would

1 get disseminated on their own radio channels. So to
2 actually directly communicate with these individuals, we'd
3 have to end up having a bunch of radios in our hand, and it
4 gets cumbersome. So just by communicating to the Security
5 Room, or if someone in the Security Room were to know about
6 this they could disseminate that information.

7 **PSI Minority** : And I know you've testified that you
8 weren't aware that Pennsylvania State Police had plain-
9 clothes officers at the Sheetz on Meridian Road on July
10 13th. But being a law enforcement official, can you speak
11 to us about why they would position undercovers at that
12 location? You know, now, being a Monday morning
13 quarterback, being at the AGR grounds obviously would've
14 been maybe more helpful.

15 **Witness** : Correct. Yeah. I don't know why they
16 would be at the Sheetz. You know, to be actually at the
17 site, roaming and blending in with the rest of the crowd
18 would be better. But I don't know why they would be at the
19 Sheetz.

20 **PSI Minority** : So these two individuals with the
21 Pennsylvania State Police end up on the AGR grounds. It's
22 unknown whether they had an ability to stop Thomas Crooks
23 before he climbs up onto the AGR building. As I've said,
24 we haven't spoken to these two individuals. But it's
25 pretty close. We believe they ended up on the side of the

1 AGR building where the alcove is, where he jumps up from
2 the A/C unit onto the building, right near when shots are
3 fired. But they are sent out to find Crooks.

4 Do you know if there were any Secret Service employees
5 that were on the AGR grounds before shots were fired?

6 **Witness** : I am unaware of any Secret Service
7 employees.

8 **PSI Minority** : Today Acting Director Rowe testified to
9 the Task Force, and he continued to take responsibility for
10 what occurred on July 13th. Did the Pennsylvania State
11 Police fail on July 13th?

12 **Witness** : Could you just repeat the question? I
13 didn't hear that.

14 **PSI Minority** : Did the Pennsylvania State Police fail on
15 July 13th?

16 **Witness Counsel** : Could we take a short break? How's that.
17 And we'll be right back.

18 **PSI Minority** : Off the record.

19 [Recess.]

20 **PSI Minority** : All right. It's 3:38 and we'll go back
21 on the record. **Witness** , I have a couple more questions
22 before I turn it over to my colleagues.

23 We left off with the question, did the Pennsylvania
24 State Police fail on July 13th.

25 **Witness** : I don't know what their mission was, to say

1 they succeeded or failed. I can't be the interpreter of
2 that.

3 **PSI Minority** : Did local law enforcement, Butler ESU,
4 fail on July 13th?

5 **Witness** : Yeah. Yes.

6 **PSI Minority** : How?

7 **Witness** : From my understanding, they were going to
8 be positioned at the second floor of the AGR building and
9 providing an overwatch of the rooftops and area that was
10 outside the venue. If someone was able to get on the roof,
11 such as Mr. Crooks did, and they were able to be in that
12 position and overwatch that rooftop, they should have been
13 able to call it out, mitigate it, and stop it before
14 anything happened, to include me taking a shot.

15 And I'd like to add, you know, we've been around for
16 53 years, the Counter Sniper Team. For 53 years we have
17 conducted these protective advances, whether it's POTUS,
18 VPOTUS, foreign dignitaries, whoever it may be, to include
19 NSSEs, like when we do the State of the Union here, on the
20 grounds. You know, we build a comprehensive plan, and we
21 work with our local partners, federal, state, and local, to
22 go ahead and make this plan for everybody to be safe.

23 If one of the chains in that protective circle fails,
24 the entire thing fails. So Pennsylvania State, Butler,
25 everybody was part of that protective circle on that day.

1 We knew, and everybody knew, what our mission was, what to
2 do, and if someone fails to do it, it's going to end up
3 having, you know, the consequence of what I had to do.
4 None of us on the Counter Sniper Team want to actually have
5 to pull a trigger. We know it could happen one day. And
6 unfortunately, on July 13th, it ended up me actually taking
7 that shot, something I never thought I would have to do,
8 nor anybody else on this team.

9 So for me to turn around and say did Butler actually
10 fail, yes. You were supposed to watch an area of concern.
11 Whether you thought it was a concern or not, you were
12 supposed to watch an area, to help provide protection to
13 the protectee, and not just to the protectee but to all the
14 people who are attending that venue on that day.

15 **PSI Minority**: Who told you that local CS would cover
16 the AGR roof?

17 **Witness**: So when we receive the walk-through by **█**
18 **C/S Team Lead** we knew that the local Butler teams would be in
19 the horse arena and also in the AGR building, second floor.

20 **PSI Minority**: One more question and then I'll turn it
21 over to my colleagues. What time did you leave the Butler
22 rally site on July 13th?

23 **Witness**: I don't know. Once we got our next
24 marching orders to head to Pittsburgh Airport for the
25 departure, that's when we left.

1 **PSI Minority** : So you never went over to the AGR
2 property.

3 **Witness** : No. I stayed on grounds, just in case
4 someone needed to talk to me. I let **C/S Team Lead** do his
5 job as the TL, to find out what was next, and then we went
6 to the Pittsburgh Airport for departure.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : I want to follow up on one of my
8 colleagues' questions, in response to a question about
9 what, in your experience, you felt needed to change. One
10 of the two responses you gave was communications. Can you
11 elaborate on your view of what about the communications
12 aspect with Secret Service needs to change.

13 **Witness** : The biggest thing would just be the co-
14 located communications or command center, with every entity
15 being in there, whether it's fire or law enforcement.
16 Everybody is in there at one time, receiving information as
17 it comes through, not, you know, going to one
18 communications center and then going to another one.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Current practice is radios are the primary
20 source of communication. Secondary sources could be phone,
21 text, et cetera. Anything related to that, that you
22 believe should change?

23 **Witness** : No.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : Currently with respect to the Counter
25 Sniper Team, as you described it, it's generally, and it

1 was on July 13th, four individuals, working in teams, each
2 individual with the same areas of responsibility, whether
3 that be visual, identifying threats, addressing threats.
4 With respect to that, anything about that structure that
5 you believe should change?

6 **Witness** : No. So each site is particular as far as
7 it could be one team, two teams, three teams. It's all
8 based on, you know, the team availability and how many
9 teams it would take to work that site.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : With respect to counter snipers having
11 identical responsibilities, obviously ideal and actual
12 world circumstances don't always overlap. But in your view
13 would it improve operations to have an individual, whether
14 that's an additional individual on the CS team, or one of
15 the CS team members whose primary responsibility is
16 communications?

17 **Witness** : No, because we know that, in our training,
18 that we also do the communications also.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : With respect to the second recommendation
20 you made, outdoor events, can you elaborate on what
21 prompted that recommendation, in your view?

22 **Witness** : To put it bluntly, outdoor rallies are a
23 nightmare. You know, you have vast amount of space, out to
24 **LES** yards and well beyond. You know, you look at an area
25 such as New York City. When a protectee steps out of the

1 motorcade, out of the limo, you have hundreds, if not
2 thousands, of windows looking at you, to include rooftops.
3 You know, that's a nightmare. And you may only have two
4 teams, or even if you had a lot more teams than that, just
5 to cover all these windows and rooftops, you know, it's
6 crazy. It's a lot of work.

7 But to have a protectee arrive underground, no line-
8 of-sight concerns, to speak inside a venue where there's no
9 line-of-sight concerns, that's a lot better. You know,
10 your lone gunman or even your assault, your attack,
11 coordinated attack, it would be harder. You would be able
12 to harden the individual inside that building without being
13 exposed to anything outside, before whatever was mitigated
14 was taken down, and then extract or evac the protectee.

15 HSGAC Majority : In your experience, multiple decades now,
16 is your job harder with the technology and availability of
17 firearms in the public over the last two decades, both the
18 type of firearm that's available and the number of
19 firearms?

20 Witness : It makes it challenging.

21 HSGAC Majority : More challenging, in your view, today than
22 when you started?

23 Witness : No. It was even challenging when I first
24 came on, you know.

25 HSGAC Majority : Why, with respect to your answer just now,

1 does that challenge not differ, in your view, with the
2 advance and the number and availability of guns that I
3 described?

4 **Witness** : Because of the vast amount of weapon
5 systems that are out there, you know, especially the long
6 guns, the rifles, it's not just the weapon system. The
7 weapon system by itself is one thing, but it's actually
8 taking the motivation of the individual that owns that
9 weapon, the intent, you know, the two things that they need
10 to do that harm. So they need the motivation and the
11 intent to actually do the harm.

12 Mr. Crooks that day, and I don't want to speak for
13 him, but he could've been at home and just enjoying his
14 day. Instead, he had the motivation and intent to take a
15 weapon system and utilize it for violence. And if I'm
16 understanding correctly, from what I have heard, he was at
17 the range on Friday. Well, that is perfectly okay, to go
18 to the range and just shoot targets and not harm anybody.
19 But to do what he did the next day, there's your motivation
20 and intent.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : Bringing you back to that day -- last
22 question and then I'll turn it over to my colleague -- as
23 you're scanning and looking at the 12 o'clock to the 9
24 o'clock, primarily that area would cover the crowd in front
25 of the protectee. Correct?

1 **Witness** : No. The actual area in front of the
2 protectee for the crowd would be basically the 12 o'clock
3 position in front of the podium.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. Focusing just then on that 12
5 o'clock, looking out at the crowd that day, did you observe
6 any other concerning activity?

7 **Witness** : None. Not that I remember.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : Getting more specific now, perhaps
9 "concerning" is the wrong word, did you observe any medical
10 emergencies that day?

11 **Witness** : I heard medical emergencies on the radio.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : Did you observe any fights in the crowd?

13 **Witness** : No, sir. No.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : Did you observe any running or crowd
15 dispersement or anything, again, prior to 6:11?

16 **Witness** : No, sir.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : Sergeant-Technician, thank you again for
18 your patience and bearing with us. I just have some
19 follow-up questions. Apologize as I'm going to kind of
20 bounce around a little bit. I just want to make sure we
21 wrap up and understand and we're clear on all the topics
22 we've covered.

23 Going back to, so the moments of shots fired and the
24 immediate moments preceding that, you said -- these were in
25 your handwritten notes -- you had said that when you looked

1 toward the AGR you saw the person who was a white male
2 wearing a gray shirt. And I know you said earlier that
3 everything happened incredibly fast. Did it at all cross
4 your mind that that description matched the person who was
5 in the BOLO, or did it not matter at that point because
6 you're focusing on an immediate threat on a roof.

7 **Witness** : It wasn't until much later that I realized
8 that that was the individual that matched --

9 **Witness Counsel** : Answer his question. Repeat the question
10 one more time, if you don't mind.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : Sure.

12 **Witness Counsel** : Just listen to the question, and you're
13 fine.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : When you saw the person on the roof who
15 was a white male, white or gray shirt, did it cross your
16 mind at that point that that matched the description of the
17 person who was in the BOLO, or were you just focusing on
18 what was apparently a potential threat in that moment.

19 **Witness** : I was focused on what was going on at that
20 time.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And you said -- again, apologies
22 if I recover some ground here. I just want to make sure
23 I'm clear. You said you saw Mr. Crooks before he started
24 firing, right?

25 **Witness** : He was on the roof. As soon as I -- I

1 don't know.

2 **Witness Counsel** : I don't believe that was his testimony.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Oh, okay. Okay. Then let's clarify.

4 So can you give us the timeline of what you saw and when,
5 versus when he started firing? So did you see him, either
6 through your binoculars or your scope, before he started
7 firing, or not?

8 **Witness** : No. I did not see him through naked eye
9 or binos prior to him shooting.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : So I'm just looking back at Exhibit 4, I
11 believe it's Exhibit 4, your handwritten notes. And
12 correct me if I'm wrong. Let's make sure I understand what
13 you were saying in these notes. In Bates 14821, which
14 should be the second page, you noticed an individual, white
15 male, white or gray shirt, low crawling on the roof. "I
16 noticed an AR-style weapon in his hands. As I moved to
17 observe through my rifle scope I heard weapon fire."

18 So when you say that's when you heard the weapon fire,
19 was that not the first shot that he took off? Because my
20 reading, and please correct me if I'm wrong, my reading of
21 this is that you saw an individual on the roof with an AR-
22 style weapon, and as you moved to observe through your
23 rifle scope, that's when he started firing. Is that not
24 right?

25 **Witness** : I didn't observe the individual -- and I

1 apologize if my notes were off -- I observed the individual
2 after he started shooting. Because I was looking on the
3 rooftop, trying to find an individual, on whatever rooftop.
4 It wasn't until he began to fire that it actually directed
5 me to where he was, on his position, and that's when I saw
6 where he was.

7 HSGAC Majority : I see. Okay. Thank you for that.

8 Witness : And when I wrote those notes it was, I
9 don't want to say shortly after but it was after I got off
10 the roof and I was trying to hurry up, and, you know, in
11 the heat of everything. Sorry.

12 HSGAC Majority : That's fine. Yeah, no, totally
13 understood, and I appreciate that. So at the top of 14822,
14 when you say you heard weapon fire, that must not have been
15 the first shot that he took off. If you wrote this
16 sequentially, in other words, "I saw an individual, white
17 male, white or gray shirt, on the roof, I noticed an AR-
18 style weapon in his hands. As I moved to observe through
19 my rifle scope I heard him fire." That must not have been
20 the first shot he took, because you're saying that he --

21 Witness : I was just trying to get all my thoughts on
22 paper.

23 HSGAC Majority : Understood.

24 Witness : As far as being in chronological order, I
25 was probably way off. I was just trying to get it on paper

1 for recollection later on. I just know that I didn't know
2 his exact pinpoint location on the rooftop until he began
3 to fire.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Understood. I appreciate it. Do you
5 recall how many shots he got off before you saw him?

6 **Witness** : As soon as I heard the first shot I was
7 getting into position to do what I needed to.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And again, walk us through the
9 thought process and how radioing works. This might be more
10 of a technical question about how the radios work. So
11 similar to my question earlier about whether you could've
12 radioed when you saw local law enforcement running, in that
13 moment, again, knowing, like you said, it was an incredibly
14 tense and fast situation and obviously an imminent threat,
15 did you have the technical capability to radio at that
16 moment, when you see him firing, or were your hands
17 occupied on your weapon and therefore you couldn't operate
18 your radio?

19 **Witness** : I was holding my binoculars when I was
20 trying to observe and trying to find the individual, or an
21 individual.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. After shots had started firing.

23 **Witness** : No. After he started firing I dropped my
24 binos and got into my scope.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And then everything happened

1 fast, and that's why you didn't radio at that point. Once
2 you'd seen him on the roof it wouldn't have made sense to
3 radio at that point. You were just focused on neutralizing
4 the threat. Is that right?

5 **Witness** : If I went ahead and got on my radio to put
6 the call out it's just going to delay my action more. So
7 my immediate reaction was to get on the weapon to
8 neutralize a threat that was shooting.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Yeah, understood. Would a hands-free
10 radio have been a help there? If you're at your weapon
11 with both hands, able to communicate hands-free, would that
12 have been something that you could've utilized, to notify,
13 you know, what's happening, what you're seeing?

14 **Witness** : I mean, being the shooter, my job is to
15 neutralize a threat.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Understood. Do you recall the timeline
17 in terms of the shots? So Mr. Crooks fired a total of
18 eight shots. If you went to your scope, I think you said a
19 couple of shots went off and then you went to your scope.
20 Is that right?

21 **Witness** : Okay.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Does that sound right?

23 **Witness** : I know I reacted on the first shot. But
24 then there was -- go ahead.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : So do you know what happened in the

1 remaining time? So it would be six shots, six additional
2 shots. If he got off two shots and you started going to
3 your scope, the additional six shots he took off, that's
4 when you were going to your weapon, going to your scope,
5 getting the rangefinder reading, and getting your wind read
6 from your partner. Is that right?

7 **Witness** : Correct. So I was putting my binos, you
8 know, dropping my binos, getting into position, look
9 through the scope, get my distance, you know, adjust for
10 the elevation, get my wind call, which was immediate, and
11 then sent the round.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : And can you put in the timeline, if you
13 can, put in the timeline of the eight shots when you said
14 to **C/S Team Lead** , "I got him." Do you recall, you
15 know, after how many shots first went off that you were
16 able to say that?

17 **Witness** : No.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. Do you recall how many shots, if
19 any, Crooks got off after you had him in your scope?

20 **Witness** : I know of at least one.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : At least one. Okay.

22 **Witness** : And then it was just me focusing on what I
23 needed to do.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : So you are the only Secret Service
25 counter sniper that we have spoken to so far who ever saw

1 Mr. Crooks before you neutralized him. Without
2 speculating, if you know, do you know why that is? I mean,
3 why did you know to look there? How were you able to find
4 him when the other three -- I understand that Hercules 2
5 had an obstructed view, but did you just happen to know
6 whether [REDACTED] C/S Team Lead [REDACTED] was looking somewhere else at the
7 time, or any insight you can provide on that?

8 [REDACTED] Witness [REDACTED] : I don't know why I was the only one.

9 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority [REDACTED] : What did you see after you fired?

10 [REDACTED] Witness [REDACTED] : So after I took the shot I continued to
11 observe where Mr. Crooks was located, see if I needed to do
12 a follow-up shot, see if he would've popped back up. And
13 then that's when we started getting calls about someone on
14 the water tower. I got off my rifle, put it on safe -- put
15 it on safe, got off my rifle, started looking at the water
16 tower to see if I could see anybody. I didn't see anybody.
17 When I got back onto my rifle I noticed local law
18 enforcement, what appeared to be local law enforcement, a
19 TAC team, was on the rooftop.

20 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority [REDACTED] : And sorry. Backing up, right after you
21 fired, did you see the reaction? In other words, was it
22 your understanding that you hit him?

23 [REDACTED] Witness [REDACTED] : It was my understanding that I hit him and
24 he slid out of view.

25 [REDACTED] HSGAC Majority [REDACTED] : Sorry. Say that again.

1 **Witness** : He slid -- slid away.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : **C/S Team Lead** told us that around
3 this time, at some point after Mr. Crooks started firing,
4 he was sprayed with what he later determined was a
5 hydraulic liquid. The hydraulic lift had been hit by
6 bullets from Mr. Crooks and sprayed him and his weapon. Do
7 you recall that happening to you? Were you affected by
8 that?

9 **Witness** : I didn't -- we noticed well after the
10 shooting that the left side of my rifle was covered with
11 some kind of droplets, and that it wasn't identified until
12 much later when I was meeting with Pennsylvania State
13 Police forensics and FBI forensics that it was actually
14 hydraulic fluid from a round that impacted the hydraulic
15 line.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : So you noticed it on your rifle
17 afterwards. Do you recall it happening in the moment?

18 **Witness** : No.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. So you don't think that affected
20 your ability to either see Crooks or take an accurate shot?

21 **Witness** : No.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : You told our colleague earlier that you
23 didn't observe a local law enforcement officer fire at
24 Crooks. Is that right?

25 **Witness** : That's correct.

1 HSGAC Majority : Did you observe Crooks have any kind of
2 reactions, such as a flinch or slump over before you fired?

3 Witness : No.

4 HSGAC Majority : Did he duck down at all before you
5 fired?

6 Witness : Not from what I saw.

7 HSGAC Majority : So do you have any insights -- so it's
8 understanding that a local officer did fire at Crooks from
9 the ground. This local officer was on the ground, near the
10 stage, and fired at Mr. Crooks. Do you have any insight on
11 whether that had any effect on your ability to neutralize
12 Mr. Crooks?

13 Witness : No. I mean, I know what I had to do,
14 seeing the threat.

15 HSGAC Majority : Did a call go out over the radio
16 regarding "shooter down"?

17 Witness : Not that I remember.

18 HSGAC Majority : Who would call that? Could anyone call
19 that if they can possibly identify that the shooter is
20 down, or was that something that only a Hercules team
21 member would usually call?

22 Witness : I know in training if you hit the target,
23 the target goes down, and you'll say "target down." But,
24 you know, I don't remember anybody saying anything on the
25 radio regarding, you know, threat's down, threat's

1 neutralized.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : Regarding communications, our
3 understanding is that Secret Service that day used a couple
4 different radio frequencies, **LES** and **LES** Did you have
5 access to both?

6 **Witness** : Yes, I did.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : You also said that you didn't exchange
8 radios with locals, that that's just not something that you
9 do as your normal course of business, right?

10 **Witness** : In all my years I've never exchanged with a
11 local law enforcement.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : Is there a protocol for getting in touch
13 with the locals? So in this case, for example, the snipers
14 in AGR, if you needed to get in touch with them was there a
15 protocol in place?

16 **Witness** : Just by the means that has been talked
17 about, just cellphone or emails or text messages.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : Yeah. And we had entered into evidence
19 the text between the locals, and then the locals texted
20 **C/S Team Lead** , and then **C/S Team Lead** emailed you
21 and the other two counter snipers. Have you ever been at
22 an event where there's a more coordinated communication,
23 whether it's an email chain or a text chain, with the
24 locals altogether, as opposed to that kind of game of
25 telephone?

1 **Witness** : Not that I remember, no.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you think that would be helpful?

3 **Witness** : I mean, any kind of communications at any
4 level would be great.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Are you aware of anyone else in Secret
6 Service that day who had a direct line of communication
7 with state or local law enforcement?

8 **Witness** : No. Maybe just the Command Post, but other
9 than that, no.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : Did you have any other difficulties or
11 challenges that day communicating?

12 **Witness** : I did not have any difficulty.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : We've heard from some of the other
14 counter snipers that they sometimes had difficulties with
15 their radios in terms of which direction they're oriented
16 and pointing. Like if they're pointing towards the ground
17 they might not have as good service or effectiveness. Have
18 you ever had that problem?

19 **Witness** : On other details I have, but not that day.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : What's the issue there?

21 [Laughter.]

22 **Witness** : I have no clue.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : Well, how much does it impede your
24 ability to communicate?

25 **Witness** : Well, if you're not able to communicate

1 when you key up the radio you can't get out your, you know,
2 your necessary communications, whether it's, you know, like
3 an immediate threat or, you know, whatever else.

4 HSGAC Majority : Does it happen often?

5 Witness : It can. It just depends. Maybe bigger
6 details. But I have experienced where you key up your
7 radio and it fails to transmit.

8 HSGAC Majority : We've also heard that there's sometimes
9 difficulties with the radios transmitting if you're in too
10 close proximity to your partner. Have you had that
11 problem?

12 Witness : I have.

13 HSGAC Majority : Did you have that problem that day?

14 Witness : No.

15 HSGAC Majority : And same question about the orientation.
16 Does that other problem happen often?

17 Witness : Some days, you know, it depends on the day,
18 I guess you could say. I mean, sometimes it happens.
19 Sometimes it doesn't.

20 HSGAC Majority : You mentioned that rangefinders are not
21 unheard of in your experience at these events, and you even
22 mentioned rifle scopes, that attendees can bring them, and
23 they use them to sight -- you know, they have better view
24 of the speaker, et cetera, and as long as they're not
25 attached to a weapon they're not an immediate -- yeah, go

1 ahead.

2 **Witness** : Well, outside of the venue. So I don't
3 want to say inside the venue, totally different. When
4 you're inside a venue you're screened, you're cleared,
5 you're not bringing anything in that's crazy. Outside of
6 the venue, where the bystanders were well outside the
7 secondary fence, outside the AGR, the people that were
8 there, you know, if they want to get a closer look, they're
9 not in the secure area, so to speak. They're not in that
10 cleared area where everybody clean, gone through the
11 magnetometer. So having a pair of binoculars or a
12 rangefinder, it's not unheard of.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you think that should change? In
14 other words, do you think Secret Service should have almost
15 like they have a heckler policy, do you think they should
16 have a policy about confronting people who have those
17 devices, even if it's outside the secure area?

18 **Witness** : I mean, if it looks suspicious, you know,
19 someone from whether it's local law enforcement or Secret
20 Service, if there's anybody there, you know, to go up,
21 check it, and see if there's anything that's leading on,
22 and if not, carry on.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : So you said earlier, in response to our
24 colleague, about the failures that, in your opinion and
25 experience, you think the locals, Butler ESU, exhibited.

1 Former Director Cheatle testified before Congress that
2 Secret Service failed on July 13th. Acting Director Rowe
3 testified repeatedly that Secret Service failed on July
4 13th. I mean, clearly the former President was shot at a
5 Secret Service protectee event.

6 Do you agree with those two leaders, that Secret
7 Service had failures that day?

8 **Witness** : I don't think we should take full
9 accountability of what happened that day. There were
10 multiple players involved in that -- Secret Service,
11 Butler, Beaver, Pennsylvania State. You know, those are
12 the only ones that I know of. You can't have just one
13 person or one unit take accountability for a failure.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : Totally fair and understood. But does
15 Secret Service share any of that accountability for what
16 happened that day?

17 **Witness** : You know, the Secret Service can go ahead
18 and tell, you know, whoever it may be, medical, law
19 enforcement, you know, where they need to be, and it's up
20 to them. You know, we're putting our faith into another
21 department to clear, to secure an area, you know, that
22 we've deemed an issue. If that's the case, if we can't
23 count on someone to go ahead and do their job, then we
24 might as well just be there ourselves. And if we can't, we
25 have them go ahead and provide that action. We shouldn't

1 have to babysit them. If they come forward to say they
2 want to be part of it, then they need to be part of it.
3 They need to do the responsibility and take care of their
4 area.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Understood. And I hope it's clear.
6 We're talking to everyone involved, including the state and
7 locals. So that's helpful for us as we continue to talk to
8 them. But you have 23 years of experience with Secret
9 Service. Leaving aside the culpability or responsibility
10 of other agencies involved, I'm curious, in your 23 years
11 of experience, including now as a supervisor sergeant, do
12 you think that, from what you experienced that day, there
13 were any failures in the Secret Service, either planning or
14 execution of the security of that event that day, that at
15 least contributed to what ended up happening?

16 **Witness** : I mean, the communication plan may have
17 been an issue, but there were a lot more things that were
18 going on.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : It's understanding you were removed from
20 active duty while there was an ongoing investigation. Is
21 that right?

22 **Witness** : Right. Yeah. I was not full duty while
23 the investigation was going on.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : That was the officer-involved shooting,
25 because you were involved in that, right?

1 **Witness** : Correct.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : What's your status now?

3 **Witness** : I'm back to full duty.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : When did you return to full duty?

5 **Witness** : If I'm correct it was last Tuesday. I
6 don't know the exact date, but last Tuesday.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : It's also understanding that your weapon
8 was handed over to FBI for their investigation. Has that
9 weapon been returned to you?

10 **Witness** : No.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you know why not?

12 **Witness** : Waiting for clearance from the FBI, for
13 them to release it back to us.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : But you're able to operate regular duty
15 now with another weapon?

16 **Witness** : Yes, I am.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : And to clarify, you're acting as a
18 counter sniper now. Is that right?

19 **Witness** : Yes.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And regarding after the shooting,
21 apologies, did you say you evacuated with the former
22 President to the hospital? Is that right?

23 **Witness** : No. Myself and **C/S Team Lead** stayed at the
24 site, and then the other two technicians went to the
25 hospital.

1 HSGAC Majority : Where did you go that night, after
2 leaving the site?

3 Witness : Myself and C/S Team Lead went down to the
4 Pittsburgh Airport for the former President's departure.

5 HSGAC Majority : So you left with him on the plane to
6 Bedminster. Is that right?

7 Witness : No. He left on the plane. I stayed on the
8 ground.

9 HSGAC Majority : Okay.

10 Witness : And then other teams in Bedminster were
11 picking him up.

12 HSGAC Majority : I see. Can you give us a sense of your
13 work schedule? I suppose it might be helpful to talk, you
14 know, before and post this event. So before this event,
15 what was your work schedule like? Did you have regular
16 days off?

17 Witness : I did. I did have regular days off.

18 HSGAC Majority : How often were they?

19 Witness : It varied because we were traveling a lot
20 with the current President. So, you know, we were covering
21 other assignments, you know, other details. If I was not
22 in Wilmington or Rehoboth I was on other details in town,
23 working the White House roof or other assignments outside
24 the D.C. area.

25 HSGAC Majority : Did you work nights frequently?

1 **Witness** : No.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : What was your schedule like and your
3 travel like in the week leading up to the July 13th event?

4 **Witness** : I was working primarily day work, and I was
5 assigned to the White House roof or in the office, doing my
6 supervisory duties.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : You didn't travel for any particular
8 assignments in that week or so before the July 13th event?

9 **Witness** : I don't know exactly what trips I was on,
10 if I can I recall where I was.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : Sorry if you said this. When you went
12 to the Pittsburgh area that Friday night before the event,
13 was that from the D.C. area?

14 **Witness** : Correct. I departed from the D.C. area and
15 went to Pittsburgh.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. You mentioned the locals, how you
17 need to trust them, and they played a key role here
18 obviously. And as you say, you shouldn't have to babysit
19 them. With that lesson learned, does that say anything
20 about changes moving forward about coordination with the
21 locals? You know, the leadership of Secret Service has
22 made very clear that you all can't do your work without
23 cooperation from locals at these kinds of events. So I
24 don't imagine that's changing. I don't imagine these
25 events will be entire Secret Service protected. You're

1 going to still have to rely on your local and start
2 partners.

3 But does this experience speak to how the coordination
4 needs to change or improve or whether more explicit
5 direction needs to be given to the state and locals, or any
6 other lessons learned there, you think, that might be
7 helpful?

8 **Witness** : I mean, yeah, the coordination needs to be,
9 you know, converse back and forth. You need to really
10 explain to the local teams what you want. We just need to
11 make sure that if someone says that you're going to do
12 something then they need to follow through with it and they
13 need to be accountable for whatever happens.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : Is there anything that we haven't asked
15 about today that you think we should be asking about, or
16 anything that we haven't covered today that you think we
17 should know about?

18 **Witness** : No, sir.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : All right. I appreciate you being
20 patient with us, and I'm going to turn it over to my
21 colleague from PSI. But I just want to say thank you for
22 your long years of service.

23 **Witness** : Thank you.

24 **PSI Majority** : Good afternoon. **PSI Majority** with

25 **PSI Majority** office. First of all, thanks so much

1 for your service and thank you for what you were able to do
2 that day.

3 Witness : Thank you.

4 PSI Majority : I want to talk a little bit about the
5 walk-through and discussion that you had ahead of the
6 rally. Were there any local law enforcement, either ESU or
7 State Police, present there?

8 Witness : Not for our walk-through, no.

9 PSI Majority : Is that common that walk-throughs do
10 not include local law enforcement for this sort of event?

11 Witness : It is. It is.

12 PSI Majority : Okay. Have you ever worked a counter
13 sniper detail in which you were positioned inside a
14 building, as opposed to on a rooftop?

15 Witness : In arenas. Convention centers, arenas like
16 football stadiums.

17 PSI Majority : But never in an outdoor setting, or
18 never in a situation akin to the outdoor rally at Butler,
19 in which there were sort of multiple buildings?

20 Witness : I'm probably not following you, sir.

21 PSI Majority : I guess, have you ever worked, prior to
22 Butler, an event in which you were positioned inside a
23 structure -- have you ever worked an outdoor event in which
24 you were positioned --

25 Witness : Yes.

1 PSI Majority : Yeah.

2 Witness : Okay, thank you. Yes, I have.

3 PSI Majority : You have.

4 Witness : I have.

5 PSI Majority : And did you feel, during that event,
6 that you were able to both perform your duties as a counter
7 sniper, sort of looking out and in the 360-degree field for
8 which you were responsible, and also maintain an awareness
9 of what was happening on the roof above you?

10 Witness : Yes.

11 PSI Majority : Okay. So you said normally you brief
12 the Counter Sniper Response Teams. Was that the case at
13 the Butler rally?

14 Witness : Correct. C/S Team Lead was going to be
15 briefing them.

16 PSI Majority : Okay. And about how much time do you
17 recall was spent on this briefing with the Counter Sniper
18 Response Team.

19 Witness : I did not go with him to brief the Counter
20 Sniper Response.

21 PSI Majority : Are you aware of whether there were any
22 significant issues or concerns about the day that were
23 highlighted in the discussion with Counter Sniper Response?

24 Witness : No.

25 PSI Majority : No, you're not aware, or no, there were

1 no significant issues communicated?

2 **Witness** : No, I'm not aware.

3 **PSI Majority** : Okay. Have you ever, in the past, been
4 part -- have you ever worked an event in which the
5 protective detail prevented the protectee from coming out
6 and speaking?

7 **Witness** : None that I've ever been on.

8 **PSI Majority** : So you've never been at an event where
9 the protectee was prevented from coming out as planned?

10 **Witness** : Correct.

11 **PSI Majority** : Is there a standard Secret Service
12 protocol for how such a decision is made?

13 **Witness** : So basically if we were to see something or
14 if anybody were to see something we put it on the radio,
15 and then the shift, the immediate shift, will make the
16 decision of whether to allow the protectee to go on the
17 stage or not go out.

18 **PSI Majority** : So I just want to clarify. You said if
19 "we," and then you said "others." So theoretically any
20 one, not just a counter sniper, could potentially provide
21 the information that, you know, would indicate some threat,
22 and it would be the detailee team that would make the call
23 about whether or not the protectee would come out and speak
24 as planned?

25 **Witness** : Correct.

1 PSI Majority : Okay. And then just the last thing I
2 wanted to clarify. So during the walk-through, was it
3 specifically C/S Team Lead who told you that there would be
4 local law enforcement inside the AGR building?

5 Witness : Yes.

6 PSI Majority : Okay. That's all my questions. I
7 believe my colleague from PSI Majority office has a
8 few more.

9 PSI Majority : Thank you again, Sergeant, and thank
10 you again for your actions that day. We just spoke to one
11 of your colleagues who said you saved his life. So we
12 understand that this was a very acute situation, and you
13 mentioned, did I remember this correctly, you said the
14 entire moment from seeing Crooks to taking your shot, was a
15 matter of seconds. Am I remembering that correctly?

16 Witness : Yes.

17 PSI Majority : And do you recall how many shots
18 Crooks was able to get off in that time frame?

19 Witness : I just remember his one and then me just
20 going, getting on my rifle and paying attention to what I
21 had to do.

22 PSI Majority : My understanding from the other
23 interviews we've conducted is he fired off approximately 7
24 to 8 shots. Can you tell me again what kind of rifle you
25 use?

1 Witness : So we use a LES .

2 It's a LES .

3 PSI Majority : And what capacity does a LES
4 use? Is it magazine fed?

5 Witness : It is a LES

6 PSI Majority : And how many rounds are in that
7 magazine?

8 Witness : LES

9 PSI Majority : So I guess the question is, you talked
10 about intent and ability of a would-be assassin, and the
11 intent part, like you said, Crooks could be at home
12 watching TV on his couch, but instead he chose to pursue
13 violence. But the ability, it seems like in a very short
14 amount of time he was able to get seven or eight shots off.
15 With your magazine, as I understand it, it's bolt action,
16 so it's one shot at a time, and then you have to chamber a
17 new round. Would you have been able to get off seven to
18 eight rounds in the same amount of time that Crooks was
19 able to get that many shots off?

20 Witness : Get rounds off or just get rounds off
21 accurately?

22 PSI Majority : Get rounds off, with relative
23 accuracy.

24 Witness : Yes.

25 PSI Majority : In a matter of just a few seconds.

1 **Witness** : Yes.

2 **PSI Majority** : Even though you only have **LES**
3 in a magazine.

4 **Witness** : Well, given the nature of that if I had a
5 **LES** magazine, then I could go ahead and, you know, get
6 the rounds off. You know, with me only having **LES**, I
7 would be hesitating a little bit to go ahead and remove the
8 mag, get another magazine in.

9 **PSI Majority** : So you're saying that a semi-auto
10 rifle like an AR-15 can't shoot faster than a **LES**
11 bolt action.

12 **Witness** : I've seen some competitive shooters out
13 there that can shoot just as fast on a bolt-action as a gas
14 gun.

15 **PSI Majority** : I wouldn't be surprised. But I think
16 what you said about the capacity and the magazine is also
17 worth mentioning. Because earlier my colleague asked about
18 the proliferation of high-capacity magazines and more
19 advanced weaponry. And I guess the question is, would a
20 more advanced weapon -- because, you know, Crooks, and
21 again, from our understanding he didn't participate -- he
22 was at the ranch but he didn't appear to be an expert
23 marksman, from what we were able to glean. So he wasn't a
24 competitive shooter. He certainly wasn't at the level that
25 you are. Do you think that having a semi-auto rifle would

1 allow a relative amateur like Crooks to get more rounds off
2 in a shorter amount of time?

3 **Witness** : Anybody can grab a semi-automatic weapon
4 and start pulling the trigger, and as fast as they could
5 pull the trigger they could put rounds down. Whether it's
6 accurate or not, that's another question. Go ahead.

7 **PSI Majority** : I guess what I'm getting at is, you
8 know, he didn't hit his mark, but there was Mr.
9 Comperatore, there was one casualty, and there were others
10 injured, based off of how many rounds he's able to get off
11 in such a short amount of time. And when it comes to
12 capability, just as a civilian it seems like having access
13 to these advanced weapons would, if somebody has the intent
14 it would give them a greater ability to cause harm. Would
15 that seem accurate?

16 **Witness** : I mean, I think the motivation of the
17 shooter, the individual himself, would be more of a problem
18 than the actual weapon system themselves. You know, if you
19 have a high-capacity magazine, whether it's 30 rounds or
20 just one that's at 5 rounds, just to go ahead and be able
21 to shoot that weapon system, just for fun, you know, you
22 just want to go out and shoot targets. But to go ahead and
23 then use it for violence, that takes a whole different set
24 of motivation.

25 **PSI Majority** : I guess so would the same person with

1 the same intent be able to cause more harm with a more
2 advanced weapon?

3 **Witness** : Well, I would say, if I gave you my weapon
4 system **LES**
5 would you be able to do the same thing that I did? You
6 know, it goes down to you may have a very advanced weapon
7 system, but what's the capabilities of the shooter? What's
8 the knowledge of the shooter?

9 **PSI Majority** : But I'm saying the same shooter, with
10 the same intent, the same ability, if you've got two
11 weapons and one is more advanced, and I understand advance
12 is relative because there are different purposes, but one
13 where an amateur would be able to get shots off faster.
14 The same shooter, the same knowledge level. Isn't it
15 reasonable to say that the more advanced weapon would be
16 able to cause more damage?

17 **Witness** : It depends on the round. I mean, there are
18 just a lot of factors when it comes to the shooting, you
19 know, to a shooting. You know, the caliber of the round,
20 the grains of the round. Are you using a rifle or are you
21 using a shotgun? Are you using a high-powered rifle?
22 There are just a lot of factors. And then again, it goes
23 back to the shooter. What's the knowledge of the shooter?

24 If I gave you a high-powered rifle, could you be able
25 to accurately shoot a one-mile target? That's another

1 thing, because then you have to worry about the effects of
2 the environment, the wind, the barometric pressure, the
3 humidity, you know, the temperatures. There are a lot of
4 factors. Instead of the typical call-of-duty shooting, I
5 just point and shoot, there are a lot of factors when it
6 comes into shooting. You may have an advanced weapon
7 system with the greatest round in the world, but do you
8 know the factors of the environment on that round? Do you
9 know the capabilities of that round? Do you know the
10 capabilities of the shooter?

11 **PSI Majority**: And the fact that you understand all
12 that is why I'm grateful you're on our side and one of the
13 good guys.

14 I guess the question is somebody who has been to a
15 range a couple of times just goes into a Walmart. It just
16 seems to me that a high-capacity magazine and a semi-auto
17 could do more damage to a crowd than a simpler weapon.

18 But let me go to the second part really quick, and
19 then I'll wrap up. There is the ability but then there's
20 also the intent. And again, what we've seen from the FBI
21 investigation, based off of Crooks' search history, he
22 would've been just as happy to shoot Joe Biden on that
23 stage. He was looking to assassinate somebody, which
24 suggests this was a severely mentally ill person. And we
25 also know that mental illness has been rising dramatically.

1 Would you say that that adds a risk factor to the work
2 that you do? Because again, we're talking about intent.
3 Do you see a risk in rising mental illness rates that there
4 would be more people -- I mean, we just heard about the
5 United Healthcare CEO -- that there might be more people
6 with more extreme tendencies, that might threaten
7 protectees.

8 **Witness** : I mean, yeah, I would say yes, a mental
9 condition could cause the individual to do more harm. But,
10 you know, a person in their normal state of mind could do
11 just as much. You just don't know the mindset of the
12 shooter, of the individual.

13 **PSI Majority** : So you don't consider there to be a
14 risking risk commensurate with more mental illness.

15 **Witness** : I mean, mental illness would be a definite
16 factor behind a weapon system, yes, or obtaining one.

17 **PSI Majority** : Or not just obtaining one but having
18 the willingness to look to try to hurt a protectee. As you
19 said, you can use a lot of different weapons to hurt
20 somebody, but even a willingness to search for a weapon to
21 hurt somebody. Do you feel like that's going to be a
22 growing risk to keeping protectees safe at these events?

23 **Witness** : Yes.

24 **PSI Majority** : All right. That's all. Thank you.

25 **Witness** : Thank you.

1 HSGAC Minority : HSGAC Minority , HSGAC Minority office
2 again. I didn't think we were going to go into a ballistic
3 education today, but your ballistic knowledge is
4 commendable.

5 Witness : Thank you.

6 HSGAC Minority : So I will ask a few questions for the
7 record, as well, then. Which is more ballistically
8 capable, a .30 caliber or a 556?

9 Witness : .30 cal.

10 HSGAC Minority : Thank you. What's the most common
11 hunting weapon in America, caliber?

12 Witness : .30 cal.

13 HSGAC Minority : Thank you. How long have they been in
14 existence? You don't have to answer that.

15 Have you ever seen someone outside the perimeter,
16 outside perimeter, with a weapon, that did not pose an
17 imminent threat to you and/or the protectee? In an open
18 carry state, have you ever seen someone carrying a weapon
19 that did not pose an imminent threat just by them
20 possessing the firearm, to the protectee and/or you?

21 Witness : Yes.

22 HSGAC Minority : So it follows up what you testified
23 earlier, that the motive is the issue. Have you ever heard
24 the term "Means, motive, and opportunity, all three have to
25 come together for an act of violence to take place"?

1 **Witness** : Yes, sir.

2 **HSGAC Minority** : When you're doing an advance work,
3 you're doing your counter sniper work for deterrence, what
4 is one of the three issues that you're trying to mitigate -
5 - the means, the motive, or the opportunity?

6 **Witness** : All three.

7 **HSGAC Minority** : Primarily which one?

8 **Witness** : Opportunity.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : Correct. Because it's very hard, am I
10 correct in assuming, for you to personally intervene in
11 someone's motive?

12 **Witness** : Correct.

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Thank you. You probably also heard the
14 statement, "The person is the weapon. Everything else is a
15 tool."

16 **Witness** : Correct.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : So that individual chose the tool that
18 day. Correct?

19 **Witness** : Yes, he did.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : And I've got a few questions now to
21 move away from that, but I wanted to get that on the
22 record.

23 Were you ever shown any cone of fire diagrams from the
24 local police, what they provided to **C/S Team Lead**, to
25 clearly identify what they felt like their cone of fire

1 would be within the AGR building?

2 [Witness] : No, sir.

3 [HSGAC Minority] : What are we on now? 11?

4 [Exhibit No. 11 was
5 marked for identification.]

6 [HSGAC Minority] : This is a diagram that was provided
7 from the local Beaver ESU team that had a diagram. It's
8 hard to see, so bear with me if you can. What you're
9 looking at is from the positions inside the AGR building.
10 Can you see what I'm looking at there, the green cone, blue
11 cone, yellow cone?

12 [Witness] : Yes, sir.

13 [HSGAC Minority] : From your experience from July 13th,
14 are any of those areas within the location that Thomas
15 Crooks was ultimately located and neutralized?

16 [Witness] : No, sir.

17 [HSGAC Minority] : In [C/S Team Lead] testimony he
18 stated that he's speaking with them and their mission was
19 to have "overwatch of the area" -- and I'm specifically
20 reading from his transcript -- "of the area, and the crowd,
21 on both sides, as well as the magnetometers, the x-ray, the
22 metal detectors, before the time of the event. They wanted
23 to have a good sight of those areas. From my location
24 where the Hercules teams were, we did not have good line-
25 of-sight toward the magnetometers or any of those areas, so

1 I would not, again, send people up on the roof to get a
2 good line-of-sight of those areas."

3 So his understanding was, and I think he relayed to
4 you, maybe something different. But he was given
5 information. He was told by the local police that they
6 could not see that area. But you were working under the
7 assumption that they could, in fact, see that area. Am I
8 correct?

9 **Witness** : Yes, sir.

10 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And then further he stated that
11 -- and bear with me because I've got a lot of notes here --
12 but he stated in here that Hercules 2 was, quote/unquote,
13 "out of the game" because their line-of-sight was
14 eliminated by the trees, where Crooks location was, and
15 that **LES** which **LES** is the team within the AGR
16 building, had a very limited view and could not see that
17 location. He testified further that his mitigation of the
18 AGR building was Hercules 2, Hercules 1, and Sierra 1,
19 which was on the horse barns.

20 So my question to you is, were you provided the
21 information that I just gave you, that he's testified to,
22 that that team in the AGR building could not see that roof
23 where Thomas Crooks was at?

24 **Witness** : I've never seen this, first of all, and
25 without actually having to go to the AGR building,

1 witnessed that myself, see that myself, I wouldn't know
2 what they're able to --

3 HSGAC Minority : Correct.

4 Witness : And both the understand that that team has
5 worked that location before, then they would know whether
6 it would for the event or not.

7 HSGAC Minority : Has anything changed in the counter
8 sniper advance since July 13th?

9 Witness : No, sir.

10 HSGAC Minority : The process.

11 Witness : No.

12 HSGAC Minority : Any reason why that hasn't changed, or
13 do you personally feel like something needs to change in
14 the counter sniper advance?

15 Witness : I don't believe something should change. I
16 mean, we conduct our advances the same. We look at
17 everything, walk in the footsteps, looking at line-of-sight
18 concerns, identifying them, you know, passing that
19 information off to site agents and leads, you know, and
20 local teams. You know, we have a thorough checklist that
21 we have to go by to ensure everything is covered.

22 HSGAC Minority : So how did C/S Team Lead fail then
23 in not ensuring -- well, no, let me rephrase that.

24 Witness Counsel : He can't answer that.

25 HSGAC Minority : In the advance, you said he has to

1 ensure that all areas were covered. I think we all agreed
2 that the AGR building was not covered. It was exploited by
3 a shooter. So my question to you is, and you don't have to
4 name names or anything, what role failed within the Secret
5 Service, to ensure that that did not happen? Because we
6 had, and I said yesterday, site advance, lead advance,
7 counter sniper advance. I'm just having a hard time
8 understanding how many people looked at this, and Thomas
9 Crooks was the only person to exploit that.

10 So in your 20-plus years of experience, you're the
11 most experienced person we've interviewed, and I value your
12 feedback. What failed that day? Because if we can't
13 identify what role failed, it's going to repeat itself. So
14 that's my question to you.

15 **Witness Counsel** : All right. Let's just stop for a moment.
16 And just want to go and talk to him outside.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Thank you.

18 **Witness Counsel** : Okay. Thanks.

19 [Recess.]

20 **HSGAC Minority** : Back on the record. Do you need me to
21 restate the question, or are you understanding just what
22 I'm, a simple --

23 **Witness** : I'll let you go ahead and restate it, sir.
24 Yes, sir.

25 **Witness Counsel** : Can you do that, or no?

1 HSGAC Minority : Yes, I can. I may have to rephrase it
2 a little bit.

3 Witness Counsel : That's okay. That's not a problem.

4 HSGAC Minority : But based on your experience, and
5 taking aside the locals' failures, because we certainly
6 don't believe that, or I personally don't believe just one
7 person failed, what do you believed failed specific to the
8 United States Secret Service to allow Thomas Crooks to
9 exploit the roof of the AGR building and ultimately take
10 the life of another human being? So I guess that's a way
11 of restating it.

12 Witness Counsel : Yeah, that's fine.

13 Witness : Just not being able to cover that rooftop
14 properly is, you know, as intended. You're putting your
15 faith in someone, so to watch part of the site, watch an
16 area. And you know, if someone could have watched
17 something as it was intended then they should, you know,
18 let you know that they're going to change their plan. I
19 don't -- hopefully that answers kind of what you're asking.

20 HSGAC Minority : Not completely, but I'll accept that.

21 Witness : Okay.

22 HSGAC Minority : The last question I have is, have you
23 provided all of your emails, texts, encrypted messages, or
24 any data or documents to the United States Secret Service
25 for them to provide to us?

1 **Witness** : Yes, sir.

2 **HSGAC Minority** : That's all I have, and again, thank you
3 for your service.

4 **Witness** : Thank you, sir.

5 **PSI Minority** : **Witness** , this is **PSI Minority** from
6 **PSI Minority** office again. I'm going to go to
7 Exhibit 6, which I shared with you earlier. It's the 87-
8 page Pennsylvania State Police report regarding the July
9 13th shooting. And I want to go back to the same page that
10 I referenced earlier, which was page 21 of that report.

11 **Witness** , what I'm going to do is I'm going to read
12 part of this page. It's a little on the long side. And I
13 just want you to listen and then let me know whether or not
14 you disagree or if there are what you believe are
15 inaccuracies in what is written in this, once I finish. So
16 I'll go ahead and start reading it.

17 **Witness** then overheard attendees from the crowd yelling
18 that someone was on the roof. **Witness** and **C/S Team Lead** then
19 repositioned themselves toward the AGR building and began
20 searching the rooftops of the complex with both their naked
21 eyes and binoculars. As **Witness** begins to pan his sight line
22 back toward the crowd, he observes Crooks appear atop the
23 roof of Building 4 and advises **C/S Team Lead** . **Witness** assumes a
24 shooting position with his rifle locked into a tripod.

25 "While observing through his rifle optic, **Witness** sees

1 Crooks in a prone shooting position and armed with a rifle.

2 **Witness** explained Crooks' position was at the peak line of a
3 slightly pitched roof, and his sight picture was of his
4 head and the tops of his shoulders. **C/S Team Lead** provides

5 **Witness** with direction that he does not need to adjust his
6 point of aim, as no cross wind was present. **Witness** activates
7 a laser rangefinder system affixed to his rifle, receiving
8 a distance to the target of approximately 200 yards.

9 Moments later, **Witness** could hear the sonic disturbances of
10 gunfire emanating from Crooks' location. **Witness** then
11 discharged one round from his rifle into Crooks, at which
12 time Crooks 'slumped away' and did not appear to reengage."

13 **Witness**, any inaccuracies in what I read or anything
14 that needs to be clarified?

15 **Witness**: So basically when you're reading it, it
16 makes it look like I have all the time in the world from
17 when I identified his location to me shooting. If there
18 was a way to recreate the exact thing that happened that
19 day, that would be the only way for anybody to understand
20 what I did and what I saw.

21 **Witness Counsel**: He's already testified it was over a
22 period of seconds. I mean, that's what happened.

23 **Witness**: Yeah.

24 **Witness Counsel**: That's a linear sequence of events
25 compressed into a few seconds. That's what happened.

1 PSI Minority : Understood. And all I'm trying to just
2 get from you is --

3 **Witness Counsel** : Those are the -- that's the sequence --

4 PSI Minority : -- whether or not you feel that what I
5 just read is accurate.

6 **Witness Counsel** : Was that the sequence of your behavior?

7 **Witness** : I mean, from what I can recall, I mean, you
8 know, I like to say I relive that moment every day, but I
9 try not to.

10 PSI Minority : Understood. Thank you.

11 PSI Minority : PSI Minority . Just
12 a couple of quick questions for you. I know you said you
13 didn't connect that the individual on the roof was the
14 individual in the BOLO at the time of the shooting. When
15 did you connect that the individual on the roof was the
16 individual in the BOLO?

17 **Witness** : It was later in the evening, that finally I
18 put 2 and 2 together.

19 PSI Minority : How did you make that connection?

20 **Witness** : Well, just recalling what the individual
21 looked like on the roof to the photo on the email. It
22 just, you know, they resembled -- there was a resemblance.

23 PSI Minority : Understood. I know you said you
24 weren't aware of any PSP plain-clothes or vice officers on
25 at the rally site. Were you aware of any other plain-

1 clothes officers who were working the rally that day?

2 Witness : No.

3 PSI Minority : Does that present any concern to you?

4 And let me give you a little bit more context for that. If
5 a plain-clothes officer were to have drawn a weapon, either
6 in the crowd of the rally or in the area that you were
7 responsible for, would you have engaged that individual
8 with that weapon?

9 Witness : If they did not identify themselves as law
10 enforcement, they could have been a blue-on-blue.

11 PSI Minority : So not knowing that there were plain-
12 clothes officers on the ground at the rally creates a
13 potential for a blue-on-blue violent situation.

14 Witness : Yes.

15 PSI Minority : Okay.

16 Witness : And not just for me but any Secret Service
17 or local law enforcement. If you don't work with that
18 individual on a daily basis and know their face, that could
19 be a blue-on-blue.

20 PSI Minority : Understood. I appreciate that. I want
21 to just quickly go over a little bit the line-of-sight
22 concerns and your obstructed view from the barns. If you
23 can go back to Exhibit 2, that's those images. So that
24 tree in the image, that was the tree that obstructed your
25 view of the roofs of the AGR building?

1 **Witness** : With that lower portion of the roof, yes,
2 that tree obstructed the lower portion, or I guess it would
3 be the northern portion of that roof.

4 **PSI Minority** : Okay. And the Hercules 2 team, would
5 they have been positioned on that second barn that you can
6 sort of make out through the tree?

7 **Witness** : Correct.

8 **PSI Minority** : So that tree would've also been in
9 their viewpoint then, if they were looking towards the AGR
10 building, at least the same amount that it was in your
11 viewpoint.

12 **Witness** : Right. I mean, for the angle that this
13 photo was taken, that tree clearly blocks out just that
14 portion of the roof. But in the location that Crooks was
15 located, as we're looking at the photo it would be to the
16 right.

17 **PSI Minority** : Understood, yes, and I understand that
18 you don't know the exact extent of Hercules 2's
19 obstruction. But that tree would've at least obstructed
20 some of their view of the AGR building from wherever they
21 were positioned, on the AGR roof.

22 **Witness** : Yes, sir.

23 **PSI Minority** : And they never mentioned to you that
24 they had an obstructed view. They never radioed out over,
25 saying, "We have an obstructed view."

1 **Witness** : I don't remember any kind of radio call or
2 anything that went out about that.

3 **PSI Minority** : And you never mentioned, or Agent
4 **C/S Team Lead** never mentioned -- sorry, Officer **C/S Team Lead** never
5 mentioned to Hercules 2 that you also had a partially
6 obstructed view of that roof.

7 **Witness** : Yeah. I don't remember.

8 **PSI Minority** : So you said something earlier regarding
9 the individuals in the AGR building, that if someone's not
10 able to cover the area that they were supposed to cover,
11 that individuals should be made aware of that and that
12 should be communicated that, hey, we have to change our
13 plan.

14 **Witness** : Right.

15 **PSI Minority** : So at least as I understand it with the
16 obstructed view, Hercules 2 was not able to cover all of
17 the AGR roof, which was its primary area of responsibility,
18 and that whole 12 to, I guess, 6, is that where they were,
19 12 to 6 was their end, on the other side of 12 to 3?

20 **Witness** : Well, so when the team is positioned on a
21 roof they're not just primarily focused on the AGR
22 building. They're looking at all the area, from the 12 to
23 the 6 o'clock, that's primarily on the 3 o'clock side. So
24 they're looking at everything. If you were to go ahead and
25 start moving teams to basically cover a blind spot, so to

1 speak, now you're opening up something else. So if you're
2 having this team on the second floor of the AGR building,
3 you move Hercules 2 to another spot, you're opening
4 something else up and now no one can see.

5 **PSI Minority** : I completely understand that there are
6 complexities into how the assets have to be placed, right.
7 But their primary area of responsibility was the area over
8 towards the AGR, which had previously been identified as an
9 area of concern, right?

10 **Witness** : Right.

11 **PSI Minority** : So they were unable to cover part of
12 their primary area of responsibility due to the line-of-
13 sight obstruction.

14 **Witness** : Yes.

15 **PSI Minority** : And they did not communicate that.

16 **Witness** : Not that I remember, no.

17 **PSI Minority** : But your expectation is that if an
18 individual is unable to cover their area of responsibility,
19 that should be communicated so that plans can be adjusted.

20 **Witness** : Yes.

21 **PSI Minority** : Okay. Thank you.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Thank you. This is going to conclude our
23 interview for today. We have tried to cover everything we
24 believe was necessary to address in the interview, and
25 appreciate your thorough and detailed account. Should we,

1 as I mentioned at the beginning, find that there are areas
2 we failed to cover that we need to address, we'll contact
3 Secret Service. We reserve the right to revisit it, and
4 we'll reach out if we need to do so.

5 As we mentioned at the beginning, we would ask that
6 you not speak with others about what we discussed today, to
7 preserve the integrity of our investigation.

8 And with that we'll conclude the interview, and again,
9 thank you very much for your time and for your service.

10 [Witness] : Thank you, sir.

11 [Witness Counsel] : Thank you.

12 [Whereas, at 4:49 p.m., the interview was concluded.]
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