

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
3 AND THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS
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6 INTERVIEW OF
7 SAIC Buffalo
8 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE,
9 U.S. SECRET SERVICE
10
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13 Room SD-342
14 Dirksen Senate Office Building
15 Washington, D.C.
16 Wednesday, October 9, 2024
17 10:19 a.m.
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1 APPEARANCES:

2
3 On Behalf of the Witness:

4 [Witness Counsel], General Counsel, Federal Law
5 Enforcement Officers Association

6 [Witness Counsel], Personal Counsel to SAIC [Witness] [VIRTUAL]

7 [Agency Counsel], Deputy Chief Counsel, U.S. Secret
8 Service

9 [Agency Counsel], General Attorney, Department of
10 Homeland Security

11 On Behalf of Chairman Peters:

12 [HSGAC Majority], Chief Counsel/Chief Investigative Counsel,
13 Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
14 Committee

15 [HSGAC Majority], Deputy Chief Counsel, Senate
16 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

17 [HSGAC Majority], Senior Investigative Counsel,
18 Senate

19 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

20 [HSGAC Majority], Senior Investigator, Senate Homeland
21 Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

22
23 On Behalf of Ranking Member Paul:

24 [HSGAC Minority], Staff Director, Senate Homeland
25 Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

1 APPEARANCES (continued):

2
3 HSGAC Minority, Chief Counsel, Senate Homeland
4 Security and Governmental Affairs Committee
5

6 On Behalf of PSI Chairman Blumenthal:

7 PSI Majority, Counsel, Permanent Subcommittee
8 on Investigations [VIRTUAL]
9

10 On Behalf of PSI Ranking Member Johnson:

11 PSI Minority, Staff Director,
12 Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

13 PSI Minority, Chief Counsel, Permanent
14 Subcommittee on Investigations

15 PSI Minority, Deputy Staff Director,
16 Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
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P R O C E E D I N G S

HSGAC Majority : Okay. Good morning. This is a transcribed interview of U.S. Secret Service Special Agent In Charge [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, Ranking Member Rand Paul, as well as Subcommittee Chairman Richard Blumenthal and Ranking Member Ron Johnson. This is a part of the Committee's investigation of the July 13, 2024, assassination attempt on former President Trump, and the U.S. Secret Service planning in advance of and response related to the events in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13th, 2024.

On July 25, 2024, and again on September 11th, 2024, Chairmen Peters, Blumenthal, and Ranking Members Paul and Johnson requested a voluntary transcribed interview with U.S. Secret Service personnel, including Mr. [Witness]. We'll provide introductions and then explain how today's interview will proceed. And first, I'll ask you, Mr. [Witness], to introduce yourself and your title, and then counsel to introduce themselves.

[Witness] : Hello, my name is [Witness], [Witness] and I'm a Special Agent In Charge of the Buffalo Field Office.

1 **Witness Counsel** : **Witness Counsel** . I represent SAIC **Witness** ,
 2 and also **Witness Counsel** . **Witness Counsel** also representing SAIC
 3 **Witness** . I have to leave at around 12:30 to 1:00, and Mr.
 4 **Witness Counsel** will pick up right after, so he's going to be
 5 listening in online.

6 **Agency Counsel** : **Agency Counsel** here for the Secret.
 7 Deputy Chief Counsel.

8 **Agency Counsel** : **Agency Counsel** , DHS Office of the
 9 General Counsel, Oversight Counsel.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : I'll now introduce my colleagues from
 11 Chairman Peter's office and then turn it over to my
 12 colleagues in the other offices. Today, we have **HSGAC Majority**
 13 **[REDACTED]** , Deputy Chief Counsel for the majority on HSGAC, as
 14 well as **HSGAC Majority** , Senior Investigator, and **HSGAC**
 15 **Majority** , Senior Counsel.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : Good morning. My name is **HSGAC Minority**
 17 **[REDACTED]** I'm Chief Counsel for the office of Ranking
 18 Member Paul, with **HSGAC Minority** , Staff Director.

19 **PSI Minority** : Good morning. I'm **PSI Minority** with
 20 Senator Johnson's office. I'm Staff Director, and we have
 21 **PSI Minority** , Chief Counsel, right here. And **[REDACTED]**
 22 **PSI Minority** , Deputy Staff Director. Thank you for being here.

23 **PSI Majority** : And this is **PSI Majority** , on
 24 virtual, Senior Counsel for PSI majority.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : During today's interview, our four offices

1 will be asking questions, and we will try and do so in
2 orderly fashion so you don't have different people jumping
3 in on questions. And we will plan to take breaks on the
4 hour, but are happy to take breaks as needed. Just please
5 let us know. The reporter is going to create a verbatim
6 record of what we discussed today. And with that in mind
7 as I'm sure you're familiar, please respond to questions
8 verbally because the reporter cannot properly record
9 nonverbal responses. Do you understand?

10 **Witness** : I do.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : This interview is unclassified. So, if the
12 questions call for any information that you know to
13 implicate classified information, please state for the
14 record that classified information has been implicated with
15 the question as well as the reason you understand this to
16 be classified and the limits of your ability to respond.
17 And once you have clarified, to the extent possible, please
18 provide to the best of your ability information that is
19 unclassified to fully respond to the question. And if
20 needed, we will proceed to a classified setting and can
21 make that happen if necessary.

22 You are required to provide truthful answers to the
23 committee. And this interview is governed by U.S.C.
24 Section 1001, which makes it a crime to provide false
25 information to Congress, including to investigators. Do

1 you understand?

2 **Witness** : I do.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Is there any reason you cannot provide
4 truthful information in response to the questions today?

5 **Witness** : No.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you have any questions before we begin?

7 **Witness** : I do not.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : Counsel?

9 **Agency Counsel** : Thank you. And for purposes of time
10 here, I'll incorporate by reference other preference or
11 preliminary remarks I've made with other witnesses before
12 the committees that are consistent with requests of the
13 Chairmen [Technical Issues.] at least that we are not at
14 all attending any of the waiver of any Privacy Act or
15 personnel law or law enforcement-sensitive information
16 protocols be waived, also just understanding that only the
17 audio recording except for, obviously, the purposes of the
18 court reporter. And with those comments, sir, we
19 appreciate the opportunity to make those statements. Thank
20 you.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : And our understanding as well is that the
22 only recording is for the purposes of the transcription
23 itself. With respect to the information received today,
24 the committee intends to provide a public report on this,
25 and in fact, has released to the public and interim report

1 of its findings to date. We will, as has been the
2 committee's practice, and as was the committee's actions
3 with respect to the interim report, prior to making any
4 non-public information public, provide the agency,
5 yourself, and counsel an opportunity to review information
6 we intend to rely on, including information we learned from
7 today's interview in advance of publication and with an
8 opportunity to provide any factual corrections.

9 It is the committee's practice to honor valid common
10 law privileges and claims, and accommodate a witness when
11 those claims are made in good faith, and when a sufficient
12 explanation been provided to the committee so that we can
13 evaluate those claims. When deciding on whether to honor
14 this privilege, the committee will weigh its need for the
15 information against a legitimate basis to withhold it.
16 This interview today is occurring without prejudice to
17 discussions of the committee, and we reserve the right to
18 request your participation in a future interview if
19 necessary.

20 Finally, we would ask that you not speak about what we
21 discussed today in this interview with anyone outside of
22 the room today in order to preserve the integrity of our
23 ongoing investigation. With that, before we begin, do you
24 have any questions?

25 **Witness**: No questions.

1 HSGAC Majority: I'm now going to turn over to my colleague
2 HSGAC Majority, who will begin our questions. We will spend
3 again about an hour and then break. Thank you.

4 HSGAC Majority: Thank you. And, hi, Special Agent Witness.
5 Is that the right title to -- or?

6 Witness: That's fine.

7 HSGAC Majority: Thank you for taking the time to speak
8 with us today. Like HSGAC Majority said, my name is HSGAC Majority
9 HSGAC Majority, I also work for Chairman Peters. And just as a
10 starting point if you could maybe give us a really brief
11 high-level overview of your role and responsibilities with
12 respect to the July 13th rally at Butler.

13 Witness: Sure. I was assigned as the command
14 post/slash security room agent. And that function is
15 typically one, if I were to make an analogy to something
16 that's more common, would be to a dispatcher or a relayer
17 of information. So, the role of the command post is to
18 ingest information from different sources and then put that
19 information back out.

20 HSGAC Majority: Okay, great. And we'll get into it to a
21 lot more detail about that, but that's helpful at the
22 start. As another preliminary matter, could you tell us if
23 you have taken any notes either before the rally or
24 afterwards with respect to the events on July 13th?

25 Witness: Notes? No. Like, handwritten notes? No.

1 HSGAC Majority : Okay. Thank you. And then a couple
2 questions about your background. Could you tell us how
3 long you've been with the Secret Service and in what roles?

4 Witness : Sure. I've been with the Service for a
5 little over 24 years, almost 24 and a half years actually.
6 I started in the New York Field office in 2000, was there
7 for about 7 years, where I was assigned to several
8 different squads to include counter-surveillance squad, the
9 credit card fraud squad, and the protective intelligence
10 squad, where I finished up doing 2 or 3 years on the JTTF.

11 From there I was transferred to the William Clinton
12 Protective Division in Chappaqua when he was a former
13 President with then Secretary or then Senator, Secretary
14 Clinton. After about 5 years on their detail, I
15 transferred up to the Portland, Maine resident office where
16 I was there for about 2 years, a little over 2 years.

17 From there I had my first promotion. I was promoted
18 to an assistant to the special agent in charge at the
19 Raleigh Training Center, which is down here in Beltsville,
20 Maryland. At the training center, I had led a couple of
21 different sections. First one was the facility section,
22 and then I had the judgment and tactic section. While I
23 was assigned there, I had a temporary assignment as a shift
24 leader, then Candidate Trump's 2016 detail. And while I
25 was on that detail, I was selected to -- I had applied for,

1 and was selected for one of the in-residents master's
2 degree programs here at the National Defense University.

3 So, I did that at the College of International
4 Security Affairs, got my master's degree. Upon completing
5 that I took an assignment in the Office of Protective
6 Operations in the special project section at headquarters.
7 After that assignment, I was promoted to the GS-15 rank as
8 an assistant special agent charge at the Washington Field
9 Office, where I led the criminal investigative section of
10 that office. And from there I was assigned to the special
11 agent in charge of the Buffalo Field Office, where I am
12 now.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay, thank you. And when was that
14 last?

15 **Witness** : I transferred up to Buffalo in the Spring
16 of '21.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay, got it. Thank you. And can you
18 describe your general responsibilities as the special agent
19 in charge of the Buffalo Field Office?

20 **Witness** : Sure. So, as the special agent in charge
21 of a district, I -- actually the district I'm responsible
22 for covers all the way from Buffalo to Albany. Basically,
23 everything in New York State, north and west of Ulster
24 County. So, I have subordinate offices in Rochester,
25 Syracuse, and Albany. And my responsibility is managing

1 all of the Secret Service activity across that district.

2 So, whether it's investigative, protective,
3 intelligence-related, or protective operations-related. So
4 that includes, you know, day-to-day personnel and
5 administrative management, managing visits that may come
6 into the district. You know, any sort of logistical
7 concerns or assignments of my personnel. Really, anything
8 that happens in the district.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And you said one of the other
10 responsibilities is to oversee, you know, protectee events
11 in the district. That's correct?

12 **Witness** : Correct.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : And since you've been the special agent
14 in charge, can you give an approximation of how many
15 protective events you've been involved in?

16 **Witness** : Sure. I mean, there have been at least 10,
17 I would say, of varying levels from the President, the
18 Vice-President to the Secretary of DHS, to grandchildren of
19 the President. So, kind of the whole gamut of foreign dig
20 or two. So the whole gamut of our protective, you know,
21 types of visits we might have in a district.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And in your prior roles before
23 becoming a special agent in charge, is it fair to say that
24 you also had significant experience working on events for
25 protectees?

1 **Witness** : I've done a fair amount of protection in my
2 career, yes.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Could you speak to, you know, what kind
4 of specific roles you've held for protective events,
5 whether you've, you know, worked advance teams as, you
6 know, lead agents, or site agents, or?

7 **Witness** : Sure. I mean, I've done -- I've been a
8 shift agent, I've been a shift leader. I have been an
9 advance agent. I've done foreign advances for the Clinton
10 detail, site advances. Pretty much any, you know -- the
11 only thing I've never, I was never on the presidential
12 detail or the vice-presidential detail, so I didn't do the
13 lead advances for those, but I've been a counterpart on the
14 field office level for those types of visits.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : Thank you. And then you said that you
16 had a temporary assignment to then Candidate Trump's detail
17 in 2016?

18 **Witness** : Correct.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Could you talk about that a little bit
20 more, what your role was?

21 **Witness** : It's every campaign season, there are a lot
22 of temporary assignments for the candidates. So, I was
23 assigned as a shift leader. I think I did two or three
24 rotations at the beginning of that campaign before I went
25 to NDU.

1 **HSGAC Majority** : And then so as the shift leader, did you
2 ever have a role in the advanced process for his events?

3 **Witness** : No. The advance team is separate from the
4 shift and the detail.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. Thank you. And amongst the
6 roles you've had at various protective events, have you
7 worked as a security room agent at previous events?

8 **Witness** : I have.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Can you give an approximation of -- is
10 it dozens of times, or five?

11 **Witness** : I would say a handful. The answer I gave
12 yesterday was a handful. Five or six times.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you recall the most recent time prior
14 to July 13th?

15 **Witness** : Yes. The most recent time prior to that I
16 believe, was in the spring. I believe it was Easter of
17 2022 on President Biden's trip to Northern Ireland in
18 Ireland.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. All right, thank you. And
20 jumping back to your current role now, could you describe
21 briefly your current chain of command, who you report to
22 directly and how many people you supervise?

23 **Witness** : Sure, sure. My supervisor, my direct
24 supervisor is Deputy Assistant Director **USSS DAD** .

25 **HSGAC Majority** : And how many people do you supervise in

1 your role?

2 **Witness** : So, I have an assistant special agent in
3 charge in the Buffalo office. And then an assistant to the
4 special agent in charge in the Buffalo office. And then
5 the office administrator. Those three people report to me
6 directly. Then the resident agent in charge of the
7 Syracuse office reports to me directly, and the now vacant
8 resident agent in charge of the Albany office would report
9 to me if the position was full.

10 **HSGAC Majority** Got it. Thank you. And then talking
11 about July 13th specifically, could you give us a sense of
12 the chain of command on that day from your point of view,
13 who, if anyone, you reported to on that day?

14 **Witness** : Sure. I reported to the site agent.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : To the site agent?

16 **Witness** : Yes.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : And did you have -- I guess we're going
18 to get into some more detail about the security room
19 itself. Was there anybody who formally reported to you on
20 that day?

21 **Witness** : No.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Had you been to Butler, Pennsylvania,
23 before?

24 **Witness** : Not that I recall, no.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : And could you talk about when and how

1 you first became aware that former President Trump was
2 going to be holding a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania?

3 **Witness**: Sure. Typically, we find out about events
4 from the Office of Investigations, the War Room, we call it
5 the Manpower Section, where we get requests where we're
6 going to have to provide personnel to fill assignments. I
7 believe that's how I found out about this event initially.

8 **HSGAC Majority**: Got it. And I'm going to show you a
9 document. I don't know if about a sticker, but this will
10 be Exhibit 1, a few pages of emails that were produced to
11 us. It's more than -- I don't think it's all one
12 contiguous chain, but it's Bates number 2614 through 2618.

13 [Exhibit No. 1 was
14 marked for identification.]

15 **Witness**: Okay. Yes, these look familiar.

16 **HSGAC Majority**: And I wanted to draw your attention to
17 an email on that first page, 2614. At the bottom half of
18 the page. The email sent Wednesday, July 10th, at 12:39
19 p.m. Is that what you were referring to just now when you
20 were talking about getting a notification of an event?

21 Yes.

22 And can you tell us what the -- you know, more
23 specifically what the content of this email says?

24 **Witness**: It's essentially the War Room saying that
25 they're going to need personnel for that visit for two --

1 well, the first request was for the FLOTUS visit to
2 Pittsburgh. So it actually wasn't to the former President
3 Trump visit. Our request was to fill spots for the FLOTUS
4 visit, which I believe what I was initially assigned to.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay, got it. And then, so this email
6 on Wednesday, July 10th, was that the first notice you had
7 that --

8 **Witness** : That we were going to be sending people to
9 Pittsburgh for that weekend. Yes.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And like you said, this email
11 only talks about the FLOTUS visit. So, initially, you were
12 not aware that that former President Trump was also holding
13 an event the same day?

14 **Witness** : I don't remember exactly when I recall that
15 there were going to be two simultaneous events. It may be
16 in this email chain somewhere. I'm not sure.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you recall when or how you were
18 specifically assigned to be the security room agent at the
19 Trump event?

20 **Witness** : Sure. When we received the briefing
21 materials, I believe it was the either -- probably Friday
22 night, the night before the event, that's when I found out
23 I would be working the command post the next day.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : And you just said that you didn't recall
25 when the switch happened?

1 **Witness** : I recall, I think, when the switch
2 happened, I believe it was on Thursday. I think I
3 initially submitted myself to work the FLOTUS event. And
4 then at some point, either on Wednesday or Thursday, I had
5 a conversation with the SAIC of the Pittsburgh Field Office
6 and he suggested that he may want me to work the FLOTUS
7 event -- I mean, the former President Trump event instead.
8 Which I said, that's fine. It didn't matter. I was going
9 to Pittsburgh either way.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And then you said that
11 conversation was either Wednesday or Thursday. And could
12 you tell us a little bit more about what you remember from
13 that conversation?

14 **Witness** : No, it was a very pretty quick phone
15 conversation. I think I actually called him to let him
16 know that I was putting myself in to go to Pittsburgh just
17 as a courtesy. You know, another SAIC going into another
18 district. And said, hey, I'm coming in. I'm, you know,
19 going to submit myself for the FLOTUS. We got asked for
20 two people to work the FLOTUS event. And he said okay.
21 Well, that actually may have been when I've learned about
22 the Trump event because maybe on that call, he told me
23 there was the Trump event. And he said I might switch you
24 to that if you don't mind. And I said that was no problem.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you recall if he said anything

1 else about why he wanted to switch you over to that event?

2 **Witness** : I don't remember any specific reasoning for
3 switching me over. No.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And do you recall whether he
5 mentioned anything specific about what role you would have
6 or?

7 **Witness** : No. I don't think we talked about roles
8 then, but going as another special agent in charge, I
9 wouldn't -- I was not surprised that I was assigned to the
10 command post.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And why would you say that?

12 **Witness** : Typically, you try to assign, you know,
13 whoever is going to be one of the more senior folks on the
14 trip to work the command post. So, I would probably have
15 been the most senior person on that trip. So, it's pretty
16 normal occurrence.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : And I guess two questions. Who would
18 typically make that assignment of the security room agent
19 and who --

20 **Witness** : The site agent makes the postings, the
21 decisions, on who's going to do what post

22 **HSGAC Majority** : You said you spoke with the, the
23 Pittsburgh SAIC, and that's --

24 **Witness** : **SAIC Pittsburgh** .

25 **HSGAC Majority** : **SAIC Pittsburgh** . And then did he -- I guess I

1 want to understand if he made that assignment, or was it
2 the site agent that made the assignment?

3 **Witness** : I don't know what conversation he had with
4 the site agent about who was going to do the assignment.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : But you didn't know what your assignment
6 was going to be until the briefing materials on Friday?

7 **Witness** : That's my recollection, yes.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And then just to draw your
9 attention back to Exhibit 1. On that last page on 2618, in
10 the middle of that page looks like an email you sent on
11 Thursday, July 11th at 10:53 a.m. saying, "Okay, great.
12 There's a chance we might get switched to the --" and it's
13 redacted, event. "They're occurring at roughly the same
14 time." Is that the redacted word there referring to the
15 Trump event?

16 **Witness** : I'm assuming it probably says the **LES**
17 event. Yeah.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you recall who you sent that
19 email to?

20 **Witness** : This was the other agent that was going to
21 Pittsburgh to work the FLOTUS event.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. Another agent under?

23 **Witness** : From the Buffalo office.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And just to clarify. I think
25 we covered this, but the initial outreach requesting

1 personnel to work the FLOTUS event, did you ever get any
2 specific assignments beyond just saying, yes, I can work?

3 **Witness** : No. The only thing is I put, you know,
4 myself and the other agent in for the FLOTUS trip, and then
5 through this chain of emails was eventually switched. The
6 other agent stayed on the FLOTUS trip and I went to the
7 **LES** trip.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : All right. Got it. And then after
9 this initial email chain, could you talk about what other
10 information you received about the rally prior to the 13th?

11 **Witness** : I received, you know, logistics information
12 and briefing materials. I believe that all came -- well,
13 the logistics probably came on the 11th. You know, like
14 what hotel you're going to and that sort of thing. And
15 then briefing materials, I believe came on the 12th, but I
16 have to go back and look. But they were a standard
17 briefing. You know, briefing material that you would get
18 before any post standing assignment.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And I don't have the document
20 in front of me, I think I know what you're talking about,
21 but just to make sure we're clear. Did you separately see
22 -- did that include the preliminary survey? Did you ever
23 see that?

24 **Witness** : I believe the preliminary survey was
25 included in that. Yes.

1 HSGAC Majority : In the post stander instructions?

2 Witness : Correct.

3 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall any other specific, you
4 know, documents or materials that were included in what you
5 received?

6 Witness : No. Just, again, the logistical
7 information as well. But it was all via email, so I'm sure
8 you have it all. Yeah.

9 HSGAC Majority : And was there anything specific to your
10 role as the security room agent that you received in
11 advance?

12 Witness : No. Just the site posting instruction. On
13 the site post instructions, there's a brief paragraph about
14 the command post in there.

15 HSGAC Majority : And prior to the 13th, did you receive
16 any information or intelligence about potential threats
17 related to the protectee or the event?

18 Witness : No.

19 HSGAC Majority : And then, so after you received those
20 briefing materials and your assignment, what did you
21 understand your main responsibilities were going to be on
22 the 13th?

23 Witness : I would be working in the command post, you
24 know, relaying information.

25 HSGAC Majority : And did you do anything before the 13th

1 to prepare? Was there anything that you had to -- that's a
2 little bit vague. But were there any, I guess, more formal
3 steps that -- you know, any paperwork you had to do, any,
4 you know, boxes you had to check before showing up at
5 Butler Farm Show?

6 **Witness** : No. Just making sure I had all my
7 equipment and gear, and packing up and driving to
8 Pittsburgh on the 12th.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And so, you said you drove to
10 Pittsburgh on the, on the 12th?

11 **Witness** : I did.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : And on the 13th, that was the first time
13 you arrived at the rally site?

14 **Witness** : Correct. The morning of the 13th.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you recall approximately what time?

16 **Witness** : I believe the briefing was scheduled for
17 10:00 a.m.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And again, talking about before
19 the rally began on the 13th, did you receive any
20 information either formally or informally about the
21 security room set up? Either where it was going to be, who
22 was going to be there, or what equipment they would have?

23 **Witness** : No. I mean, other than what was in the
24 briefing materials that I believe it did list the building
25 that it was going to be in, and then the equipment that

1 would be there. It's a very standard setup that we have at
2 that time for a command post or security room which, of
3 course, for this event it was both. So, I knew that there
4 would be what we call a LES radio which is just a larger
5 version of a LES radio, and that I would have my work-
6 issued cell phone and my LES radio. LES
7 LES .

8 HSGAC Majority : And who do you know who was responsible
9 for making the decisions about the location of the event
10 and what equipment would be there?

11 Witness : Typically, that would be the site agent.

12 HSGAC Majority : And did you have any conversations with
13 the site agent prior to the 13th about the setup in the
14 room?

15 Witness : About the setup in the room? No. I think
16 I only had one brief email exchange with the Trump division
17 site person on the evening of the 12th, just about
18 logistics, and if it was okay, if I drove myself to the
19 event. Which she said it was.

20 HSGAC Majority : And that was you said from the Trump
21 detail, Agent Site Agent ?

22 Witness : Correct.

23 HSGAC Majority : And I assuming she's the site
24 counterpart, correct?

25 Witness : No. My understanding is that Agent Site Agent

1 --

2 HSGAC Majority : Correct.

3 Witness : -- was the site agent. The site
4 counterpart was an agent from the Pittsburgh office.

5 HSGAC Majority : Got it. And so, Agent Site Agent, as far as
6 your understanding was, would've been responsible for the
7 setup of --

8 Witness : She was the site agent. Yes.

9 HSGAC Majority : And so, prior to showing up on the 13th,
10 did you know who would be -- other than yourself, would be
11 assigned to be present in the security room?

12 Witness : Well, typically, we only have,
13 unfortunately, one person assigned in a security room or a
14 command post.

15 HSGAC Majority : You mean one Secret Service?

16 Witness : Yeah. One Secret Service. Yeah. I didn't
17 know what other entities may be in that command post until
18 that morning.

19 HSGAC Majority : Is that typical to not know what other
20 entities will be there until the day of --

21 Witness : Until the briefing. Yes.

22 HSGAC Majority : And so, on the briefing the morning of
23 July 13th, did you get more information about who would be
24 in the security room?

25 Witness : Yes. They mentioned that there'd be a

1 representative from the Pennsylvania State Police, and
2 someone from the Butler County Emergency Services for
3 medical and fire issues. And that there'd be
4 representatives from the site itself, you know, if there
5 were any facilities-type issues.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And who gave that briefing on the
7 morning of the 13th?

8 **Witness** : Both the site agent and the site
9 counterpart conducted parts of that briefing.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : So, do you recall which one of them gave
11 the information about the security room?

12 **Witness** : I don't.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : And before you got to the site on July
14 13th, were you aware that there was going to be a separate
15 command post led by Butler County law enforcement?

16 **Witness** : I was not.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : When did you find out that that was the
18 case?

19 **Witness** : Really, it only became apparent to me
20 throughout the day in my conversations with the
21 Pennsylvania State Police representative. It was never
22 really talked about. It was more assumed that he was
23 talking to other people somewhere else.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : And in your experience, is that a
25 typical setup, a typical situation to have separate command

1 posts?

2 **Witness** : Typically, every site is a little bit
3 different and every locality is a little bit different.
4 But generally, it is preferred to have all the agencies
5 that might be represented at a particular site together.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And you said that you've worked as a
7 security room agent at other events. In your experience,
8 would you normally find out, you know, which state and
9 local agencies would be represented earlier in the planning
10 process?

11 **Witness** : No. The timing of finding out who was
12 going to be in there was normal. When the post standers
13 come in, we're not involved. None of the post standers are
14 involved in any of the planning whatsoever.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : And what was your understanding of who
16 would've been involved in ensuring that the appropriate
17 representatives were in the security room?

18 **Witness** : The site agent.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : And then just to -- I know you've
20 addressed this. To be completely clear, did you have any
21 role in planning or going over the plan for communications
22 in the security room before the 13th?

23 **Witness** : No.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : And so, you mentioned that you said it
25 became apparent throughout the day that there was a second

1 command post through your discussions with the PSP
2 representative. And that's Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**. Is that
3 correct?

4 **Witness**: That's what I remember his name to be,
5 yeah.

6 **HSGAC Majority**: Could you talk a little bit more about
7 how you came to realize that there was a separate post?

8 **Witness**: Just from him being on the phone with other
9 people, that was clear. He was talking to other law
10 enforcement. Again, it was never -- I don't explicitly
11 remember a point in time where I was like, "Oh, there's
12 definitely another command post." I just knew he was
13 talking to other law enforcement somewhere else, in
14 addition to other Pennsylvania State Police troopers on his
15 radio. But most of the communication throughout the day
16 revolved around communication with the Pennsylvania State
17 Police.

18 **HSGAC Majority**: And when you say most of the
19 communication that day, most of your communication, or?

20 **Witness**: Correct. Most of my communication.
21 Because Pennsylvania State Police were all inside of the
22 site, and that's where most of the activity was occurring
23 throughout the day.

24 **HSGAC Majority**: And that communication, was that all
25 through Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**?

1 **Witness** : Yes. He was the only representative in
2 there.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : And can you talk, I guess, maybe
4 generally about what the radio traffic was like throughout
5 the case before -- specific questions about Crooks, and all
6 that. But just earlier in the day, what was the general
7 flow of radio traffic?

8 **Witness** : So, it was a very, very busy site. I think
9 in earlier testimony, I've said it was one of the busier
10 sites I've ever worked from a command post perspective, the
11 amount of traffic that was coming through it. You had
12 15,000 people who had been essentially standing out in the
13 sun for five or six hours, maybe even longer than that. If
14 you count the time before the gates even opened and people
15 were lined up there was an inordinate number of medical
16 calls that were coming in to the command post directly from
17 our post standers.

18 So, all those calls would come into me, and then I
19 would have to turn to the Butler County EMS representative
20 and say, you know, post 210 has another medical main
21 checkpoint, another medical. And there was a constant flow
22 of dispatch of medical personnel to people who were, you
23 know, having issues in the crowd.

24 Throughout the day, we had two or three lost children,
25 one of whom actually spent some time in the command post

1 and security room until they were reunited with their
2 family. We had lost property coming into the command post
3 and security room. We had a call about a media truck that
4 was going to set the ground on fire. So, we had to figure
5 out how to get fire trucks to that.

6 We had you know -- and then, there's these standard
7 calls about a package needing to be swept, or, you know, so
8 calls for K9 EOD, or just the normal radio traffic that you
9 would expect. But there was a lot of traffic that day.

10 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. Can you talk a little bit about
11 just the physical setup of the room, how big it was?

12 **Witness** : Sure. It was a relatively large room, kind
13 of in a standalone building. And there were essentially
14 card tables or tables of about this size. You know, the
15 six-foot, eight-foot tables set up in a big ring
16 configuration. That was pretty much it. There was one
17 door out the front, and then there were two small windows
18 to my right. And there was a little kitchen in the back
19 and a restroom.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. But small enough that you could
21 talk across the room --

22 **Witness** : Yes.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : -- verbally to others who were there.
24 And you said you were the only Secret Service person
25 assigned to the room. Were there others who were in and

1 out of the room during the day that you recall?

2 **Witness** : Yes, there were. The security room also
3 functioned as the -- what we would call the down room. So,
4 when the agents were getting relief from their post, it's
5 where they would come. The site agents were in and out of
6 the room throughout the day. The PI response and the
7 counter sniper, CS Response Teams, were in and out of the
8 room all day.

9 Other Pennsylvania State Troopers who were doing the
10 same thing, who were being pushed, were in and out of the
11 room all day. Our Uniformed Division personnel who were
12 working the magnetometers who were on break, in and out of
13 the room all day. And then at one point the agent assigned
14 to work the UAS detection system, ended up taking up
15 residence and setting up his station in the security room.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And is there a log of who came
17 and went from the room all day?

18 **Witness** : We don't keep -- I've never seen a log of
19 who comes and goes. That's not a standard practice of ours

20 **HSGAC Majority** : And we've heard from others that there's
21 a security room book. Is that something different?

22 **Witness** : That's the command post -- well, the
23 security room book would've had all of those same briefing
24 materials in it; the preliminary survey, the site diagrams.
25 And then there's also what we call a command post log,

1 which is simply just a record of the protectee movements.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. But not a log of --

3 **Witness** : Not a log of people coming and going. It's
4 just the protectee movements.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And then, sorry to jump around
6 a little bit. Going back to the morning of the 13th, you
7 said the initial briefing happened at 10:00 a.m. Could you
8 talk about what you did after that briefing?

9 **Witness** : Sure. After we concluded the briefing,
10 pretty much everybody went up to the security room to drop
11 off their gear and get ready to start going out on post.
12 While they were doing that, I was configuring the radios
13 and getting my materials set up.

14 Initially, they had set up the radio in a place where
15 my back would've been to the door, which I didn't want.
16 So, I moved the radio. I had to enlist the help of the
17 Butler Farm Show personnel there to find me an extension
18 cord and a power strip. So, I set up my radio so I could
19 at least look out the door of the command post. Got my
20 radio set to the right channels. Got my paperwork out and
21 ready, and waited for everyone to get on post so I could
22 start radio checks.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : And then what time was it,
24 approximately, if you remember, that you started the radio
25 checks?

1 **Witness** : Sometime around 11:00, 11:15, maybe.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : And could you describe briefly what that
3 entails, who you were checking with?

4 **Witness** : Sure. So, the radio check process is, once
5 you know that everybody is on post -- you know, you wait
6 for the site agents to come back and tell you, all right,
7 everybody's on post. And then the way that I do it, I have
8 my site post log there in front of me, and I just go down
9 post by post. You know, "Post 202, radio check."

10 First, I tell everybody. I go out on the channel,
11 "Hey, I'm about to begin radio checks." Then, "Post 202
12 from security room, radio check," and I wait for them to
13 get back to me. If they don't get back right away, you
14 give it, you know, 15, 20 seconds, you move on to the next
15 one. But the way I do it is I put a check mark next to
16 everybody who answers up.

17 There were a couple people on that initial go through
18 that didn't, and I had to go back around. And a couple
19 more got it the second time around. And then there were
20 one or two where either the CS Response Team or the PI
21 response team, I don't remember which one, actually went
22 out to the post to make sure that they were all set. So, a
23 couple of the HSI agents were having some issues with
24 getting the code properly loaded on their radio. So, we
25 had to make some -- you know, troubleshoot that. But we

1 eventually got it straightened out.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And talking about the radios.
3 So when you did the checks, was that just for the post
4 standers or were you also checking with the shift agents
5 and the tactical folks?

6 **Witness** : So, at that point the shift agents aren't
7 -- I mean, we're setting up at 11:00. I don't know where
8 they're at. They're in a different state. So can't do
9 anything with them. The tactical, same thing with the CAT
10 team. They're traveling with the protectee. Did the radio
11 check with the TSD lead, for sure. And the site agents
12 were in the room, so they were on the radio. So, they were
13 up and running.

14 And this was a question I was asked yesterday,
15 specifically, about if I did a radio check with the counter
16 sniper team. And I answered yesterday, no. I thought
17 about it last night. It's because I didn't do the radio
18 check. They don't go up on post until much later in the
19 day. And when they went up on post, they radioed into us
20 to say that they were on post, so. But that was later in
21 the day. And that initial round of radio checks, I was
22 able to contact all of the posts by the time we were done.
23 And once that's done, that allows TSD to begin their
24 sweeps.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And at that point, were the

1 other state and local officials also in the security room
2 while you were doing the radio checks?

3 **Witness** : Yes, I believe they were there.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : And did you have any communication with
5 Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**, or with anybody else to make sure that
6 their communications were working well?

7 **Witness** : I mean, I didn't have a specific
8 conversation, but he was on the radio with his folks. And
9 I mean, before we were even set up, we were getting medical
10 calls. So, I knew that the EMS guy was able to talk to his
11 folks.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : But there's no -- I guess my question
13 is, is there any kind of like standard operating procedure
14 where as the Secret Service security agent, you would check
15 in with the other agencies and make sure that they're
16 operational?

17 **Witness** : I don't remember specifically asking him if
18 his radio was working, no. But that wouldn't be
19 necessarily something that I've ever done before.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And then could you speak to the
21 different channels or frequencies that the Secret Service
22 was using that day?

23 **Witness** : Yes. And I'm going to pull out just one
24 piece of paper here because I keep forgetting what we
25 switched to and from, and I don't want to say it wrong. We

1 started out that the shift was going to be on LES .
2 So, when we do these initial radio checks you know, the
3 shift is not included in that at all. So they were on LES
4 , and initially everybody that was on the site was
5 going to be on LES . And we stayed on LES for
6 quite a while throughout the day.

7 So, we operated on LES most of the day. But it
8 wasn't until much later in the day where we -- when both
9 visits were occurring at once that we started getting
10 bleed-over from the First Lady's visit on LES , and we
11 had to make a switch to LES at that time, LES .

12 HSGAC Majority : Got it. And I'm going to introduce --
13 we'll mark Exhibit 2. I think it's an email. I'll give
14 you a second to take a look.

15 [Exhibit No. 2 was
16 marked for identification.]

17 HSGAC Majority : Sorry. And while we do, just one
18 clarifying question. What were you referring to to refresh
19 your recollection?

20 Witness : Oh, this is a printout of the site post
21 instructions that I made prior to coming down here to DC so
22 that I could remember this.

23 HSGAC Majority : And one other clarifying question. You
24 mentioned several times now testimony you gave yesterday.
25 Who was the testimony to?

1 **Witness** : The House version of this -- these
2 committees.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Have you testified with respect to the
4 events of July 13th to anybody else besides the House?

5 **Witness** : Yes. This is about my sixth interview.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : Can you just list those?

7 **Witness** : Sure. The day after I had an interview
8 with the FBI. A couple of days after that was a joint
9 interview with the FBI and Pennsylvania State Police. Then
10 I had the Mission Assurance, Secret Service. Internal
11 Mission Assurance interview. And then, I had the
12 independent review panel or board interview, and then
13 yesterday the House.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And so, the email or the
15 document I just introduced, that's marked Bates Number
16 2953. There's a couple emails on that page. Do you recall
17 receiving these emails?

18 **Witness** : Yes. This, I believe, at least the one
19 here that says it's from Phoenix, that was the site PI
20 person sending out that we had switched channels because I
21 was putting it out. I also put it out over the radio, but
22 she did this as a backup to email everybody as well.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. You answered my next question.
24 Just to make sure that this was what you were referring to
25 with the bleed-over from the FLOTUS visit. And there's the

1 first email is at 4:28 p.m., and you said that was sent by
2 the protective intelligence agent?

3 [Witness] : The PI site team Agent. Yes.

4 [HSGAC Majority] : Saying all post standers, and site, to
5 advance, switch radio traffic. And that would've been from
6 LES ?

7 [Witness] : Yes. I think we briefly tried LES , but
8 very briefly. We didn't really spend any time on LES .
9 There was also bleed over on that. So, the final switch
10 was from LES .

11 [HSGAC Majority] : And so, that's the second. There's an
12 email about 15 minutes later at 4:42?

13 [Witness] : Yes, that would've been it.

14 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. And who makes the call to switch
15 the radio frequency?

16 [Witness] : So, in this instance, I called SAIC Pittsburgh,
17 the SAIC of Pittsburgh and asked him, I said, hey SAIC ,
18 we're having some trouble on the radio here with bleed-over
19 from the First Lady's visit. Who would you like me to
20 switch? And he said, well, let's switch the posts standers
21 at the LES rally. And then left it up to us to find the
22 channel that worked. But we made that decision, you know,
23 talking on the phone, he, and I.

24 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. And then you said when that
25 change was made, you put it out over the radio prior to

1 this email being sent?

2 **Witness** : Yes. Both switches went out over the
3 radio, and I redid radio checks as well.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And then, so when you redid the
5 radio checks after this email came out at 4:42 you were
6 able to confirm?

7 **Witness** : Yes. So eventually, we were able to
8 confirm with everybody again. It did take -- I think we
9 had to go out to one post to make sure that they had heard
10 the messages or got the messages. But we did get everybody
11 on the same page.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And were there any other radio
13 problems you were aware of that day?

14 **Witness** : Just the coding issue. It's always an
15 issue for us. It seems like getting everybody with the
16 proper code, with the amount of times that we switch code.
17 We switch code **LES**, which I understand from a
18 security perspective. But you know, other than that,
19 things seemed to be working okay. I mean, the bleed-over,
20 that was a significant issue that we had to troubleshoot.
21 I'm not aware if any individual person was having
22 individual problems with their radio, but none that were
23 necessarily brought to my attention.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : And as the security room agent, it
25 wouldn't have been your role to, I guess, troubleshoot

1 aside from doing the radio checks that --

2 **Witness** : Yeah, I mean, I have no special technical
3 expertise. If the radio was completely broken, I wouldn't
4 know how to fix it.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : And is that something that should be
6 conveyed to you as a security room agent if someone is
7 having a problem with their radio?

8 **Witness** : Yes, I think so.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : And we had heard in prior interviews
10 that Special Agent **Lead Agent** had trouble with her radio, and
11 that **SAIC Pittsburgh** had given her his radio, so that she'd had
12 it working with that the day. Was that something that you
13 were aware of at the time?

14 **Witness** : I wasn't aware of that until Special Agent
15 **SAIC urgh** actually arrived and came into the command post.
16 That jogs my memory. He came into the command post and was
17 actually looking for the key loader so that he could try to
18 put the code into her radio, because again, both of them
19 were not at the site. They arrived with the motorcade.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And you said a little while ago
21 that that coding is often an issue. Could you talk a
22 little bit more about that and how that impacts events?

23 **Witness** : It's just oftentimes hard to -- you know,
24 we sometimes have this, what **LES**
25 . Some cities, it works, some

1 cities it doesn't. I know I've had some difficulty with it
2 in my own district, and I've tried to work to find
3 solutions with our CIO's office to make that happen. It's
4 just a reality of the technology. I can't speak to why it
5 is. I don't have that technical background.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And for technical issues during events,
7 who would be the person that folks would go to to
8 troubleshoot?

9 **Witness** : **LES**

10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED] At this time, you know, at the time of
15 the event, I should say, for candidates or other protectees
16 that aren't the President or Vice-President, those
17 capabilities were never available to us.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you know if that's still the case
19 or if that's changed?

20 **Witness** : I haven't worked a campaign event since the
21 13th, so I am not 100 percent sure what the footprint looks
22 like from that perspective. I will say I've had, for
23 example, a DHS Secretary visit, and we're still on our own
24 for that.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. So, jumping back to the

1 security room on July 13th, and you've talked about this,
2 but just to confirm. In the security room, did you
3 personally have any direct access to radio transmissions on
4 the Pennsylvania State Police or Butler County radio
5 channels?

6 **Witness**: No. I mean, I could occasionally hear
7 traffic on the Pennsylvania State Police Radio just because
8 he was, you know, sitting six feet or so away from me, but
9 not that I was like listening to or hearing the traffic.
10 And that was all to my knowledge, Pennsylvania State Police
11 to Pennsylvania State police traffic. There was no other
12 local radio traffic in the command post that I would've
13 gotten. And I was also occasionally hearing the Butler EMS
14 radio traffic. Kind of similar to the Pennsylvania State
15 Police.

16 **HSGAC Majority**: Got it. And as far as you were aware,
17 did any of the other state or local officials in the
18 security room have direct access to the Butler County ESU
19 radio channels?

20 **Witness**: I'm not aware if they did or didn't.

21 **HSGAC Majority**: And throughout the day, and I apologize,
22 I think you might have touched on this, but just to remind
23 me, your primary contact was through Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**, and
24 you said you learned throughout the day from his phone
25 calls that he was in touch with the other command post.

1 Did you have an understanding of his access to whether he
2 had a Butler County Radio or whether Butler County had a
3 Pennsylvania State Police radio?

4 **Witness** : I did not have knowledge of exactly who he
5 was communicating with or by what means.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And again, based on your experience
7 working with state and locals at other events, did you have
8 any expectation? You know, would you have assumed that
9 they would've exchanged radios or just kind of leave it up
10 to them to figure out their plan?

11 **Witness** : So, from my experience, I would say that
12 you would hope that all of the state and locals that were
13 working together had communications with each other. But
14 again, you would've also wanted that communication all in
15 one place.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And so, jumping forward in the
17 day a little bit, I want to ask you about a few specific
18 communications with Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** from the local command
19 post. But actually, before that, I want to show you one
20 additional email.

21 **Witness** : Is there any chance we can take a quick
22 bathroom break?

23 **HSGAC Majority** : Yeah. Let's take a five-minute break.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it.

25 [Recess.]

1 HSGAC Majority : All right. Back on the record. I think
2 where we left off, I was just about to hand you this email.
3 I think this is Exhibit 3, and this is an email that you
4 sent on July 13th at 5:38 p.m. The recipient is redacted,
5 but our understanding is that that's Lead Agent that
6 this email was sent to?

7 [Exhibit No. 3 was
8 marked for identification.]

9 **Witness** : I believe that's correct.

10 HSGAC Majority : The email says, "Please give me a shout
11 in the CP when you're able." Could you explain the context
12 of this email, please?

13 **Witness** : Yes. I had gotten a question from the
14 Pennsylvania State Police about where the motorcade was
15 going to exit and how they were going to coordinate the
16 motorcades exit with the exit of all the people. And they
17 just wanted some clarification on what the plan was for
18 that. So that's why I reached out to **Lead Agent** to have her
19 call so that I could get the proper answer.

20 HSGAC Majority : And why did you send an email rather
21 than calling or using the radio?

22 **Witness** : I don't know. I may have actually tried
23 calling the cell phone. And as far as the radio, this
24 would not be something that you'd discuss on the radio
25 because her answer would've been much longer than what you

1 would want for radio traffic.

2 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And did you ever get a response
3 from her?

4 **Witness** : I never got a response from her, but I was
5 able to get the answer. And I forget if it was from one of
6 the site agents who came into the room at the time, but we
7 were able to get the answer. So, this issue resolved
8 itself, so I never revisited it.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. Got it. Thanks. And to jump a
10 few minutes ahead on the 13th to around after the time that
11 local law enforcement, as we now know, you know, first
12 identified a suspicious person who turned out to be Crooks,
13 could you tell us when you first learned that local law
14 enforcement had identified a suspicious individual?

15 **Witness** : Sure. It was around 5:45, 5:50 timeframe,
16 when Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** mentioned that a local tactical team
17 was looking for a suspicious person.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : And that's something he told you
19 verbally in the command, in the security room?

20 **Witness** : Yes.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : And our understanding is that Sergeant
22 **PSP Site Liaison** received a phone call from the Butler County command
23 post that started at 5:44 p.m. Were you speaking to him
24 while he was on the phone or after he had finished his
25 call?

1 **Witness** : No. I think it was after he finished his
2 call. He told me the substance of the call.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you recall specifically what he
4 said or anything that he said?

5 **Witness** : My recollection in summary of it was that
6 there was a potentially suspicious person that the local
7 police or local tactical unit had observed and was looking
8 for.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you recall if he told you the
10 location of that person?

11 **Witness** : I believe there was some conversation. I
12 don't remember if he told me, or if I asked if it was
13 inside or outside the perimeter of the event.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : And so, he then told you that it was --

15 **Witness** : It was outside.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you recall if he said that the
17 suspicious person was using a rangefinder?

18 **Witness** : I do remember a mention of a rangefinder.
19 Yes.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : And what did you do after you received
21 that information from him?

22 **Witness** : So, at that time, Agent **C/UAS Advance** was fully
23 embedded in the command post. He was working from the
24 command post at that point. So, I had a brief discussion
25 with him about getting the particulars from Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**

1 so that he could push it out to our CS Response Team and PI
2 Response Team.

3 HSGAC Majority : He being Agent C/UAS Advance
Lead

4 Witness : Agent C/UAS Advance
Lead, yeah.

5 HSGAC Majority : And can you elaborate that, about that
6 discussion for send -- you said sending out the CS Response
7 and Protective Intelligence?

8 Witness : Yeah. Basically, the discussion was
9 essentially, you know, get whatever information that is
10 available and contact starting with the CS Response Team so
11 that they could go out and start looking for the
12 individual.

13 HSGAC Majority : And that was an instruction that you
14 gave to Agent C/UAS Advance
Lead?

15 Witness : Yeah. We had a discussion about it.

16 HSGAC Majority : Okay. And your understanding was that
17 Agent C/UAS Advance
Lead then contacted CS Response?

18 Witness : Yeah. My understanding is that he
19 contacted CS Response, and I believe he forwarded it a
20 picture that he was able to get from Sergeant PSP Site Liaison.

21 HSGAC Majority : Okay. And was that picture forwarded to
22 you as well?

23 Witness : Not at that time. I got it much later in
24 the evening.

25 HSGAC Majority : Did you or Agent C/UAS Advance
Lead notify the

1 counters snipers that CS Response was being sent out?

2 **Witness** I did not.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you know if Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead** did?

4 **Witness** I don't believe that we notified them at
5 that time.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : Is that standard practice to send out CS
7 Response without informing the counters snipers?

8 **Witness** : So, the CS Response Team, you know, could
9 be dispatched either from us or by them directly. So, it's
10 not unusual to have CS Response respond to things that may
11 have been picked up by somebody other than CS, which in
12 this case it was picked up by somebody else.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : And you said you also discussed sending
14 out Protective Intelligence?

15 **Witness** : Yeah. I believe that they were notified at
16 the same time as CS Response, but through Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead**.
17 That was my understanding.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : And did Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead** communicate
19 anything to you after he had reached out to CS Response and
20 Protective Intelligence?

21 **Witness** : No. Just that they were, you know, on
22 their way to respond, to start looking.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : And other than Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead**, did you
24 share the information with anybody else at that point?

25 **Witness** : No. We were the only two people in there,

1 or only two Secret Service that were in there. At that
2 point, I believe there could have been people coming and
3 going.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : So, did you consider sending the
5 information out over the radio at that point?

6 **Witness** : I did not. Because at that point it's a,
7 you know, just a suspicious person that is outside of the
8 perimeter. So that's part of why asking if they were
9 inside or outside the perimeter was important for me
10 because if it was inside the perimeter maybe there was a
11 particular post that could have responded as well.

12 But at events of this size and with everything that
13 was going on, having a report of a suspicious person on the
14 outside perimeter was not unusual. I would've been
15 surprised if I didn't get one of those calls that day.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Got it. And then at that point, do you
17 recall the next time that you received information about
18 the suspicious person?

19 **Witness** : I don't specifically recall receiving
20 information about the suspicious person again, but I do
21 recall hearing over the Secret Service radio that the local
22 police were working a problem at the 3 o'clock.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : Do you remember around what time that
24 came through?

25 **Witness** : In my recollection, it was pretty much

1 moments before the shooting.

2 HSGAC Majority : So, moments rather than minutes. Is
3 that fair?

4 Witness : Yeah. I mean, to me the time was very
5 compressed in real time.

6 HSGAC Majority : Do you recall Sergeant PSP Site Liaison having any
7 other phone calls about the suspicious person between, you
8 know, 5:45, 5:50 and when shots were fired that he told you
9 about?

10 Witness : I don't recall any.

11 HSGAC Majority : Our understanding is that he received a
12 phone call from the Butler County command post around 6:08
13 relaying that there was an individual on the roof of the
14 AGR building. Is that something that --

15 Witness : I never heard that about the individual on
16 the roof of the building. Again, what I heard was local
17 police are working a problem at 3 o'clock. And so,
18 unfortunately, the radios aren't recorded, so I don't know
19 what time that came across the radio. But once I heard
20 that, I was clicked onto our radios at that point.

21 HSGAC Majority : And, you know, during this 15-, 20-
22 minute period from when CS Response and PI were sent out
23 and when shots were fired, did you have any follow-up at
24 all with Agent PSP Site Liaison or anybody else about, you know, like
25 did they find him like, what's going on with --

1 **Witness** : No, I did not. At that time, I was just
2 back to working the radios for the event, the arrest of the
3 regular traffic. So, I was just waiting to hear an update
4 if there was going to be one, if they were able to find the
5 person.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And when shots were fired, did you hear
7 them from the security room or did you find out otherwise?

8 **Witness** : No, I did not hear the shots in the
9 security room. What I heard was, "Shots fired, shots
10 fired."

11 **HSGAC Majority** : Over the Secret Service radio?

12 **Witness** : Over the Secret Service radio.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : And do you recall any other
14 conversations with Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** at any point before
15 shots were fired about what local or state law enforcement
16 were doing to locate this person?

17 **Witness** : No. I don't recall anything specific, no.

18 **HSGAC Majority** : I think I'm going to turn it over to my
19 colleagues for a couple of quick follow-ups. Thank you.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : You testified earlier about preparations
21 for the week that your communications were largely with the
22 site agent, that's Agent **Site Agent**. Is that correct?

23 **Witness** : During the week --

24 **HSGAC Majority** : In advance of July 13th, who did you speak
25 with in preparation for the event?

1 **Witness** : Before July 13th, I only had one email with
2 Site Agent **Site Agent** about logistics for that morning, and I
3 spoke with SAIC **SAIC** just letting him know that I was
4 coming.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : When was the first time you spoke with
6 Special Agent **Lead Agent**?

7 **Witness** : I don't recall. I don't think I ever spoke
8 to her that day. It may have been the next day.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : That day being the 13th?

10 **Witness** : The 13th. I think I had some email. She
11 sent an email or two with some of the paperwork on the
12 12th, but I'm not sure that I ever had a conversation with
13 her until the following day.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : What did you understand Agent **Lead Agent** role
15 to be?

16 **Witness** : So, she was the lead advance agent. So, in
17 our protective model, the lead advance has overall
18 responsibility for coordinating all the different aspects
19 of the visit.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : And what's the distinction between that
21 role and the site agent's role?

22 **Witness** : So the lead advance kind of has overall
23 purview of the entire visit. So that's the site's airport,
24 the motorcade routes, and having function of liaison with
25 whatever local counterparts are being involved. The site

1 agents are responsible for the security plan for their
2 individual site. So it's a little bit more narrow of a
3 scope.

4 **HSGAC Majority**: If changes needed to be made to the
5 communications responsibilities, who would be the most
6 likely person to make those changes? The site agent, the
7 lead advance, or the person in charge of the security post.

8 **Witness**: So when you say communication changes, what
9 do you mean?

10 **HSGAC Majority**: If you didn't like the setup, if you felt
11 the communications capabilities, the radios weren't as they
12 should be, if you felt like the people who were going to be
13 in the tent weren't sufficient, who would be the person to
14 make those changes? You, the site agent, or the advanced
15 agent?

16 **Witness**: So if there were an issue that I had
17 identified earlier in the day, but again, I just want to
18 reiterate everything, when I walked in that day, other than
19 me moving the physical location of the radio was a very
20 typical setup for us at that point. But if I felt like
21 something was missing, that I had known was missing, I
22 would've started with the site agent.

23 **HSGAC Majority**: Would you have had the authority to make
24 any changes if something was missing, or wrong, or not how
25 you wanted it?

1 **Witness** : So, typically, no. A post stander would
2 not have that authority. Again, we're showing up there the
3 day of the event. Everybody else has been involved in the
4 planning for probably a week or so. So, I would be
5 deferring to the advance team or continue the problem up
6 the chain until we got to some, you know, whoever either
7 field office supervisor or the detail supervisor, depending
8 on the issue.

9 **HSGAC Majority** : But the first person on the chain would've
10 been the site agent?

11 **Witness** : Correct.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : You mentioned in preparation the written
13 materials were the only mention you saw of the setup that
14 day. And correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe you said
15 it, reference command post or security room, but in this
16 case, both?

17 **Witness** : Correct. So for this particular visit, the
18 command post and the site security room for the Butler Farm
19 Show were one and the same.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : What is the difference?

21 **Witness** : So in the context of, say, a presidential
22 visit, the command post is a separate entity, sometimes
23 combined with like the airport security room where there's
24 not a lot going on at the airport other than the arrival of
25 the air of the airplane and departure of the motorcade. So

1 that is where the command post is, and where you would
2 have, hopefully, command-level staff from all the agencies
3 involved in the visit at a command post for, say, on a
4 presidential visit.

5 And then the site security room would be just that the
6 security room at a particular site to handle whatever
7 issues or to relay the traffic of that day for that site
8 security room. In this instance, they were one and the
9 same.

10 **HSGAC Majority**: What would be a reason for making them one
11 and the same?

12 **Witness**: In this instance, a reason could be
13 distance between the sites. It could be personnel, you
14 know, not having enough personnel. It could be logistics
15 where it may make sense that you have your command post at
16 the largest site because that's where most of the activity
17 is going to happen for the visit. Really depends on each
18 particular visit.

19 **HSGAC Majority**: When you saw that the command post and
20 security room would be one and the same for this visit, did
21 it raise any concerns for you?

22 **Witness** **LES**

23 **HSGAC Majority**: You mentioned earlier that it was
24 anticipated there would be 15,000 people there, and it was
25 a hot day, and there were plenty of problems the day of.

1 Did the Secret Service ever verify the number of people in
2 advance and in anticipation of the heat that day in
3 preparations, et cetera? Did you anticipate there being
4 problems or a large volume of work coming through this post
5 based on the anticipated numbers and the heat?

6 **Witness**: Again, I wasn't involved in any of the
7 planning, so I don't know what discussions were had about
8 that leading up to that day.

9 **HSGAC Majority**: You also mentioned earlier that typically
10 there's only one U.S. Secret Service personnel in the
11 command post or security room. And correct me if I'm
12 wrong, but you said, "unfortunately that's the case." Why
13 is that unfortunate?

14 **Witness**: Well, I think this is a perfect example of
15 what happened that day. Sometimes when things are going
16 well, it works fine. But the volume of traffic that was
17 going through the room that day and in the aftermath,
18 particularly having another person. Again, the other thing
19 too is you're one person working a cell phone in **████**
20 different radio channels. So it's when you're trying to
21 focus on three different things at once, it may be possible
22 to miss something else.

23 **HSGAC Majority**: Have you recommended to anybody the need to
24 change that practice?

25 **Witness**: I think I've mentioned it in every

1 interview so far.

2 **HSGAC Major**: With respect to your learning about there
3 being a separate command post, local command post that day,
4 you mentioned that you only learned as events were
5 occurring, and you heard PSP **PSP Site Liaison** talking to others.
6 Approximately what time did you learn this separate command
7 post to exist that day?

8 **Witness**: I can't give an estimate on that. We were
9 in there -- we were in that room from, you know, 11 o'clock
10 till the event started. So, it would be hard to guess.

11 **HSGAC Majority**: At any time prior to 5:45 or 5:50 when you
12 learned of the suspicious person, did you determine that
13 separate command post to be problematic in your view to
14 dealing with events?

15 **Witness**: No. I didn't consider it an issue at that
16 point.

17 **HSGAC Majority**: At 5:45 or 5:50 when you first learned, did
18 you determine that it was problematic that you were getting
19 this information secondhand?

20 **Witness**: I didn't determine it was problematic. It
21 was obvious it was probably third-hand information at that
22 point, but we got the information so it worked in that
23 instance.

24 **HSGAC Majority**: Did you learn at that time that the
25 suspicious person had a rangefinder?

1 **Witness** : I believe there was mention of the
2 rangefinder. Yes.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Well, you mentioned that you asked whether
4 the person was inside or outside the perimeter. Correct?

5 **Witness** : Well, yeah, what their last known location
6 was.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : Did you ask any other questions?

8 **Witness** : I had gotten the information that they were
9 looking for a person that he was -- you know, I asked if he
10 was outside the perimeter and they had mentioned the
11 rangefinder. So, I think that was all the information I
12 got.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Had **C/UAS Advance Lead** not been there, what would you
14 have done?

15 **Witness** : I would've done what he ended up doing,
16 which was notifying the PI response and CS Response and
17 trying to get them the same information that we got to
18 them.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : And what would've been required in your
20 mind for you to put that out over the radio?

21 **Witness** : Well, to put that we were looking for
22 suspicious personnel over the radio, I would wait till
23 there was like a threat or something specific to report
24 rather than a person that we're just looking for.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : When was the first time you heard he was

1 near the AGR building?

2 **Witness** : I think that was in the initial report. I
3 believe that was like his last known location.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Had you seen the AGR building prior to
5 going into the security room that day?

6 **Witness** : I had not.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : My name is **HSGAC Majority** . Just a couple
8 of follow-up questions on that line of questioning about
9 the separate command posts. I understand you said you
10 learned later in the day that there was a separate command
11 post for the locals, but you learned at the 10:00 a.m.
12 briefing you said, which units would be represented in the
13 Secret Service security and that did not include all local
14 law enforcement. Was that your understanding?

15 **Witness** : Correct. But I also didn't know the full
16 scope of what other local, there wasn't really a mention of
17 what other local law enforcement other than PSP was going
18 to be involved.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : But did you know at that 10:00 a.m.
20 briefing when you learned who was going to be in the
21 security room, did you, did you put it together that not
22 all local units would be represented in the security room?

23 **Witness** : I didn't really put that together at that
24 point, no.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Okay. And you just became aware, you

1 became aware throughout the day as you were hearing
2 Sergeant [PSP Site Liaison] receive information present at the rally?

3 [Witness] : Correct.

4 [HSGAC Majority] : So then you didn't have any different
5 understanding about how you were expecting to receive local
6 radio information. Your understanding before the 10:00
7 a.m. briefing and after was that Sergeant [PSP Site Liaison] would
8 relay anything?

9 [Witness] : Correct.

10 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. And you had said earlier about
11 what the general role about the security room agent is, you
12 said it was for relaying information. Can you say more
13 about that? So was your job as the security room agent to
14 relay everything you hear out to Secret Service radio?

15 [Witness] : Well, anything pertinent or, you know,
16 there's certain traffic that's very standard that we're
17 going to put out over the radio. But yes, it's not a --
18 you are relaying whatever information you get. Yes.

19 [HSGAC Majority] : But anything pertinent. So in other
20 words, you have to make some decisions about not to relay
21 some information?

22 [Witness] : Well, of course.

23 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. And regarding the person on the
24 roof, you had said earlier that you never became aware of
25 someone on the roof before shots were fired. Is that

1 right?

2 **Witness** : No. My recollection is I heard the radio
3 traffic about the local police working a problem at 3
4 o'clock,

5 **HSGAC Majority** : But nothing about a man on the roof?

6 **Witness** : I don't recall ever hearing anything about
7 a man on the roof.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : So, I understand that the 3 o'clock
9 radio was over Secret Service radio transmission, but you
10 didn't receive any information from Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**
11 verbally about a man on the roof?

12 **Witness** : Again, I don't recall hearing that
13 specifically. What I recall hearing at the time when
14 everything started happening was over our radio, which is
15 the radio that I'm focused on listening to.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : So, Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** says that he was
17 told at 6:08 that there was someone on the roof and that he
18 relayed that to you shortly after that. So around 6:09,
19 which would be two minutes before shots.

20 **Witness Counsel** : I don't think that's an accurate
21 rendition of his testimony that he, did he say exactly it
22 was SAIC **SAIC Pittsburgh** or if he would've, or he may have sent it to
23 somebody else? I don't think that's a precise -- that's
24 what he said.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Well, let me ask you this way. That

1 doesn't ring a bell. Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** telling you shortly
2 before shots fired that there was someone on the roof?

3 **Witness** : No. Again, what I heard at the time in the
4 room was that the local police are working a problem at 3
5 o'clock. Now, if he's claiming that he said that at,

6 **Witness Counsel** : I don't think he's claiming he said
7 that. I think he's claiming he actually told **C/UAS Advance Lead** .

8 **HSGAC Majority** : But you did not hear from Sergeant
9 **PSP Site Liaison** before shots were fired from you. From what you can
10 recall that there was a man on the roof?

11 **Witness** : No. What I recall is that the local police
12 were working at problem at 3 o'clock. And when I heard
13 that on the radio, that's what I put back out over the
14 Secret Service radio.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : What did you put back out?

16 **Witness** : I parroted back exactly what I heard so
17 that whatever unit called it Security Room radio is a
18 little bit stronger. I wanted to make sure everybody else
19 could hear the same thing. So when that traffic comes in,
20 I'm not only listening to it, I am then repeating back and
21 waiting to hear what else comes back if anybody responds to
22 it.

23 **HSGAC Majority** : Understood. Thank you. I think we'll
24 turn it over to our minority colleagues

25 **HSGAC Minority** : And my name is **HSGAC Minority** , I'm

1 going to follow-up on a few things that our majority
2 colleagues touched on. So I'm going to start with the man
3 on the roof since we just ended there. So, my
4 understanding as well is that PSP Site Liaison says that he relayed
5 that to you at 6:09. That's our understanding. You say
6 that you don't recall hearing that. Were you listening for
7 that kind of update?

8 Witness Counsel: I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to
9 interject again. I don't believe that's an accurate
10 statement of his statement. I think he said something to
11 the effect that maybe he would have said something simply
12 because he was there

13 HSGAC Minority: Could someone could pull that up for me?

14 Witness Counsel: Why don't we just double-check and just
15 to make sure. That's all.

16 HSGAC Minority: Oh, we will. I mean, what was your
17 level of urgency here? Because, you know, in your response
18 to the majority's question about the suspicious individual,
19 you did initially say that they notified you of the range
20 finder. Were you notified in the same conversation the
21 suspicious individual had a rangefinder?

22 Witness: Yes, that was all the same conversation, I
23 believe.

24 HSGAC Minority: Okay. I mean, is that something that
25 happens often and protective events?

1 **Witness** : So the individual having a rangefinder was
2 part of what made him suspicious and what we wanted to go
3 talk to him about.

4 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And then you were waiting for
5 some kind of update after?

6 **Witness** : Well, we dispatched a team to go look for
7 him and they were looking for him for several minutes.

8 **HSGAC Minority** : And then what were you doing in that
9 time? I mean, were you listening?

10 **Witness** : Yes, I was listening to the radios and
11 doing the rest of the traffic, the rest of the movements,
12 the rest of everything else that was going on.

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Did you feel any sense of urgency

14 **Witness** : At the time where we were just -- where we
15 were looking for the suspicious person?

16 **HSGAC Minority** : I guess, let's start first with the man
17 on the roof. Well, I mean at that time you didn't know
18 about it, so.

19 **Witness** : So the Man on the roof thing, again, I
20 never heard the man on the roof thing because I believe if
21 the claim is that that was said out loud into the room,
22 that that was probably occurring as I'm getting the same
23 traffic of the local police are working a problem at 3
24 o'clock, which I'm listening to my Secret Service radio
25 intently at that point.

1 **HSGAC Minority** : And are you only listening to your
2 Secret?

3 **Witness** : Well, I'm trying to listen to as much as I
4 can, but I typically can only listen to one thing at a
5 time.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : Do you recall, I guess, the level of
7 activity that was going on around that time, around 6:09

8 **Witness** : Precisely at 6:09, no. But I will say that
9 at the time that the call came across that the local police
10 were working a problem at the 3 o'clock, that the entire --
11 everybody who was in the security room definitely peaked up
12 and was very much turned on.

13 **HSGAC Minority** : So, is it that the locals were working
14 something at the 3 o'clock that raised it to enough of a
15 threat level that you felt like you needed to communicate
16 that out on the radio?

17 **Witness** : Yeah. I reported back what I heard on the
18 radio that came across on the Secret Service radio from
19 another Secret Service personnel. And to this day, I'm
20 still not sure exactly who that was, who called that into
21 the security room. But I'm listening for traffic on my
22 Secret Service radio.

23 **Witness Counsel** : Can I just say that when you used the
24 phrase "enough of a threat," there were between a suspicion
25 and a threat, those are mutually exclusive categories and

1 they have completely different meanings. If you wanted to
2 expound on your understanding of the difference between a
3 suspicion and a threat?

4 **Witness**: Sure. A threat is somebody who has the
5 capability to do immediate harm to somebody. So even in
6 this instance, even if I had heard that there was a man on
7 a roof, a man on a roof solely that is not necessarily a
8 threat.

9 **Witness Counsel**: But that's a hypothetical that --

10 **Witness**: It's 100 percent hypothetical.

11 **Witness Counsel**: Describe the difference in your mind
12 between a suspicious suspicion and an actual threat. The
13 difference.

14 **Witness** So, suspicion is someone who is suspicious,
15 is someone who needs to be talked to, investigated to
16 determine what their intent is, if they have any, to do any
17 sort of ill will. A threat is someone who is actively
18 displaying the capability to do harm.

19 **HSGAC Minority**: Okay. And you mentioned before the fact
20 that it was relayed to you, you I guess asked where because
21 of that? I think, you know, you weren't as concerned as if
22 inside the perimeter.

23 **Witness**: I never said I wouldn't be as concerned. I
24 said it would differentiate potentially who we might
25 dispatch to investigate that individual.

1 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. So how would that have been?

2 **Witness** : Because if the person was inside the
3 perimeter and he was in the vicinity of a particular post,
4 we could have enlisted the assistance of that post to
5 potentially, you know, find that person quicker. Someone
6 on the outer perimeter, there's really only two assets
7 available to us from a Secret Service perspective to
8 dispatch. And those would've been the PI response and the
9 CS Response because they're really the only people who are
10 capable of leaving the interior secure perimeter to go on
11 the outside to look for somebody. Everybody else has to
12 maintain and hold their particular post.

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Because, I mean, we're having
14 this conversation, but at the end of the day, it's not a
15 hypothetical. The suspect was on the outer perimeter. He
16 got up on the AGR building, he shot, he hit the protectee,
17 and he killed someone, and hurt other people. So, I mean,
18 the threat, you know, whether or not you recognized it at
19 that time, it seems like there was some urgency. So that's
20 what we're trying to understand is what folks were doing
21 and why information was or wasn't relayed. So what did you
22 relay out of the security that day?

23 **Witness** : Just in general all day long?

24 **HSGAC Minority** : I mean, how many transmissions did you
25 put out from the security room then?

1 **Witness** : I have no idea how many, but it had to be -
2 - oh, I don't even want to guess. I mean, I was on the
3 radio a lot during that day.

4 **HSGAC Minority** : And were they all related to medical?
5 Were there any other suspicious individuals?

6 **Witness** : I don't recall any other particular
7 suspicious individual call. There were a lot of medical
8 calls. There were a lot of calls for -- again, you know,
9 we had the fire incident, somebody trying to report a
10 domestic assault to one of our posts. We had, you know,
11 the typical calls for requests for site agents to come to
12 post to deal with an issue or, you know, staff had a
13 question or a guest had a question. I mean, there was --
14 you know, like any other typical site, it was a lot of
15 traffic. A site that big is always going to have a lot of
16 radio traffic.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : And then were you relaying some of that
18 information out?

19 **Witness** : All of it.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : So, I guess that's what I don't
21 understand is why then you didn't relay out a suspicious
22 individual if you were relaying all these other things out
23 that day?

24 **Witness** : So, for a common practice for us is if
25 there is a suspicious individual, you dispatch the two

1 teams to go look for and find out if the individual is in
2 fact suspicious.

3 **HSGAC Minority** : So is the communication standard less
4 for suspicious individual than it is for medical or for
5 other things you may have to communicate out of the radio?

6 **Witness** : No. In this instance, the appropriate
7 people who could deal with a suspicious person outside of
8 the secure perimeter were dispatched.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : What time did former President Trump get
10 on the stage?

11 **Witness** : I'd have to -- I don't know exactly the
12 time he went on stage.

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Do you know if it was after you received
14 the initial reports at 5:45 of the suspicious individual?

15 **Witness** : I believe it was after. Yes.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : Our understanding, I think is, it was
17 around 6 o'clock. So you know, there was time to
18 potentially not have him go on stage. I mean, none of this
19 was something that was discussed in the security room?

20 **Witness** : So as we've discussed this timeframe here,
21 we were looking for this person for it sounds like 15
22 minutes or so. If you're saying he went on stage at 6
23 o'clock, I highly doubt that they would've held him off
24 stage for 15 minutes while we were trying to look for
25 somebody who could have been anywhere.

1 HSGAC Minority : But they didn't have the information
2 about the suspicious individual from the security room?

3 Witness : No.

4 HSGAC Minority : So they wouldn't have been able to even
5 make that determination?

6 Witness : No.

7 HSGAC Minority : Okay. You mentioned earlier, I'm going
8 to back earlier in the day that the CS or PI Response Team
9 you actually went out to help them out with their radio at
10 one point earlier that day?

11 Witness : I did not. They went out to help other
12 posts. This was well before arrival when they're, you
13 know, kind of, you know, just down waiting. I think, in
14 fact, it may have even been before the CS teams were even
15 up. So the CS Response agent at that point is really just
16 a relief agent.

17 HSGAC Minority : And you also mentioned that they were
18 both, I think, the CS Response and the PI Team were in and
19 out of the security room that day?

20 Witness : Yes.

21 HSGAC Minority : How many times were they in and out?

22 Witness : A dozen or more.

23 HSGAC Minority : Okay. You also mentioned that the PI
24 agent she sent that out secondary backup to what you'd put
25 out on the radio transmission. How did send that out? Was

1 she in the security room?

2 **Witness** : Yeah. She was in the room at the time.

3 And since all those email addresses would've had to be hand
4 typed in, because a lot of them were HSI and they wouldn't
5 just pre-populate on her phone. She volunteered to do
6 that.

7 **HSGAC Minority** : So she was in the security room around 8
8 28 and probably for a little before that if that's when the
9 email was sent -- or 4:28?

10 **Witness** : Yes, yes.

11 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And do you recall how long she in
12 security room? I'm just trying to get a sense of whether
13 or not she was patrolling the area kind of in the 5
14 o'clock, you know, when you started getting these reports
15 about a suspicious individual.

16 **Witness** : I do not believe that she was in the
17 security room when that report came into us at 5:45, 5:50.

18 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And so you don't recall about how
19 long after four twenty eight it was that she left?

20 **Witness** : She could have been in or out two or three
21 times in that timeframe.

22 **HSGAC Minority** : And is the protective intelligence team
23 roaming the site or they were kind of fixed in one location
24 and waiting?

25 **Witness** : Really depends on the site and what's going

1 on. At this site, they were definitely out and about a
2 lot. So I would say that the majority of the day they were
3 roaming coming in and out back to the security room, you
4 know, at times.

5 **HSGAC Minority** : Were you, you were on site during the
6 soft opening for vendors and volunteers around, I think it
7 was around 1:00-ish?

8 **Witness** : Correct.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Do you recall hearing anything
10 about or hearing something that sounded like shots or
11 fireworks?

12 **Witness** : It doesn't ring a -- I don't really recall,
13 no.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And you didn't hear anything like
15 that after the fact agents hearing something earlier?

16 **Witness** : Not that I recall, no.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Who was the main protective
18 intelligence agent for the Butler rally?

19 **Witness** : I believe he was from the Pittsburgh Field
20 office. I believe his first name is **Intel Advance Lead**

21 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. The woman -- is it **Site Protective**
22 **Intelligence Agent** ?

23 **Witness** : **Site Protective Intelligence Agent** was the post stander PI
24 team agent?

25 **HSGAC Minority** : And she was the one that was actually

1 dispatched?

2 **Witness** : Correct, because **Intel Advance Lead** would've been with
3 the motorcade.

4 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And she works for Secret Service?

5 **Witness** : Yes.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : Does she have any affiliation with FBI?

7 **Witness** : Not that I'm aware of.

8 **HSGAC Minority** : What is a task force officer, FBI task
9 force officer?

10 **Witness** Oh, I mean, at one point I was an FBI task
11 force officer as well when I was in the New York Field
12 office and I was on the Joint Terrorism Task Force. So
13 that was my experience. I don't know if in her field
14 office she's at some other task force. I have no idea.

15 **HSGAC Minority** : So it's just you're part of an FBI task
16 force, not some title that you're dual?

17 **Witness** : I can only speak from my experience. Like
18 for example, I have an individual in the Buffalo Field
19 office who's our representative to the JTTF. So
20 technically, he's a JTTF task force member, but that's all
21 that that is.

22 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And so, were you aware that she
23 was an FBI Task Force officer on July 13th?

24 **Witness** : No.

25 **HSGAC Minority** : And so how often did you interact with

1 her on the day of the event, radio traffic?

2 **Witness** : Pretty frequently. Again, she was in and
3 out of the command post a lot. We've gone over some of the
4 emails that I was included on or that she sent. I believe
5 there was probably a couple of phone calls, but, you know,
6 a normal amount for the PI response team for an event that
7 size.

8 **HSGAC Minority** : Did you ever communicate with her about
9 the suspicious individual or did she communicate to you
10 anything?

11 **Witness** : Leading up to the event, leading up to the
12 shooting or after?

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Leading up. We can start with leading
14 up.

15 **Witness** : I believe that the communication she got
16 came through, you know, the picture and the other
17 information I believe came either directly from Agent
18 **C/UAS Advance Lead** or the CS Response agent gave it to her. I don't
19 know exactly.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And then did she relay that
21 information to you after the fact?

22 **Witness** : At some point, I do believe she sent me the
23 picture of the individual, but well, after the event.

24 **HSGAC Minority** : And that was the first time that you saw
25 the picture?

1 **Witness** That was the first time I saw the picture.

2 Yes.

3 **HSGAC Minority** : So, no one showed it to you in the
4 security room?

5 **Witness** : No, I never saw it.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. When did you first become aware
7 that the counter UAS system was not operational that day?

8 **Witness** : Sometime after sweeps had begun or, I don't
9 know exactly what time he tried to start setting it up.
10 But Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead** did come into the security room and say
11 that he was having difficulty getting it set up and that he
12 was trying to find a new location to set it up to see if
13 that would help him get it working.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : And did it?

15 **Witness** : Yes. He was eventually able to get it
16 working. He spent a considerable amount of time on the
17 phone, I believe, with the technical support for the vendor
18 for the equipment.

19 **HSGAC Minority** : Do you recall around what time it became
20 operation?

21 **Witness** : The only thing I remember is that he
22 mentioned that he had to -- he waited until 4 o'clock,
23 until there was a new person on the other end of the
24 technical support for the vendor. And so, it had to be
25 after 4 o'clock because that was when he was able to

1 resolve the problem.

2 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And I mean, did that concern you
3 at all, that counter UAS system wasn't operational for the
4 better part of the day?

5 **Witness** : Well, frankly, when I arrived there I was
6 very surprised that there even was a counter UAS system.
7 That was not typical at all at that point for a candidate
8 to be receiving that.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : And you found out when you arrived at
10 the event?

11 **Witness** : Correct.

12 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Are you aware that former
13 President Trump has specific and credible threats against
14 him from a former country related to drones?

15 **Witness** : I am not. Other than what I've heard in
16 the news.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : You weren't aware of that prior?

18 **Witness** : No.

19 **HSGAC Minority** : So you weren't aware of the CAS system
20 in advance. TSD outdoor site survey did talk about how
21 there was going to be a CAS system. Do you recall that?
22 Did you receive the TSD outdoor site survey?

23 **Witness** : It may have been in the initial paperwork,
24 but I may not have caught the fact that there was a CAS in
25 that survey, but we learned about it at the briefing the

1 next morning.

2 **HSGAC Minority** : Because the outdoor site survey
3 specifically said that the site was vulnerable to drone
4 threats and then I think IEDs, but specifically vulnerable
5 to drone threats. So the site was vulnerable. The TSD put
6 that in their survey. The drones, the counter drone system
7 was inoperable for part of the day. So you did not
8 communicate that out on the radio

9 **Witness** : That what the counter drone system was
10 inoperable? I did not. I assume that Agent **C/UAS Advance
Lead**
11 would've notified whoever he needed to notify to get that
12 system working. And it was working well in advance of
13 arrival.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : But it was supposed to be operational
15 earlier in the day, and it wasn't.

16 **Witness** : I'm not exactly sure what time would've
17 been their details protocol for getting that operational
18 before arrival. But much like counter snipers, not
19 everything goes operational as soon as we start the site.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : Were there any reports of drones that
21 day?

22 **Witness** : Not that I'm aware of.

23 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. If law enforcement that was
24 working and securing the event thought that there was a
25 drone detection system operable, I mean, is it, and they

1 weren't aware that it wasn't, maybe they weren't looking
2 for drones and that could be an issue, is that not
3 something that you guys thought?

4 **Witness Counsel**: Speculative, but I don't want you to
5 speculate.

6 **Witness**: I'm not going to speculate. So why you
7 don't just leave it at that.

8 **HSGAC Minority**: But you did know that the drone system
9 wasn't operational, the counter drone system?

10 **Witness**: For a period of time, well before arrival,
11 I knew that the agent responsible for setting up the system
12 was working on getting it set up.

13 **HSGAC Minority**: Okay. When did you first find out that
14 there were going to be counter snipers, is it the day of?

15 **Witness**: It may have been in the survey as well.
16 So, either the night before or the day of, they mentioned
17 them at the briefing for sure. That morning at 10 o'clock.

18 **HSGAC Minority**: SAIC **SAIC Pittsburgh** didn't mention that when he
19 spoke with you?

20 **Witness**: I don't think so, no.

21 **HSGAC Minority**: Is it typical for candidates to get
22 counters sniper support or at the time? Was it typical?

23 **Witness**: Absolutely not. I was actually surprised
24 and very happy to see that they were going to be there that
25 day given the nature of the event.

1 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Were you briefed or informed of
2 any threats against either the protectee or the site?

3 Witness : No. Nothing specific, no.

4 HSGAC Minority : In your position as SAIC the Buffalo
5 Office, you're familiar with threats, right? That's
6 something that you guys investigate. I think I saw on June
7 26th, so 20 days before, there was an announcement that you
8 guys had arrested or DOJ had arrested in coordination with
9 your office someone for threatening President Biden?

10 Witness : Oh, yes, yes. Absolutely.

11 HSGAC Minority : And so, I mean, the nature of threats in
12 the preliminary survey said there was no threat
13 information.

14 Witness : Correct.

15 HSGAC Minority : In your experience, if there were threat
16 information, would it be in the preliminary survey?

17 Witness : One would hope, yes.

18 HSGAC Minority : Is it a problem that that information
19 was not in there?

20 Witness : Again, I don't know what the specific
21 threat information is or if it would be capable of being
22 disseminated in that way.

23 HSGAC Minority : How would information be disseminated if
24 it's classified?

25 Witness : That would require, you know, trips to

1 SCIFs, and that sort of thing would typically -- I mean, it
2 certainly depends on the level of classification. So
3 again, not knowing what the level of classification is for
4 whatever it is you're referring to it, I can't really say
5 how they would've done it.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : If you had credible information of a
7 threat, would that potentially change what you'd be
8 listening for as the security room supervisor?

9 **Witness** : As the security --

10 **HSGAC Minority** : The person who's monitoring the radio
11 traffic?

12 **Witness** : Sure. As the person who's monitoring the
13 traffic. I would be listening the same way no matter what.
14 You're always going to be listening to make -- you know if
15 there's a threat. You're not going to just because there's
16 a threat or no threat, you're not going to be any less
17 diligent.

18 **HSGAC Minority** : But are there levels of -- are certain
19 individuals have a heightened threat environment or certain
20 sites, certain protectees, or does everyone have the same
21 general threat?

22 **Witness** : Well, I --

23 **Witness Counsel** : You can answer that.

24 **Witness** : Yeah. I mean, I think it's pretty obvious
25 that the President receives a certain level of protection.

1 The Vice-President receives a certain level of protection,
2 LES [REDACTED]
3 LES [REDACTED]. And then there are other protectees,
4 you know, say, LES [REDACTED]
5 LES [REDACTED].

6 HSGAC Minority : And so, in your role as SAIC, when you
7 have a protective visit in your responsibility area, in
8 your jurisdiction, do you send a letter typically to the
9 FBI asking for threat information about the protectee?

10 Witness : Yes.

11 HSGAC Minority : Typically, do you get at least an
12 acknowledgement from the FBI that they received that letter

13 Witness : Most of the time, yes.

14 HSGAC Minority : And have you ever actually received
15 threat information from FBI in response?

16 Witness : Not during my time as SAIC at Buffalo, no.

17 HSGAC Minority : Okay. So, when DHS Secretary Mayorkas
18 -- I think he said it was after July 13th?

19 Witness : Oh yes, it was recently. It was in
20 September.

21 HSGAC Minority : You sent the letter FBI didn't share any
22 --

23 Witness : I got a response back that there was
24 nothing to share.

25 HSGAC Minority : You got a response back. Was there any

1 threat information that was shared with you.

2 **Witness** : On that visit, no.

3 **HSGAC Minority** : Or protectee?

4 **Witness** : Say that again?

5 **HSGAC Minority** : Or protectee, because I know there's
6 also -- you may receive stuff from headquarters,
7 Intelligence Headquarters, from anyone. Did you have any
8 intelligence threat information related to --

9 **Witness** : Relating to July 13th?

10 **HSGAC Minority** : No. Related to Mayorkas's visit?

11 **Witness** : For particular threat information for the
12 visit that we had in September?

13 **HSGAC Minority** : Yes.

14 **Witness** : No. The PI advance for that visit did this
15 check. **LES**

16

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And was there a counter
18 surveillance unit for that visit, the Mayorca visit?

19 **Witness** : **LES**

20

21

22 **HSGAC Minority** : And did he have CAT assets or any of
23 that?

24 **Witness** : No.

25 **Witness Counsel** : We're starting to get well beyond Butler.

1 HSGAC Minority : I'm just trying to understand what's
2 typical and what's not. I mean, LES
3 LES
4 LES , so I'm just trying to understand even though
5 it's recent. That's fine.

6 HSGAC Minority : You said you asked Special agent
7 C/UAS Advance L ad to Make context to the counter response and
8 protective intelligence response when those calls came in.
9 Why did you have him do that rather than you do it
10 yourself?

11 Witness : Well, because of the nature of the
12 information and getting the picture and all of that
13 would've taken a -- it took some effort for him to do that
14 to get the picture. It's not that easy to get a picture on
15 our work phones from an outside source. And because he was
16 there and was another pair of hands, it was just the most
17 expeditious way of doing it and required the least amount
18 of my attention being diverted from listening to the radios
19 to have him do it.

20 HSGAC Minority : Forgive me if it sounds like a dumb
21 question, but this issue has come up in a lot of different
22 conversations we've had during this investigation. Can you
23 receive a picture on your Secret Service radio?

24 Witness : On our radio? No.

25 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Earlier you said that you

1 wouldn't have been surprised if there had not a suspicious
2 person call at this event. Why is that?

3 [Witness] : Just due to the nature of the size of the
4 event, and given the weather that day, and the fact that
5 people were out in the sun for so long. Really any event
6 of that size, I've never really -- can't remember one big
7 large outdoor event like that where there's not some sort
8 of suspicious person at some point.

9 [HSGAC Minority] : Is there ever in any of those that
10 you've been a part of where the suspicious person had a
11 rangefinder?

12 [Witness] : Not that I recall.

13 [HSGAC Minority] : What is your current duty status?

14 [Witness] : My current duty status? I'm in full-duty
15 status.

16 [HSGAC Minority] : Has it been the case since July 13th?

17 [Witness] : Yes.

18 [HSGAC Minority] : Have you ever been put on telework,
19 administrative, or anything like that?

20 [Witness] : No. We're going to go ahead and reserve
21 the rest of our time for after.

22 [PSI Minority] : Hey, Mr. [Witness]. I'm [PSI Minority] with
23 Senator Johnson's office. on July 13th, how many
24 suspicious individual calls did you receive?

25 [Witness] : The one that I remember is the one we've

1 been discussing.

2 **PSI Minority** : So the only one you remember is the one
3 of Thomas Crooks?

4 **Witness** : Correct. There was in the aftermath a
5 suspicious bicycle that was discussed, but that was kind of
6 in the aftermath.

7 **PSI Minority** : In your role in the security room, would
8 you receive all suspicious person reports, meaning did you
9 receive information from Pennsylvania State Police, Butler,
10 other local law enforcement?

11 **Witness** : All the information I was getting that
12 would've been coming from the state police or local law
13 enforcement would've come through the state police. I
14 received no direct communication from any other police
15 agency outside of the Pennsylvania State Police.

16 **PSI Minority** : So on July 13th, did the Pennsylvania
17 State Police ever tell you about reports of suspicious
18 individuals near the AGR property?

19 **Witness** : Yes. The person we discussed that we sent
20 the people out to look for.

21 **PSI Minority** : So just Thomas Crooks?

22 **Witness** : Well, now we know to be Thomas Crooks, but
23 at the time we did not know.

24 **PSI Minority** : So there was no other communications for
25 the Pennsylvania State Police before the suspicious person

1 call of, you know, 5:45 p.m. on July 13th?

2 **Witness** : I'm not recalling one, but I'm not sure
3 what you're referencing.

4 **PSI Minority** : So we understand from Pennsylvania State
5 Police on July 13th sent out vice units looking for someone
6 in a red shirt and a neon shirt by the AGR fence line.
7 Does that ring a bell?

8 **Witness** : It does not really ring a bell. No.

9 **PSI Minority** : Do you know that Pennsylvania State
10 Police had vice units at Butler on July 13th?

11 **Witness** : I'm not sure exactly what you mean by a
12 vice unit, but I do know that the Pennsylvania State Police
13 had postings all within the secure perimeter.

14 **PSI Minority** : Do you know if Pennsylvania State Police
15 had plain closed officer officers at the Butler rally on
16 July 13th?

17 **Witness** : Yes. There was at least one that I know of
18 who was paired with our PI response agent.

19 **PSI Minority** : Do you know the name of that person

20 **Witness** : Of the Pennsylvania State Police person
21 paired with the PI response yet? I do not know his name.

22 **PSI Minority** : And that individual that was paired with
23 CST --

24 **Witness** : No PI response.

25 **PSI Minority** : PI response, that individual go out at

1 around 5:45 to look for Crooks?

2 **Witness** : I believe he was paired with the Secret
3 Service PI agent, so they were worked as a team.

4 **PSI Minority** : Do you know if PSP had any other plain
5 clothes officers at the Butler site embedded with Secret
6 Service personnel?

7 **Witness** : Embedded with Secret Service personnel?
8 The only one that I'm aware of is the trooper who was with
9 the PI response agent.

10 **PSI Minority** : Do you know that trooper's name?

11 **Witness** : That's the name you just asked me. It's
12 the same person.

13 **PSI Minority** : What other federal entities were you
14 aware of that were outside of that were on the grounds on
15 July 13th?

16 **Witness** : Other than the Secret Service and HIS,
17 none.

18 **PSI Minority** : So, moving to after shots were fired at
19 6:11 p.m. on July 13th, what did you do?

20 **Witness** : Sure. So, I heard the call that shots were
21 fired. I repeated that back over the radio. Very shortly
22 thereafter that there was more transmission on the radio
23 that the shooter was down. I, again, relayed that
24 information back on the radio, and at that point, I told or
25 instructed all posts to hold their posts.

1 In that time, the shift and counter assault team were
2 obviously making their way to a departure. Once they
3 cleared, I put back out on the radio for all posts to
4 remain at their posts. And I was still getting -- you
5 know, there were calls in for medical even at that point,
6 obviously. And so I was working on dispatching those and
7 telling all posts to hold and maintain their posts so that
8 we could figure out the aftermath.

9 **PSI Minority**: You received information of a potential
10 explosive devices found at the AGR property?

11 **Witness**: Yes. That came in all around that same
12 time. It was all part of the same activity that there was
13 a report. This was the bicycle that I mentioned earlier.
14 So there were, you know, calls for TSD, and what they were
15 going to do, and who they were going to contact to examine
16 that "suspicious package".

17 **PSI Minority**: Do you know how many Secret Service
18 personnel were sent to the AGR property after shots were
19 fired at 6:11 p.m.?

20 **Witness**: After shots were fired?

21 **PSI Minority**: Yes.

22 **Witness**: I don't know specifically who responded
23 other than I know that the PI response and the counter
24 sniper response teams were in that vicinity, are headed to
25 that vicinity. Other than that, all the other posts were

1 told to maintain their posts, which is, to my knowledge,
2 they all did.

3 **PSI Minority** : When you were receiving calls about
4 potential explosive devices found on the AGR property, were
5 other law enforcement assets sent to the AGR property,
6 meaning Allegheny County Bomb Squad, Alcohol Tobacco
7 Firearms and Explosive, ATF?

8 **Witness** : So, yes, in the aftermath there were people
9 started responding to the scene and TSD coordinated that
10 response of who was going to go and check out that bicycle.
11 But I do believe there were local assets that did the
12 render safe or that did the investigation of that bicycle.

13 **PSI Minority** : So the night of July 13th, were you still
14 in the security room when devices were found in Crook's
15 vehicle?

16 **Witness** : Yes, I believe so. I was there until about
17 12:30 that night.

18 **PSI Minority** : Can you describe to us how that was
19 radioed in and what was told about the devices in Crook's
20 vehicle?

21 **Witness** : I just remember there being discussion that
22 the bomb teams were out and were looking at some other
23 devices. And at that point, they were nowhere near any of
24 our Secret Service posts, to my knowledge. So there was
25 just the information that they were going to go examine

1 those other devices that was coming into the security room.
2 At that point, there were a lot of different law
3 enforcement personnel in and around the security room, so
4 I'm only catching bits and pieces of that.

5 **PSI Minority** : Do you know what time the devices were
6 found in Crook's vehicle?

7 **Witness** : I do not.

8 **PSI Minority** : Can you guess?

9 **Witness** : I don't want to guess. No.

10 **PSI Minority** : But that information was sent into the
11 security room on the night of July 13th?

12 **Witness** : I wouldn't say it was sent in. It was just
13 something that was being discussed in the room.

14 **PSI Minority** : Where was Crook's vehicle discovered?

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

16 **PSI Minority** : You don't know that night of July 13th,
17 or you still don't know?

18 **Witness** : I still don't know exactly where it was
19 discovered. I know it was outside of the perimeter
20 somewhere close to the Butler Farm Show, but I don't know
21 exactly where.

22 **PSI Minority** : Was it near the AGR building?

23 **Witness** : I don't know exactly where it was found.

24 **PSI Minority** : Do you know the make and model and color
25 of Crook's vehicle?

1 **Witness** : I do not.

2 **PSI Minority** : None of that information was talked about
3 in the security room the night of July 13th?

4 **Witness** : It may have been talked about in the
5 security room, but at that point, frankly, I was dealing
6 with the aftermath of the potential assassination and was
7 focused on that. I was not focused on the investigation
8 that was starting by the FBI.

9 **PSI Minority** : Was there discussion in the security room
10 the night of July 13th when devices were found in Crook's
11 vehicle of clearing the area because of that threat?

12 **Witness** : I'm not specifically recalling how that all
13 played out. I was honestly at that point, so much focused
14 on dealing with the post standers that I still had there,
15 the multiple calls I was getting, you know, about the event
16 from Secret Service. I was not focused on what was going
17 on with the ongoing investigation really at all at that
18 point in the aftermath.

19 **PSI Minority** : Do you know if anyone in Secret Service
20 was dealing with the discovery of devices in Crook's
21 vehicle at that time?

22 **Witness** : If it would've been anybody, it would've
23 been the TSD lead at that point.

24 **PSI Minority** : Who is that?

25 **Witness** : I believe his last name is **TSD Advance Agent** [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED], maybe.

2 PSI Minority [REDACTED]: Agent [REDACTED] Witness, I just want to go back to
3 something that was discussed earlier. I believe in
4 response to one of my colleagues, you had said you'd never
5 received a call of a suspicious individual with a
6 rangefinder before that day?

7 [REDACTED] Witness: I don't recall one.

8 PSI Minority [REDACTED]: Okay. So fair to say, based on that
9 hearing that somebody has a rangefinder in the proximity of
10 a protectee is unusual, not something a Secret Service
11 expects to hear at an event?

12 [REDACTED] Witness: Yeah. Again, that's part of the reason why
13 we determined that it was a suspicious individual.

14 PSI Minority [REDACTED]: When you were classifying someone as
15 suspicious or a threat, is that something that is a Secret
16 Service policy that they say, hey, this is level that would
17 meet suspicion, this is level that would meet a threat, or
18 is this something it's a gut call on your part?

19 [REDACTED] Witness: No, I mean, I think I discussed what would
20 determine a threat prior, and that is somebody with the
21 immediate capability of doing harm.

22 PSI Minority [REDACTED]: Would there ever be an instance where
23 you would relay out a suspicious individual to say a site
24 agent or a lead agent at an event?

25 [REDACTED] Witness: I mean, hypothetically speaking? Sure.

1 PSI Minority : What would cause you to relay that
2 information to them?

3 Witness : Again, it would really have to be specific
4 to the exact particulars of what were going on at that time
5 in this hypothetical situation.

6 PSI Minority : But in this case, an individual who had
7 a rangefinder near where the protectee was going to be
8 approximately 15 minutes before a protectee takes stage,
9 didn't rise to that level in your mind?

10 Witness : Again, we dispatched the teams that were
11 available to investigate what was determined to be a
12 suspicious person.

13 PSI Minority : And forgive me, I believe you said this
14 earlier. Did you continue to check in with those teams?

15 Witness : Again, we dispatched the teams that were
16 available to investigate a suspicious person, and I was
17 awaiting information back from them, if they were to even
18 have any information back.

19 PSI Minority : You didn't proactively reach out to
20 them to check to see if they --

21 Witness : I, myself, did not.

22 PSI Minority : Did Agent C/UAS Advance Lead, to your knowledge?

23 Witness : I don't know if he did or did not.

24 PSI Minority : When they were dispatched, were they
25 dispatched to the AGR building, specifically?

1 **Witness** : Agent **C/UAS Advance** was the one speaking with them
2 on the phone, so I believe that they were told that that
3 was their last known location. So I'm sure that that
4 would've been the direction that they were heading in to go
5 look.

6 PSI Minority : You said you worked PI, right,
7 Protective Intelligence in the past?

8 **Witness** : Yes. I've had PI cases in the past.

9 **PSI Minority** : So if you were a PI agent at a thing
10 and you heard an individual that was their last location,
11 that would be where you would head his last known location?

12 **Witness**: Can you repeat the question?

13 [REDACTED] PSI Minority : When he was a PI agent and if he worked
14 PI, he would've headed to the individual's last known
15 location to look for them.

16 **Witness** : I mean, sure. Unless there was some other
17 information that I got to look somewhere else.

18 **PSI Minority** : Because I know we talked about this a
19 little bit, I'm going to introduce Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**
20 testimony to the PSP and this will be Exhibit 4.

21 [Exhibit No. 4 was
22 marked for identification.]

23 PSI Minority : Go ahead and turn to page 17. I know
24 it's a large document, but we're only going to focus on
25 pages 17 and 18.

1 **Witness** : Okay.

2 **PSI Minority** : The bottom half of page 17 saying --
3 and it's that last thing. "At 18:09, I received another
4 call from Officer **Butler ESU Commander** saying the guy was discovered on the
5 roof, and they had officers below," meaning municipals, not
6 troopers, "that they couldn't like figure out how he got up
7 there." So this seems to be talking about the same
8 suspicious individual that we already talked about, that
9 guy.

10 Then if you flip over on the back, now to page 18, he
11 says, "At 18:10, I related this to the Secret Service that,
12 hey, the guy is that, you know, is back and everything.
13 And at 18:10, I called Corporal **PSP CPL**," and a little bit
14 further down near the bottom, it asked, "And who was that
15 communicated to?" And it says it, **Witness**, I was like, you
16 know, we were in the room and like I'm moving fast." So,
17 **Witness** would be you, right?

18 **Witness** : I believe that's who he's referring to,
19 but, yes.

20 **PSI Minority** : And you don't recall any communication
21 about an individual on the roof.

22 **Witness** : So, I think this is probably the seventh
23 time I've answered this now, but no, because at that time,
24 again, we were getting reports on the Secret Service radio
25 of the local police working a problem at 3 o'clock. So

1 that's what I heard and responded to.

2 **Witness Counsel**: I just want to, again, point out the
3 quote is, "It would be **Witness**." What I said earlier. He's
4 speculating. He doesn't say he actually spoke to **Witness**.
5 "It would be." So he's speculating that it was **Witness**. "It
6 was like, we're in the room, and I'm like, moving fast."
7 But this is not a distinct recollection that he said
8 anything to **Witness**.

9 **PSI Minority**: I'm going to just challenge that that's
10 speculation. I think that's your interpretation of what
11 he's saying there.

12 **Witness Counsel**: I do.

13 **PSI Minority**: But, yeah, as far as I know, it's an
14 answer to a question of who was that communicated to? It
15 would be **Witness**.

16 **Witness Counsel**: It would be **Witness**, not it was **Witness**. **Witness**
17 is proximate to the guy. I don't know whether he's
18 confounding his recollection, but is by saying it would be,
19 it's showing a bit of equivocation. That's it.

20 **Witness**: I'll say this. If I had heard that there
21 was a man on the roof, I would've put that out on the radio
22 instead of the local police are working a problem at 3
23 o'clock.

24 **PSI Minority**: Were you aware on that day that Secret
25 Service countersnipers had also been alerted to the

1 suspicious individual?

2 [Witness] : I was not aware that day that they knew.

3 [PSI Minority] : When did you find out that they knew?

4 [Witness] : I believe it was during my testimony
5 yesterday when I saw the Secret Service timeline for the
6 first time.

7 [PSI Minority] : You didn't have any discussions with
8 the Secret Service counter snipers that day after the shots
9 have been fired?

10 [Witness] : No. I never talked to them after shots
11 were fired.

12 [PSI Minority] : I turn it over to my colleague.

13 [PSI Minority] : Mr. [Witness], my name is [PSI Minority]. I
14 work for Ranking Member Johnson. Thank you for your time.

15 [PSI Minority] : You mentioned earlier that you had
16 called SAIC [SAIC Pittsburgh] about switching your radio channels.

17 [Witness] : Correct.

18 [PSI Minority] : Why not call the site Agent [Site Agent]?

19 [Witness] : Well, because it involved the possibility
20 of impacting both visits. So he needed to make a decision
21 at which visit he wanted to impact as far as making that
22 switch because we were either going to have to switch the
23 FLOTUS visit channel or the Trump visit channel. So you
24 know, I think it was most appropriate to reach out to him
25 since there are two visits happening in his district.

1 **PSI Minority** : Did you ever subsequently inform Site
2 Agent **Site Agent** about the conversation you had with SAIC **SAIC Pittsburgh** ?

3 **Witness** : Yes. I mean, that was put out over the
4 radios, and I believe she was probably included on those
5 emails as well.

6 **PSI Minority** : You did not inform Site Agent **Site Agent**
7 regarding the information you received about a suspicious
8 individual after you received that?

9 **Witness** : Yeah. Again, the people who were notified
10 were the **[REDACTED]** that could go out and respond and
11 determine, you know, what the suspicious person was or
12 wasn't.

13 **PSI Minority** : You mentioned earlier that you directly
14 reported to Site Agent **Site Agent** on the day of the July 13th
15 event?

16 **Witness** : Yeah. So the way that post standers works
17 is on that day, whoever's standing post the site agent is
18 in charge of that site.

19 **PSI Minority** : Why did you not relay the information
20 about the suspicious individual to your direct report?

21 **Witness** : Because at the time, I believe that we had
22 relayed the information to the teams that were best suited
23 to go out and make a determination on what that information
24 was.

25 **PSI Minority** : I understand that you relay to those

1 individuals, but why not also relay it to your direct
2 report?

3 **Witness**: At that time, I thought that was the best
4 course of action.

5 **PSI Minority**: Were you ever directly told that there
6 would be a separate command post?

7 **Witness**: No. I don't ever recall being told that
8 there'd be a separate command post.

9 **PSI Minority**: Is that a problem?

10 **Witness**: Again, it wasn't until partway through the
11 day that I even made -- you know, fully figured out that
12 there was a second command post. And I think I've already
13 stated that it would've been advantageous to have everybody
14 in the same room.

15 **PSI Minority**: Given your professional experience,
16 have you ever worked an event where during the event you
17 discover that there is a separate command post?

18 **Witness**: I can't say that during the event
19 discovered, but I've worked several events where there have
20 been multiple command posts.

21 **PSI Minority**: So, in this particular case, at the
22 July 13th rally, it was unique that at this event you were
23 not informed initially that there would be a separate
24 command post?

25 **Witness**: I'm not sure unique is the right word. But

1 again, I wasn't taken aback by the fact once I learned that
2 there were more than one command post.

3 **PSI Minority** : You mentioned earlier that you had a
4 **LES** radio.

5 **Witness** : Yes. Just our common parlance for
6 essentially a **LES** radio.

7 **PSI Minority** : But even on that **LES** radio,
8 that only could that only receive Secret Service
9 communications?

10 **Witness** : Yes.

11 **PSI Minority** : It could not access local law
12 enforcement communications?

13 **Witness** : Correct.

14 **PSI Minority** : Could it be, and forgive me if I
15 misused this term, could it be coded to access local law
16 enforcement communications?

17 **Witness** I don't have the technical knowledge to
18 answer that question, but I know that our **LES** radios
19 and our **LES** radios only have our Secret Service channels,
20 and some DHS, and our operability channels.

21 **PSI Minority** : I'm going to show you an email and mark
22 it as Exhibit 5.

23 [Exhibit No. 5 was
24 marked for identification.]

25 **PSI Minority** : And I'll give you a moment to take a

1 look at it. You can just let me know when you're ready.

2 [Witness] : I'm ready.

3 [PSI Minority] : Mr. [Witness], are you familiar with this
4 email?

5 [Witness] : Yes. This came in, obviously, after the
6 event, and it's coming from our [LES],
7 which is here in Washington, DC. This is a good example of
8 one of the many questions and requests I was getting in the
9 aftermath.

10 [PSI Minority] : The email is dated July 13th, 2024, at
11 7:33 p.m. And do you know what individual sent this email
12 to you?

13 [Witness] : It would've been somebody who was working
14 in the [LES]. I have no idea who was
15 working in there that night.

16 [PSI Minority] : This individual writes, "Sir, do you
17 have a status update on suspicious package or any other
18 updates from the site?" What is the suspicious package in
19 reference to in this email, that's

20 [Witness] : That's the bicycle that we've discussed
21 earlier.

22 [PSI Minority] : Okay. And at the time of this email,
23 what was the status regarding that suspicious package or
24 the bicycle?

25 [Witness] : I don't remember exactly if the bicycle had

1 been cleared at that point or not. But I want to say that
2 the bicycle probably had been cleared by that point.

3 **PSI Minority**: And how did you come to the
4 understanding that it had been cleared?

5 **Witness**: I believe that TSD lead advance came back
6 into the security room and let us know.

7 **PSI Minority**: Did you receive any similar
8 communications related to the discovery of the explosive
9 devices found in Crook's car?

10 **Witness**: Yeah, again, I think that was much later,
11 and I don't specifically remember the particulars of that,
12 just because it was not something at that point that I was
13 focusing on. I was focusing on dealing with the aftermath
14 and our personnel primarily at that point.

15 **PSI Minority**: Who discovered the bicycle

16 **Witness**: The bicycle who discovered it? I'm not
17 sure which agency or which team initially identified it as
18 a suspicious package

19 **PSI Minority**: At the time shots were fired, did you
20 hear any radio communications regarding the location of the
21 shooter?

22 **Witness**: Just the 3 o'clock.

23 **PSI Minority**: Anything more specific than that?

24 **Witness**: On our radio is what I heard was it's 3
25 o'clock and that was a suspicious person, but the shots

1 fired, didn't -- wasn't accompanied with a clock position.

2 **PSI Minority**: Besides a clock position, were any
3 other specific locations identified as relating to where
4 the shooter is?

5 **Witness**: No. What I remember hearing was shots
6 fired.

7 **PSI Minority**: I'm going to go to the next exhibit,
8 which I'll mark as Exhibit 6.

9 [Exhibit No. 6 was
10 marked for identification.]

11 **PSI Minority**: I'll give you a moment to take a look
12 at it. You can let me know when you're ready.

13 **Witness**: I'm good.

14 **PSI Minority**: Okay. Who did you send this email to?

15 **Witness**: This was sent to the lieutenant who was the
16 supervisor for all of the Uniformed Division assets that
17 were running the magnetometer detail.

18 **PSI Minority**: Who was that individual?

19 **Witness**: Her name is escaping me right now.

20 **PSI Minority**: Okay. And this is a July 13th, 2024,
21 email sent at 11:55 p.m. You write, "Lieutenant, thank you
22 again. Whenever you have the list of names, please send it
23 my way. EAP will definitely be here tomorrow, and I will
24 be coordinating with them as the POC on the ground here.
25 As I get more, I will be sure to pass it along." What was

1 the list? What list of names did you request?

2 **Witness** : It was the list of names of all the
3 Uniformed Division officers who were on the magnetometer
4 detail.

5 **PSI Minority** : And why did you make that request?

6 **Witness** : Because I had been requested to make sure
7 that all of the Uniformed Division officers on the
8 magnetometer detail and all of the post standers stayed on
9 Sunday rather than getting on their scheduled flights.

10 **PSI Minority** : Who told you to make that request?

11 **Witness** : It happened during one of my many
12 conversations with headquarters personnel in the aftermath.

13 **PSI Minority** : So someone from headquarters?

14 **Witness** : Correct.

15 **PSI Minority** : And what is EAP?

16 **Witness** : EAP is the Employee Assistance Program.

17 **PSI Minority** : And how many people from EAP did you
18 understand would be on the site the next day?

19 **Witness** : At that time, I don't remember if I had the
20 number or not, but it was three that ended up coming.

21 **PSI Minority** : Okay. And in what way did you
22 coordinate with them as the POC, point of contact on the
23 ground?

24 **Witness** : Sure. I had some phone conversations with
25 our EAP director or chief that evening. And then there was

1 some email conversation or traffic as well with the person
2 who was going to be the leader of the folks that was coming
3 the next day.

4 **PSI Minority**: And why were you going to be the point
5 of contact on the ground?

6 **Witness**: I was asked by headquarters to do that, and
7 I was available. I was still here. I was going to be
8 here. And you know, it was kind of an extracurricular duty
9 that I don't think that the SAIC of the Pittsburgh Office
10 would've had the capacity at that time with everything else
11 he was dealing with to take on.

12 **PSI Minority**: And in what way did you serve as the
13 point of contact on the ground?

14 **Witness**: Sure. I worked with the administrative
15 officer, I believe of the Pittsburgh office to make sure
16 they got hotel rooms. I coordinated conference rooms at
17 the -- at the hotel. All the post standers were staying at
18 so that they could hold their counseling session. And I
19 coordinated with the post standers and the magnetometer
20 officers, you know, telling them what time these resources
21 would be available to them if they wanted to attend.

22 **PSI Minority**: You may have addressed this earlier,
23 but I just wanted to make sure that it's clear. Who made
24 the radio communication that the locals are working a
25 situation at the 3 o'clock?

1 **Witness** That's still not clear to me. When it came
2 across the radio, I don't believe that the unit identified
3 themselves or I didn't hear them identifying themselves.
4 But it was definitely on the Secret Service radio.

5 **PSI Minority** : Have you learned after the fact who
6 made that communication?

7 **Witness** : I believe I discovered that yesterday when,
8 again, at my House testimony that it was one of the CS team
9 personnel that made that communication.

10 **PSI Minority** : If now that you know that it was CS,
11 does that refresh your memory in terms of hearing that
12 radio communication and your response to addressing that
13 situation?

14 **Witness** : Well, I know what my response to addressing
15 that situation, it was, it was to repeat that radio
16 traffic.

17 **PSI Minority** : It didn't make a difference to you that
18 it would've come from one of the countersnipers versus
19 another poststander or anyone else securing the rally?

20 **Witness** : No. I would've repeated the same
21 information no matter who had said it.

22 **PSI Minority** : Has anyone from DHS or Secret Service
23 instructed you not to speak with Congress?

24 **Witness** : No.

25 **PSI Minority** : I'm going to turn it over to my

1 colleague.

2 **Witness Counsel**: I may have to leave.

3 **Witness**: Can we do like five minutes? It's been --

4 **Witness Counsel**: Can we take five minutes and my able
5 colleague, we'll continue to monitor the interview. But
6 for the record, I just want to make a comment about this
7 suspicious person on the roof. I'm looking at Sergeant
8 **PSP Site Liaison** testimony during the course of what appears to be
9 an Internal Affairs investigation, his own agency.

10 He's being interviewed by a Corporal **PSP CPL**, and
11 **PSP CPL** asks him, this is on page 10, "Were you ever made
12 aware of this suspicious person being on the roof of the
13 AGR building prior to the shooting?" **PSP Site Liaison**; "No. Well,
14 just moments before it." **PSP CPL** right. As it was trans --
15 and it's cut. **PSP Site Liaison**; "Yeah, yeah. As I was, yeah, like,
16 yeah. The only time I was aware of it is the shooting
17 occurred right after it. Yeah." It doesn't appear that he
18 ever communicated to anybody that there was a suspicious
19 person on the roof.

20 **HSGAC Majority**: We'll ask questions related to this, and if
21 you want to, specifically as you've just done, read into
22 the record from Exhibit 4, that's fine. But just as you
23 have asked others not to characterize, we would ask that
24 you not characterize.

25 **HSGAC Minority**: But I would like to know what -- can you

1 repeat what document you're referring to?

2 **Witness Counsel**: I'm referring to Exhibit Number 4, the
3 interview with Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison**.

4 **HSGAC Majority** Okay. And page numbers?

5 **Witness Counsel**: July 20th, 2024

6 **HSGAC Majority**: Page numbers you read from?

7 **Witness Counsel**: Page number 10, and right in the middle
8 from --

9 **HSGAC Majority**: This is Exhibit 4, page 10. If we have
10 follow-up questions on that, we'll ask them before we
11 break. Did you have a few more questions?

12 **PSI Minority**: I just want to make sure I'm
13 understanding that. That's on page 10. It does say on
14 page 17, "At 18:09, I received another call from Officer
15 **Butler ESU** saying that the guy was discovered on top of the
16 roof." So he is saying, I've received a call from Officer
17 **Butler ESU** saying there was a guy on the roof at 18:09. You got
18 reconcile those.

19 **HSGAC Majority**: So if you only have one or two more
20 questions, I think we should just go ahead and ask those
21 and have your colleague -- and then, then we'll break.

22 **PSI Minority**: So this is **PSI Minority**, again with
23 Senator Johnson's office. I think real quick, I'm going to
24 go back to the issue about suspicious individuals on July
25 13th. This will be Exhibit 7, I believe.

[Exhibit No. 7 was
marked for identification.]

PSI Minority : This exhibit is an interview with
Lieutenant PSP Officer in Charge, that was conducted on July 22nd,
2024, with the Pennsylvania State Police. And this Exhibit
is pages 26, 27, 28 of that interview.

Witness : Okay.

PSI Minority : So I want to turn your attention to the
middle of page 26, where, where PSP Officer in Charge mentions Now the
vice guys were somewhere around outside the perimeter. Did
you know on July 13th at Butler that Pennsylvania State
Police had vice guys outside the perimeter?

Witness : I was not explicitly aware of that fact,
no.

PSI Minority : Who was the Pennsylvania State police
counterpart in the security room on July 13th?

Witness : Sergeant PSP Site Liaison .

PSI Minority : So going back to my questions earlier
about suspicious individuals at the Butler Rally. Go to
the bottom of page 26. It says, just to clarify, PSP Trooper
calls you about two suspicious people over on the AGR
property in yellow and red. They send you a text of
photographs of them. PSP Officer in Charge responds, "No phone, just a
text of what he saw." PSP Trooper says what he saw, PSP Officer in Charge
says, "Yeah, no pictures." PSP Trooper says you relayed that

1 information to Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** and the command post and
 2 asked him to send some assets over to Trooper **PSP Trooper** .

3 **PSP Officer in Charge** responds, "and I took it upon myself to send that
 4 text to **Butler PD** because I knew they were on the outside."

5 Once again, did Sergeant **PSP Site Liaison** ever mention to you
 6 about two suspicious people over on the AGR property on
 7 July 13th?

8 **Witness** : Yeah. Once again, I don't specific
 9 specifically remember any of these details.

10 **PSI Minority** : If you turn to page 27 of the same
 11 exhibit, about three-fourths of the way down the page, it
 12 says, **PSP Officer in Charge** . Yep. The first I received a call from
 13 **PSP Trooper** at 17:21. **Washington SWAT** says, you said that the phone
 14 call in response to was in reference to the two suspicious.
 15 **PSP Officer in Charge** says, "Yes, the kid in the red shirt and then the
 16 yellow shirt." **Washington SWAT** says, "After receiving that
 17 information, what did you do immediately?" **PSP Officer in Charge** said, I
 18 put in a quick text and I text the vice guys, the three
 19 vice guys that were assigned in this detail to contact post
 20 5 for suspicious people on the fence line. Do you know
 21 where post 5 was on the Butler Rally?

22 **Witness** : I don't believe that was a Secret Service
 23 post, so, no, I do not.

24 **PSI Minority** : So to be clear, all this information
 25 about suspicious people over at the AGR property on July

1 13th, this is news to you?

2 [Witness] : Yes. I don't recall any two other
3 suspicious people. The suspicious person I remember from
4 that day is the one we've been discussing.

5 [PSI Minority] : And it appears according to this
6 interview with Lieutenant [PSP Officer in Charge], this report of suspicious
7 people on the AGR property happened approximately 5:21 on
8 July 13th. So, this is before the suspicious call comes in
9 on Crooks at 5:45.

10 [Witness] : I mean, I'm reading the same thing you're
11 reading, so, yes.

12 [PSI Minority] : Okay. Thank you.

13 [HSGAC Minority] : Just to clarify on the layout of the
14 security room, Sergeant [PSP Site Liaison] was about six feet away from
15 you?

16 [Witness] : Yeah, five to six feet-ish off to my right.

17 [HSGAC Minority] : Where was, particularly during the
18 time we're talking about dispatching the counter sniper
19 response and protective intelligence response, where was
20 Special Agent [C/UAS Advance Lead]?

21 [Witness] : He was basically right behind me at a
22 different table.

23 [HSGAC Minority] : So, like two feet behind you?

24 [Witness] : Yeah. Two feet behind me.

25 [HSGAC Majority] : Okay. We're going to break for 10 minutes

1 and then go on for the last hour. Thank you.

2 [Recess.]

3 HSGAC Majority: Going back to the timeline and the
4 communications that have been discussed around 6:08 p.m.,
5 is it possible that Pennsylvania State Police Sergeant
6 PSP Site Liaison relay the information of man on the roof and you did
7 not hear it?

8 Witness: Yes.

9 HSGAC Majority: Was the communication in that room at that
10 time, to your recollection, frantic, for lack of a better
11 word?

12 Witness: Yes. Particularly after and around the
13 time we got the call of that the local police were working
14 a problem at three o'clock, everybody in the room was then
15 very much turned on because in the Secret Service parlance,
16 working a problem means that's an issue that you are going
17 to want to pay attention to. In fact, in our training, we
18 say "on problem" when we're starting a scenario. So as
19 soon as I heard those words, I knew that I needed to get
20 that back out on the radio.

21 HSGAC Majority: Is it common practice for the Secret
22 Service to have co-location for communications with state
23 and locals?

24 Witness: By co-location, you mean like two different
25 --

1 **HSGAC Majority**: Sorry. For local law enforcement or
2 whatever, law enforcement are going to be at a particular
3 event to be located with Secret Service officials?

4 **Witness**: Yes. That typically in the command post or
5 security room, there are typically local or state law
6 enforcement officials there depending on which entities are
7 working the visit.

8 **HSGAC Majority**: And is one of the reasons for doing that so
9 that a Secret Service official can be aware of state and
10 local communications by the fact that those communications
11 can be relayed by the state and local officials who are
12 located in that security room?

13 **Witness**: Yes, that would be the purpose.

14 **HSGAC Majority**: And is that because those communications
15 channels are not communications channels that the Secret
16 Service monitors

17 **Witness**: Correct. I don't believe we have the
18 capability to monitor them currently.

19 **HSGAC Majority**: Is it then problematic, in your view, given
20 what we just discussed on July 13th, that the current
21 practice to have Secret Service officials located with
22 state and local officials for the purposes of being able to
23 hear their communications, given the communications
24 limitations that the Secret Service has, is that
25 problematic given that when an event rises to the level of

1 significance beyond a medical emergency, such that there is
2 frantic communication going on, one of the risks of this
3 current setup is that information may be missed or not
4 heard?

5 **Witness** : Yes.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : What needs to change, in your view, to
7 remedy that risk?

8 **Witness** : I think that for particular sites,
9 particularly large events, where there's a lot more
10 potential for things to be going on as far as just the day-
11 to-day business of the site I think those site security
12 rooms need to be you know, manned by at least two people.
13 And it would be great if one of those people was a
14 professionally trained dispatcher or something like that.

15 **HSGAC Majority** : Is there any training within the Secret
16 Service right now about best practices for managing a
17 security room at an event?

18 **Witness** : Not that I'm aware of.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : Is there any training within the Secret
20 Service right now that you're aware of with respect to the
21 communications themselves, the actual physical radios and
22 capabilities and options that a security room has for those
23 working in event?

24 **Witness** : The only the radio training that we get is
25 either in our basic training course that we all go through

1 at the beginning of our careers. I believe there's
2 probably some interspersed in protective detail training
3 that you would go through. And maybe our C and S training
4 has some, but nothing particular to working a security room
5 or command post that I'm aware of.

6 **HSGAC Majority**: Should, in your view, communications
7 capabilities themselves be one of the things under
8 consideration for change in light of what happened in
9 Butler, meaning, should the ability of the Secret Service
10 and vice versa, state, and local officials to have access
11 to each other's communications be something the Secret
12 Service considers?

13 **Witness**: Absolutely. Interoperability and the
14 ability for the different agencies to talk to each other, I
15 think has been a problem across law enforcement for quite
16 some time. I've had discussions about this locally with,
17 you know, departments in my district and constantly trying
18 find better ways to be on the same page when it comes to
19 radio communications. But to my understanding, technically
20 it's a very complicated problem.

21 **HSGAC Majority**: Who within Secret Service, in your view, is
22 best positioned to make those recommended changes?

23 **Witness**: It would have to fall to somebody who has
24 the technical expertise in those about radios. And right
25 now, our radio communications are based out of our Chief

1 Information Officer's Office.

2 HSGAC Majority: And who is the Chief Information Officer at
3 the Secret Service?

4 Witness: I believe right now it's USSS CIO.

5 HSGAC Majority: You mentioned earlier in your testimony
6 that you were not aware on July 13th at the time, that the
7 counter sniper team for the Secret Service knew of a
8 suspicious person on the roof. Is that correct?

9 Witness: Correct. I learned about that yesterday
10 when I saw the timeline for the first time.

11 HSGAC Majority: Should you, as the Security room agent,
12 have been made aware of that?

13 Witness: It wouldn't have been a bad piece of
14 information to have, but it wouldn't have changed anything.

15 HSGAC Majority: How would that have information have come
16 to you?

17 Witness: They could have called my cell Phone or
18 radioed it.

19 HSGAC Majority: With respect to the proliferation of
20 firearms in the U.S. and the events the Secret Service has
21 had to engage in for protectees over the years, since in
22 recent events, Sandy Hook, since Las Vegas, since the Pulse
23 Nightclub, since these shootings with high caliber rifles,
24 has Secret Service engaged in any additional training for
25 its agents on how to deal with the access to and

1 availability of guns in the U.S.?

2 **Witness** : I'm not sure what you mean, like, training
3 on how to detect them in our sites, or?

4 **HSGAC Majority** : Training on how sites need to be protected,
5 how Secret Service needs to set up and engage in
6 differently than it may have in the past, outdoor open
7 events.

8 **Witness** : For as long as I've been with the Secret
9 Service, we've always been concerned about firearms and
10 their capability. So as long as I've been in the Secret
11 Service, those are always things that we've taken into
12 account.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : In the last 10 years, has the training or
14 the practices of how you take into account the concerns
15 you've just mentioned changed at all?

16 **Witness** : No. Line of sight concerns are always
17 something that we've -- you know, are taught when it comes
18 to building out a site or whatever to be considered.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : And after any of the events I've mentioned
20 that involved high caliber rifles, large magazines of
21 weapons that are capable of shooting multiple rounds
22 rapidly, in the wake of any of those events, has a Secret
23 Service engaged internally in any discussions that you're
24 aware of about the need to change how it protects events?

25 **Witness** : None that I'm aware of.

1 HSGAC Majority: Should they?

2 Witness: Our goal is to keep these sites safe. So
3 the fact that there are people who may have weapons
4 available to them is something we always consider. And we
5 do our best to make sure that those weapons don't enter our
6 sites.

7 HSGAC Majority: Is it harder to keep these sites safe in
8 the current environment today and the way in which these
9 weapons can be used than it was in years past?

10 Witness: I mean, the weapons have existed the entire
11 time I've been with the Secret Service. So the threat is
12 still the same.

13 HSGAC Majority: Is the existence of a weapon that can shoot
14 50 rounds and be folded into a backpack like the weapon
15 that was used at Butler, a greater risk than a handgun that
16 can shoot 10 rounds.

17 Witness: For us, one bullet is enough to be a
18 problem.

19 HSGAC Majority: And you don't distinguish between the two
20 types of guns I've just mentioned.

21 Witness: Again, any firearm for us is an issue.

22 HSGAC Majority: Good afternoon, SAIC Witness. Thank you
23 for being here. My name is HSGAC Majority, and I'm also with
24 Chairman Peter's staff. I have a few questions, follow-up
25 questions from what we discussed earlier. The first I'd

1 like to go back to when my colleague asked about the
2 staffing for the Butler event. I'll reference Bate stamps
3 2615 and 2675, and happy to share them if you'd like.

4 But you mentioned two things. One is how you won't
5 have anyone in the Syracuse office on specific days because
6 everyone is out on assignment. And then, you know,
7 discussing on Bates 2675 about how all of the assignments,
8 and it wasn't until July 12th, the day before the Butler
9 rally were now filled. Are there and were there at the
10 time, staff challenges and staffing protective events.

11 **Witness** : Yes.

12 **HSGAC Majority** : Can you talk more about that?

13 **Witness** : I would say that since the NATO Summit, at
14 any given time, at least one, if not two of my subordinate
15 offices has essentially been closed. Due to not having any
16 agents in that district, there have been multiple occasions
17 where either myself or my ASAC are the only people left in
18 the district at all from the Secret Service perspective to
19 cover, you know the majority of the State of New York.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : What impact does that have?

21 **Witness** : I'll put it this way. On the Thursday or
22 Friday before coming down here, I actually had to respond
23 to a call since Buffalo is a border district, CBP had
24 stopped somebody with a Secret Service warrant, and I was
25 the only person available to go and affect that arrest and

1 do the initial appearance. I had no other agents that had
2 to rely on the U.S. Marshal Service to help me.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Why did you, from Buffalo, as the SAIC
4 of Buffalo with a number of duties, have to staff an event
5 in Pittsburgh? Did the Pittsburgh Office not have
6 sufficient staffing to provide a security room agent that
7 day?

8 **Witness** : So, everybody -- the situation I just
9 described is not particular to Buffalo. It's every office
10 is facing that exact same staffing challenge currently.
11 You know, we are running at a pace that in my 24 years is
12 unprecedented. And there are oftentimes more assignments
13 than there are people.

14 **HSGAC Majority** : We understand the staffing has since
15 picked up, and when I say picked up in terms of additional
16 staffing for former Presidents and candidates, as well as
17 the current presidential election environment. But was it
18 this way prior to that as well?

19 **Witness** : I would say that for the last couple of
20 years, staffing has been growing into a larger and larger
21 problem. For example, when I first came into the Buffalo
22 District, I was essentially fully staffed. I'm probably
23 about half staffed now.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : What do you attribute that to?

25 **Witness** : The greater protective needs attrition and

1 difficulty, you know, finding candidates to fill these
2 spots.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : I'd like to also ask about resourcing.
4 I'm referencing Bates stamp 2609. Happy to share it with
5 you, but it's an email that you received from, I believe a
6 colleague in Buffalo. We don't know the name because the
7 name's redacted. And he or she writes, "Site agent reached
8 out to see if I could bring our," blank "radio down to use
9 for the security room." I guess the blank event is using
10 theirs, and they're currently without one. Again, we did
11 not release the redactions here. Do you recall this?

12 **Witness** : Yeah, I know exactly what that is.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Talk about that.

14 **Witness** : Sure. That was, again, the other agent in
15 my office who was going to staff the FLOTUS event. The
16 site agent from that event reached out to him and asked him
17 if he could bring the Buffalo Field Office's **LES** radio
18 for them to use at their event so that the Pittsburgh
19 Office could use their **LES** radio for the **LES** event.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Is that common?

21 **Witness** : When there's two events happening at the
22 same time, it's not uncommon for districts to have to share
23 equipment.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : Who is your colleague who staffed the
25 FLOTUS event?

1 **Witness** : His name was **USSS Agent** . He's an agent in
2 my office.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : I'd like to ask a couple questions about
4 the security room setup, which you've spoke to a bit
5 earlier. So I hope I'm not asking the same questions. If
6 so, I apologize. But you mentioned there were two command
7 posts on that day. When you learned about that in the
8 afternoon did you -- or actually let, let me take a step
9 back. Did you know when you learned about that in the
10 afternoon that there would not be any local law enforcement
11 in the security room?

12 **Witness** : Well, so yeah, that morning when we had the
13 briefing, I learned that my police counterpart was going to
14 be the Pennsylvania State Police and that he would have
15 communication with the local counterparts if necessary.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : Did that concern you?

17 **Witness** : Again, at the time, it's not completely
18 unusual for that to happen. So, at the time it was not
19 concerning to me.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : Did you ask why you would not have any
21 access to the local tactical channel?

22 **Witness** : No. I mean, it wouldn't be common for me to
23 have the command post agent to have any other radios other
24 than the Secret Service radios.

25 **HSGAC Majority** : Understood. You also mentioned that you

1 did not know where other security posts were. For example,
2 Pennsylvania State wasn't a Secret Service security post.
3 Did you receive a copy of the Pennsylvania State Police
4 operations plan in advance?

5 **Witness**: So, the police posts that I would've had
6 knowledge of where they were are the ones that are
7 indicated on our Secret Service diagrams. There are some
8 state and local police posts on those diagrams, but no, I
9 did not see that Pennsylvania State Police Ops plan until
10 yesterday at my House testimony.

11 **HSGAC Majority**: Did you see the Butler ESU operational
12 plan?

13 **Witness**: The first time I saw that was yesterday as
14 well?

15 **HSGAC Majority**: Would those documents be helpful for
16 you?

17 **Witness**: They would be helpful, but in an emergency
18 situation, sifting through them without the proper context
19 of someone who knows what those documents are would be
20 challenging.

21 **HSGAC Majority**: Do you have the capability to radio
22 directly to a single Secret Service agent?

23 **Witness**: Yes. Oh, no. So do you mean I could call
24 out to a single service agent, Secret Service agent, but
25 it's not like dialing a phone --

1 HSGAC Majority : Everybody would hear it.

2 Witness : Everybody would hear it. Correct.

3 HSGAC Majority : Can you send photos via text message on
4 your Secret Service device, your cell phone?

5 Witness : I believe it is possible, but it is often
6 challenging.

7 HSGAC Majority : Why is that?

8 Witness : Just the way that our texting is set up on
9 our phones. I believe it's for preservation purposes.
10 Texting on our phones is not the easiest thing. It's much
11 easier to just send an email, which is what I typically do.

12 HSGAC Majority : Based on your experience, staffing, both
13 the security room as well as other post, should the
14 security room agent be part of an advance as opposed to --

15 Witness : Not necessarily. I think that would be in
16 an already resource-constrained environment. I think that
17 would be difficult. I do think, and it's another
18 suggestion I at least made in one other interview, for
19 details that are sending a second supervisor, and that's
20 someone who comes in the day before and reviews the whole
21 security plan and the whole security site. That it may be
22 advantageous to have that second supervisor man the command
23 post because he's familiar with the detail, how the detail
24 operates, and what would have had time to do full
25 walkthroughs of all the sites the day before.

1 **HSGAC Majority** : Going back to July 13th, on the day of,
2 you went through a number of different calls you received
3 that day, a large number of medical calls coming in, lost
4 children, lost property, children actually in the security
5 room, about a media truck, mine sweeping, as well as the
6 room being used as downtime. And you're the singular
7 person from Secret Service to streamline all of this.
8 That's a lot of information to be able to synthesize,
9 digest, and then relay. What recommendations about this,
10 briefly, to my colleague do you have for better ingesting
11 and relaying this information?

12 **Witness** : I think definitely it's a two-person job,
13 particularly when something goes awry. But even if nothing
14 were to have gone wrong that day, it would've -- you have
15 one person manning a phone and [REDACTED] radio channels. So even
16 when something goes poorly, you have to put that out on two
17 channels. One of them has to come first, one of them has
18 to come second. That takes time. Right?

19 So having two people or one person who's dedicated
20 just to the communications and another person that's there
21 taking in the information, and maybe you could keep a log,
22 then maybe you could, you know. So, I think and not every
23 single site might necessarily require that, but there are
24 certain sites that looking at it at the face of it, you
25 could imagine would need two people.

1 And I do think that either a local or detailed person
2 assigned to the command post itself is also helpful. You
3 know, in a perfect world, I would man a command post with a
4 LES [REDACTED] and the detail's LES [REDACTED], that
5 would be the command post. And then the site security
6 rooms would be, you know, at a major site would be manned by
7 LES [REDACTED] and LES [REDACTED] if I had
8 all the manpower in the world.

9 HSGAC Majority : I'd like to draw your attention into the
10 local tactical radio on that day. I know you did not have
11 access to it, but I'd like to read you something that was
12 announced over that radio at 5:4:54 seconds. And the --
13 This is from Commander Butler ESU [REDACTED].

14 He says, "Just FYI, we had a younger white male, long
15 hair, lurking around the AGR building. He was viewed with
16 a rangefinder citing the stage. He was up against the
17 building, believe he was looking up at us, and he walked
18 around the side of the building. We lost sight of him.
19 There is a bike with a large backpack sitting beside it.
20 It's parked in the rear of the building that was not there
21 earlier." Is this information that would've been helpful
22 to you?

23 Witness : So that's a complete picture of the
24 truncated information I got in the game of telephone that
25 was that day. Right? So that's the complete information

1 as opposed to what we got was that there was a suspicious
2 person using a rangefinder in that area.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : But had you known the information that I
4 just read to you, would that have changed your calculus?

5 **Witness** : Probably not dramatically, however, because
6 we still would've dispatched the same [REDACTED] teams to go and
7 look and try to find that person.

8 **HSGAC Majority** : You mentioned you dispatched the
9 counters sniper response team and the protective
10 intelligent agent. Why didn't you relay this information
11 to counter snipers on top of the barns?

12 **Witness** : At the time, I thought that I had, you
13 know, made the best decision by dispatching the [REDACTED] teams
14 that were available to go and try to evaluate if the person
15 was actually a suspicious or what his intentions were.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : So the local tactical radio I just read
17 to you was at 5:42 p.m. At 5:52 p.m., one of the counter
18 sniper team leads sent out a BOLO email at 5:52 p.m. with
19 pretty much the same information I described. Is that
20 something that should have gone to the security room?

21 **Witness** : Sure. It's pretty much the same
22 information. We just at -- I'm only finding out that they
23 knew that same information beginning yesterday. So I
24 wasn't on that chain that they sent. So sure, it would've
25 been great to know. But again, at that time, the same

1 teams would've been dispatched to go and look for the
2 individual. That's who we had available to go look for.

3 **HSGAC Majority** : And I'd like to go through -- so these
4 are just a couple examples. 5:42 p.m. which is shortly
5 before you learned of the information. Again, 5:52 p.m.

6 with the counter snipers, and then you received calls or
7 you received kind of the game of telephone from Sergeant

8 **PSP Site Liaison** where you first received the information at 5:44.

9 And there were four calls. I'd like to just go through
10 them to the best of your recollection, if you can recall

11 exactly what **PSP Site Liaison** told you. So, he first received a call

12 from Commander **Butler ESU Commander** at 5:44 p.m., and I believe this is

13 when he first informed you of the suspicious person in the
14 AGR building. Do you recall this?

15 **Witness** : Yeah. That's the notification we've been
16 referencing.

17 **HSGAC Majority** : And that's when you learned about the
18 suspicious person with the rangefinder, correct?

19 **Witness** : Correct.

20 **HSGAC Majority** : And then at 5:48 p.m., **PSP Site Liaison** received a
21 second call. To the best of your recollection, do you
22 remember **PSP Site Liaison** relaying additional information to you?

23 **Witness** : At 5:48? No.

24 **HSGAC Majority** : And at 6:03 p.m., **PSP Site Liaison** received
25 another call. And this indicated that the individual was

1 spotted, again, walking toward the sheets. Do you recall
2 that information being relayed to you?

3 **Witness** : I did not receive that particular
4 information.

5 **HSGAC Majority** : Would having updates on a suspicious
6 individual with a rangefinder have been helpful?

7 **Witness** : So, if I myself had received that
8 information about the sheets, it would've been relayed to
9 the teams that were out looking for him. That's what I
10 would've done with it.

11 **HSGAC Majority** : And at 6:09 p.m., this is the call that
12 we discussed ad nauseam. This is when **PSP Site Liaison** learns that
13 the same suspicious individual with the rangefinder on the
14 roof. And you mentioned that you did not hear, it's
15 possible, you did not hear this. Correct?

16 **Witness** : Right. Because that is in close
17 conjunction with the time where I'm getting our own radio
18 traffic, about the same thing, essentially.

19 **HSGAC Majority** : And so you never learned that there was
20 a suspicious individual on the roof that was armed then?

21 **Witness** : No. There was never any mention of anybody
22 being armed at any time until I heard, "Shots fired."

23 **HSGAC Majority** : And did you learn at all that local law
24 enforcement fired shots?

25 **Witness** : I believe there was -- after the incident

1 in the command post, I believe there was some discussion
2 amongst the local law enforcement and the Pennsylvania
3 State Police that I was not necessarily part of that
4 conversation, but I overheard that one of them said that he
5 had fired his weapon, but I don't know who or from what
6 agency he was from.

7 **HSGAC Majority** : And just going back to the setup on that
8 day, Special Agent **C/UAS Advance Lead** was the advance lead for CUAS, is
9 it common for CUAS to set up in the security room?

10 **Witness** : No. And he initially did not try to set up
11 in the security room. He was initially trying to set up, I
12 believe, closer to the stage, but he was having a technical
13 difficulty and he was trying to find a solution to get his
14 equipment working. And he settled on the security room as
15 an alternate location.

16 **HSGAC Majority** : And you've secured a number of
17 protective events before. Compared to those events, was
18 the advance for this event, in your view, well organized?

19 **Witness** : So, I wasn't present for any of the
20 advance, so I'm not sure how the advance went. I wasn't a
21 part of it.

22 **HSGAC Majority** : But in terms of the information you
23 received as a security agent, working as a security agent
24 for many events prior did the information you received, was
25 it similar to other events? Was it relayed in, you know, a

1 different manner?

2 **Witness** : No. So, the paperwork we received the
3 night before and the briefing we had that morning were all
4 very typical and standard for other briefings and paperwork
5 I had gotten many times.

6 **HSGAC Majority** : And you've touched on a couple different
7 things that need to change moving forward. Are there other
8 specific protocols or gaps that you think we should be
9 aware of in terms of improving security for future
10 protective events that we have not already discussed?

11 **Witness** : I mean, I've been focusing on, you know,
12 the communications, and my role that day, and the things
13 that related to that that could be bettered. I'd have to
14 think about that question and come back with a better
15 answer than -- I don't have anything specific to add.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : **HSGAC Minority** . The
17 recommendations that you had talked about and the
18 suggestions, who have you relayed those to?

19 **Witness** : Some of them have come up in different --
20 these interview sessions. I believe the independent review
21 panel they came up in. I believe there was a brief
22 discussion of them in my Mission Assurance interview. So,
23 in those forms.

24 **HSGAC Minority** : Is there a standard channel within
25 which to provide that kind of feedback?

1 **Witness** : I wouldn't say that there's a standard
2 channel, no.

3 **HSGAC Minority** : So, if you hadn't had these
4 interviews, what would be the means to take thoughts to? I
5 mean, would you just run them up the chain, so to speak, go
6 to your supervisor and express your thoughts. That would
7 be **LES** for yourself?

8 **Witness** : For me it would be **LES**, but if it was
9 someone in my office, they would bring it to me.

10 **HSGAC Minority** : So, I'm just going to jump around a
11 little bit. Is SAIC **SAIC Pittsburgh** still on situational telework?

12 **Witness** : I'm not at -- I don't know the personnel
13 decisions of the agency.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : You guys are personal friends though.
15 Is that right?

16 **Witness** : I've known **SAIC Pittsburgh** for 24 years, yes.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay.

18 **Witness** : I know the answer personally, but I'm not
19 going to answer for professionally.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Personally, do you know if he's
21 still in situational?

22 **Witness** : I'm not going to answer personally.

23 **HSGAC Minority** : Why?

24 **Witness** : Because it's a personnel matter that I'm
25 not authorized to speak about.

1 HSGAC Minority : Have you been instructed that you're not
2 authorized to speak about personnel matters in this
3 setting?

4 Witness : Not in the setting, but generally we don't
5 speak about personnel matters.

6 HSGAC Minority : I mean, I don't hear Counsel objecting.

7 Agency Counsel : If SAIC Witness is not comfortable
8 answering, he is not comfortable answering the question.

9 HSGAC Minority : Okay. I mean, so you're refusing to
10 provide this information to the committee for -- I mean,
11 it's not classified information. SAIC SAIC sburgh gave us that
12 information. I mean, he told us that himself when we
13 interviewed him, so.

14 Witness : I just don't want to speak for him.

15 HSGAC Minority : Are you aware of whether he is on?

16 Witness : I am aware.

17 HSGAC Minority : Okay. But again, for the record, you're
18 refusing to answer?

19 Witness : I'm not refusing to answer. It's a
20 personnel matter that I am not authorized to speak about.

21 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Who would have to give that
22 authorization for you to speak about it?

23 Witness : Legal. Secret Service Legal.

24 Agency Counsel : Well, you have SAIC SAIC Pittsburgh testimony.
25 His testimony is his testimony.

1 **HSGAC Minority** : Right. And that was also over a month
2 ago. So, I'm asking for an update again. I guess, can you
3 take that back to answer that? Again, this is a topic that
4 we've discussed and we've discussed other people's status.
5 So, I guess --

6 **Agency Counsel** : Sure. I'll take that back and discuss
7 with my colleagues at Department of Homeland Security.

8 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. I'm going to introduce exhibit --
9 what exhibit are we on, 8? It's an email from you dated
10 July 13th, 9:59 p.m. Do you recognize this email?

11 [Exhibit No. 8 was
12 marked for identification.]

13 **Witness** : I do.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : Right. The who it is sent to is
15 redacted. Who did this go to?

16 **Witness** : So this went to the UD Sergeant, who was
17 one of the UD officials running the magnetometer detail.

18 **HSGAC Minority** : What's that person's name?

19 **Witness** : I don't recall his name.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : And then it says, "Please call me ASAP."
21 What was this related to?

22 **Witness** : So, this was again, concerning the having
23 people remain and not take their flights the next morning.
24 So, I wanted to make sure that I was able to convey that
25 information to his team through him, and I was asking him

1 to reach out so I could explain the situation to him.

2 HSGAC Minority : And you don't recall -- how did you get
3 that person's name?

4 Witness : It's in the paperwork. I just don't
5 remember his name three months later, the UD Sergeant.

6 HSGAC Minority : Okay. Do you know where he was based?

7 Witness : He's based here in DC. He's a Uniformed
8 Division officer. All our Uniformed Division officers are
9 based in DC.

10 HSGAC Minority : You'd never met him before?

11 Witness : I believe that was the first time I'd ever
12 worked with him.

13 HSGAC Minority : Okay. And that was your only
14 conversation with him?

15 Witness : No. I talked to him on the -- I eventually
16 got him on the phone, and then I eventually -- that when he
17 brought the officers back, I talked to him. I talked to
18 him the next day on Sunday as well.

19 HSGAC Minority : And what did you talk to him about on
20 Sunday?

21 Witness : Again, it was just about organizing his
22 personnel, making sure that they didn't leave, and making
23 sure that they were lined up for the FBI interviews that
24 had been requested.

25 HSGAC Minority : And so, were you responsible for

1 coordinating that?

2 **Witness** : I wasn't necessarily responsible, but I did
3 it. There was no one else to do it, so I just took that
4 on.

5 **HSGAC Minority** : And who directed you to coordinate, I
6 guess, to make sure people were around for the interviews?

7 **Witness** : That came from one of many conversations
8 that I've had with her headquarters personnel the night
9 after everything had happened.

10 **HSGAC Minority** : Do you recall who from headquarters?

11 **Witness** : I believe at the time I had -- most of the
12 conversations I was having with headquarters personnel were
13 that at that time going through the then SAIC of
14 Philadelphia who was on his way to become a DAD in the
15 Office of Investigations, **SAIC HQ**.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : And then were you in contact with the
17 DCC at any point, the director's crisis?

18 **Witness** : I never called into the DCC. No.

19 **HSGAC Minority** : Were you aware that the FBI had arrested
20 Asif Raza Merchant the day before for plotting to
21 assassinate US government officials or politicians?

22 **Witness** : I was not aware.

23 **HSGAC Minority** : Is this the first time that you're
24 becoming aware of that?

25 **Witness** : Yeah. Of that name, and I'm sure I've seen

1 news stories about the FBI arresting people, but that name
2 did not ring a bell to me.

3 **HSGAC Minority** : He was a Pakistani national with ties to
4 Iran that was meeting with FBI undercover agents in New
5 York, and they had been monitoring him for months. He, in
6 his proffer, discussed assassinating by sniper outside at a
7 rally, potentially Trump, Nikki Haley, Biden. You've never
8 heard of that?

9 **Witness** : No. Now that you're saying all those
10 details, I have read news articles, and I believe there --
11 we may have even had a bulletin post the 13th that came out
12 regarding that individual, but the name was not ringing a
13 bell. But those particulars, yes.

14 **HSGAC Minority** : The 13th, as in July 13th?

15 **Witness** : Correct.

16 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And that information was not
17 included in any kind of threat briefing or materials for
18 the rally. Is that correct?

19 **Witness** : Correct.

20 **HSGAC Minority** : So what was that bulletin?

21 **Witness** : I think it pretty much just said what you
22 said. I think it was like a recap of the news, like
23 different news stories. It was an unclassified document,
24 so.

25 **HSGAC Minority** : On July 13th?

1 **Witness** : No, no, no, no. It came out well after.

2 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Right, because that,

3 **HSGAC Majority** : Just to clarify, you're saying there was
4 some information that came out post, after July 13th?

5 **Witness** : Yes, yes, yes. Well, after. I have no
6 idea what date, but it was not anywhere around that day.

7 **HSGAC Minority** : I mean, you're the SAIC of the Buffalo
8 Office which is in New York. You discussed how most field
9 offices running low, everyone is kind of pitching in, had
10 to serve search warrants. You were not aware that in New
11 York, the FBI was monitoring someone who was trying to hire
12 people to assassinate two protectees. I don't recall if
13 Nikki Haley was at that time a protectee or not, but Biden
14 was and Trump was. So, you had no information about that
15 prior to the arrest?

16 **Witness** : Prior to the arrest? No.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Prior to it becoming public?

18 **Witness** : Prior to it becoming public? No.

19 **HSGAC Minority** : Is that surprising? I don't know if
20 that's typical, but.

21 **Witness** : I don't know if anybody else in the Secret
22 Service knew about it, but it's not surprising that every
23 arrest that the FBI makes isn't pushed out to every office.

24 **Witness** : Does FBI share that? I mean, someone
25 who's trying to hire people to assassinate protectees,

1 that's not something that's shared with the Secret Service?

2 **Witness** : Again, I can't comment if it was or wasn't
3 shared. I'm telling you when I remember hearing or
4 learning about it, and that would've been through the news
5 stories and/or this bulletin that eventually was sent out
6 to everybody. But I don't know what the date was, but it
7 was definitely post-July 13th.

8 **HSGAC Minority** : Because, again, incident that we
9 discussed earlier, that was your field office was involved
10 in investigating less than 20 days before the Butler event.
11 That was an arrest of an individual for making threats
12 against President Biden, complaint that they posted. It
13 was a response to Biden's post on X saying he was going to
14 put a bullet in your head.

15 **Witness** : Yes. It was a PI case we had in my
16 district.

17 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. You mentioned earlier that radio
18 transmissions in the security room were not recorded. Is
19 that correct?

20 **Witness** : Not to my knowledge, yeah, they were not.

21 **HSGAC Minority** : Were there any other recordings of the
22 security room? Are there any cameras in security rooms or
23 anything like that?

24 **Witness** : None that I'm aware of.

25 **HSGAC Minority** : So just going back to a discussion with

1 HSGAC Majority a little bit earlier, but knowing what you know now,
2 if you were working an event today, would you relay on the
3 radio information about suspicious individual with a
4 rangefinder?

5 Witness : With the benefit of hindsight, there's
6 probably things that I would do differently. Sure.

7 HSGAC Minority : Is that one of the things?

8 Witness : The only thing that I would've done
9 differently is I would've probably looped in the site
10 agent. That's it.

11 HSGAC Minority : You wouldn't have relayed that over the
12 radio even today, knowing everything that we know now?

13 Witness : I can't say.

14 PSI Minority : This is PSI Minority with Senator
15 Johnson's office. When were you interviewed by the FBI in
16 Pennsylvania State Police?

17 Witness : So, my first interview with the FBI was the
18 day after. So, Sunday, and then the FBI/Pennsylvania State
19 Police Interview I believe was the Tuesday or Wednesday
20 after. Pretty shortly thereafter. I'd have to go back and
21 look at my calendar, but a few days after.

22 PSI Minority : And that one with Pennsylvania State
23 Police and FBI, was that recorded?

24 Witness : I believe it may have been, yes.

25 PSI Minority : Going back to after shots are fired at

1 6:11 p.m., on July 13th, do you know who discovered Crook's
2 vehicle, know what entity or what individual?

3 [Witness] : I do not.

4 [PSI Minority] : Do you know what law enforcement entity
5 responded when devices were found in Crook's vehicle on the
6 night of July 13th?

7 [Witness] : I know that there were local and state
8 assets that were all responding. And again, I believe that
9 the TSD lead would know that answer definitively.

10 [PSI Minority] : So, you do not know if ATF responded that
11 night?

12 [Witness] : No. ATF definitely came. There was ATF
13 that responded to the command post after the shooting,
14 absolutely.

15 [PSI Minority] : And what information did ATF provide to
16 the command post?

17 [Witness] : They were working with the FBI and the
18 Pennsylvania State Police, and I believe that they were
19 working on trying to figure out the serial number from the
20 weapon or something like that, is what I recall their
21 involvement being.

22 [PSI Minority] : Did the ATF discuss anything more on the
23 night of July 13th in the command post?

24 [Witness] : From what I remember, they were mostly
25 working on trying to identify the suspect, what his

1 identity was before it was known.

2 [PSI Minority] : ATF was trying to identify the suspect,
3 not the suspect's weapon, or both?

4 [Witness] : Well, both.

5 [PSI Minority] : At that time, were they working to
6 identify the devices that were found in the trunk of
7 Crook's vehicle.

8 [Witness] : Again, I really have no knowledge about
9 what was going on with the vehicle.

10 [PSI Minority] : Okay. Thank you.

11 [PSI Minority] : [Witness], this is [PSI Minority],
12 again, Ranking Member John. Just follow-ups just trying to
13 get an understanding of what's in the security room at
14 Butler. Are there televisions in --

15 [Witness] : There was not.

16 [PSI Minority] : Would it be typical that there would be
17 televisions in the security room?

18 [Witness] : It really depends. You know, whenever we
19 go to a site, we kind of have to find a room that's
20 available, but it's not something that we bring or provide
21 ourselves.

22 [PSI Minority] : Would Secret Service set up their own
23 security cameras for events?

24 [Witness] : [LES] [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]

4 [PSI Minority] : So at this event, as far as you
5 understand July 13th Butler event there were no Secret
6 Service security cameras set up?

7 [Witness] : None that I'm aware of.

8 [PSI Minority] : Do the Secret Service drones deployed,
9 do they have camera capabilities?

10 [Witness] : I don't know all of our drones and all of
11 our drone capability, but I do believe that most of our
12 drones would have camera capability. Yes.

13 [PSI Minority] : And would those drones be relaying
14 video in real time to wherever the CUAS location is
15 established?

16 [Witness] : [REDACTED] LES [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21 [PSI Minority] : Are you aware of any footage from
22 Secret Service drones being relayed to the security room or
23 any other location on the July 13th event?

24 [Witness] : I don't believe we had a drone operating
25 that day.

1 **PSI Minority** : And if local law enforcement had drones
2 with the same type of capability, would that be relayed to
3 the security room?

4 **Witness** : If they were being utilized, but I'm not
5 aware of any drones that were being utilized by anybody.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : I have just two more. Who became the
7 incident commander after shots were fired?

8 **Witness** : After shots were fired?

9 **HSGAC Minority** : Or, yeah, who took the --

10 **Witness** : I don't think there was any official
11 designation of an incident commander from the Secret
12 Service side. We hold an interim federal presence to
13 preserve the crime scene until the FBI is on scene and
14 capable of maintaining the crime scene. And so that
15 turnover to the FBI happened at 10:30, and the FBI upon
16 their arrival were constantly communicating with the
17 Pennsylvania State Police about who was going to do what
18 parts of the investigation.

19 **HSGAC Minority** : Who, I guess, held the scene on for
20 Secret Service prior to the handover?

21 **Witness** : We did. I held the security room and all
22 of the post standers held their posts. So, the post
23 standers were on posts from about 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
24 that day.

25 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. And so, there was no one in

1 charge for Secret Service?

2 **Witness** : I mean, I'm in the command post, so people
3 are coming and asking me questions. I, again, was the
4 highest-ranking person on scene that day. But I was in
5 constant contact with SAIC **SAIC** since it was his district.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : Okay. Did you interview any
7 eyewitnesses?

8 **Witness** I did not interview anybody.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : Did you discuss any eyewitness accounts
10 with anyone and people were coming to you asking questions?

11 **Witness** : No. Again, there was so much going on and
12 so many phone calls. All I was doing was focusing on
13 managing, keeping everybody on post, trying to secure that
14 crime scene and dealing with the inquiries and the
15 information on scene. So, I didn't do anything that would,
16 was part of an investigation, at that point. I'm just
17 trying to manage the scene.

18 **HSGAC Minority** : By managing the scene, were you still
19 located in the security room, or?

20 **Witness** : Yes. I was in that security room. I left
21 once or twice to go out and talk, for example, to the
22 Uniformed Division personnel as a group. And one other
23 time to talk to the post standers as a group once they were
24 taken off post to explain to them what the next day was
25 going to look like, that they weren't going to be able to

1 take their flights in the morning and that sort of thing.

2 HSGAC Minority : Okay. But you did not discuss any
3 eyewitness accounts or anything like that?

4 Witness : No. The only person I talked to is the CS
5 response person because he had a small injury to his hand,
6 and we talked about that.

7 HSGAC Minority : And did you pass over your
8 communications responsibilities to Special Agent C/UAS Advance
9 because you needed to be -- Lead

10 Witness : At some point he was still in there. Yes.
11 So at some point while everyone was still up on post, I
12 didn't want to abandon the radios completely to talk, be
13 having all those phone calls. So I did have him listen to
14 the radio in case the post would call out while I was on
15 the phone and not able to respond.

16 HSGAC Minority : Do you recall around what time that
17 happened?

18 Witness : I do not. I mean, there was probably
19 multiple times from post shooting till we -- I believe the
20 post standers and everybody else got out of there around
21 11:00 or so, 11:30. So, there were probably several
22 instances in that timeframe where he would've been
23 listening for the radios while I was on the phone.

24 HSGAC Minority : You said the CS response person had an
25 injury. How did that happen?

1 **Witness** : I frankly don't know. It was something he
2 said about a fence that he was trying to negotiate, and it
3 was a very minor injury. The Pennsylvania State Police
4 counterpart that he with was with had a larger injury to
5 his hand.

6 **HSGAC Minority** : So it wasn't a gunshot injury?

7 **Witness** : Oh, no, no. It was -- the Secret Service
8 post stander's was like a scratch.

9 **HSGAC Minority** : So this was not the individual that
10 caught shrapnel, the Secret Service person who --

11 **Witness** : Oh, I don't know if that's what the final
12 cause of what it was, that I don't know.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : Thank you again for your time today. I
14 think just to wrap up. Our four offices have been
15 conducting an investigation since immediately after the
16 incident. We recently released a report, an interim report
17 on this, and really with the goal toward identifying and
18 assessing potential reform. But in order to do so, we
19 first need to look at the failures that occurred during
20 that day. And looking back on the 13th, the former
21 President was shot. Others were injured and lost a life.
22 Former Director Cheatle and Acting Director Rowe both
23 testified that there were failures by the Secret Service.
24 So, our question for you is do you agree that there were
25 failures, and if so, what were those failures that day?

1 **Witness** : So in my limited role that day, what I
2 would say is that everybody did the best that they could.
3 And obviously, it was the worst day for anybody who was
4 working that day that we could imagine. As the Secret
5 Service, it's our worst nightmare. And, you know, I tried
6 to execute my duties to the best that I could. I don't
7 have enough of the full information about everything that
8 went into the planning of where some of the breakdowns may
9 have been. Obviously, some of the things that we've talked
10 about today with improving our ability to communicate in a
11 better real time with our state and local partners is
12 obviously something that could be improved.

13 **HSGAC Majority** : And specifically, to follow-up on what
14 you mentioned related to the security room and
15 communication, is there anything else you'd like to raise?
16 I think one thing we haven't talked about are
17 interoperability of communications and how to assess and
18 divide who is responsible for which communications since
19 there's so many and of great scope.

20 **Witness** : I think you just hit on an important point
21 there. There are so many, and that is the greatest problem
22 I see with interoperability. If there was a magic radio
23 channel that we could give to everybody, and that was the
24 only channel we used for our events, and every single law
25 enforcement agency in the country had it and they could

1 only access it when they were doing our events and we could
2 use it, that would be wonderful. But I'm not sure that
3 that's technically possible.

4 **HSGAC Majority** : And looking forward, do you have any
5 lessons learned from that day, either for yourself, your
6 team, or Secret Service in general?

7 **Witness** : Yes. For myself and my team there are a
8 couple things that we've already started doing differently
9 in my district. Now, when we have a protective visit, we
10 provide written post instructions to whatever police posts
11 we're going to have. If we are doing a visit, again, I'll
12 go back to the recent DHS Secretary visit, we had that
13 happened post this event where we did have support from the
14 New York State Police attack team that we requested and
15 they granted. And we don't have the ability to embed
16 somebody with them, but we modified one of our radios and
17 gave it to them so that they would have that direct
18 communication on our radio so that we could have real time
19 communication should we need it. So those are two things
20 that I'm doing now that I wasn't doing before.

21 **HSGAC Majority** : Thank you. So, I think with that,
22 thank you very much for your testimony here today. We will
23 follow-up if there is any additional pieces where we have
24 questions, but really appreciate time. And I think with
25 that, we will go off the record.

1 **Witness** : Thank you.

2 [Whereas, at 2:01 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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