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Disclaimers & Terms of Use

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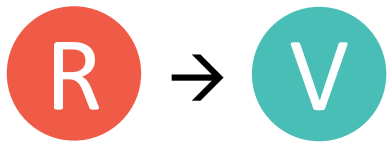
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Timelines & More



[Comprehensive Timeline of Events](#)



[Patsy Timeline Analyses \(Pending Revisions\)](#)

Rally Area



AGR Grounds



AGR Roof



[@Sorey's Protocol of the Last 3.5 minutes](#)



[Timeline of Events](#)



[Timeline of Events](#)



[FBI Timeline](#)
(History of Revisions)



[Timeline of BuC ESU Radio Comms](#)

[Official Radio Log \(No Annotation\)](#)

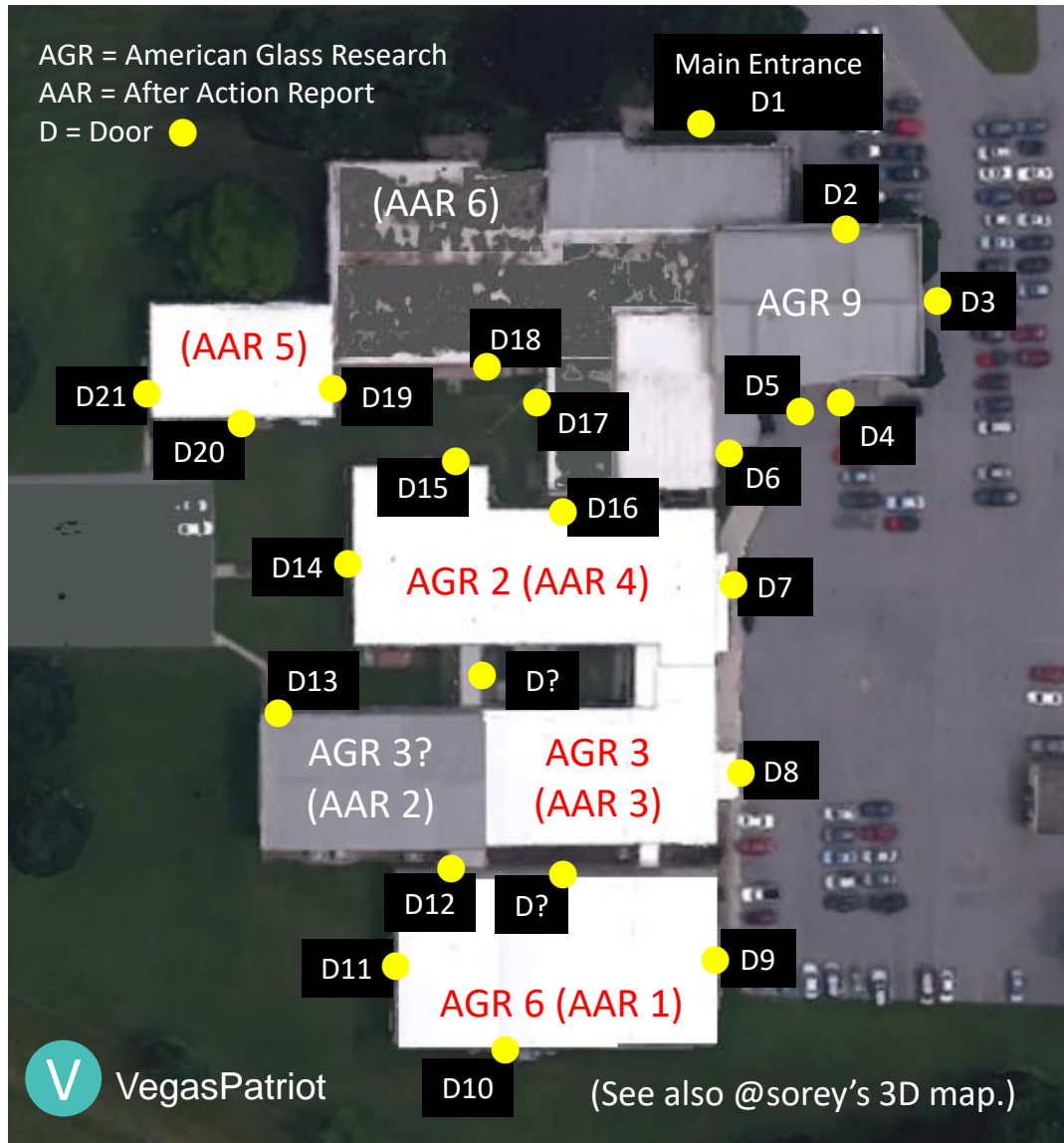


[Audio Timeline of Fire/EMS Ops](#)



- [@RedRanAmber's Personnel List](#)
- [@RedRanAmber's Officer Kuss Timeline](#)
- [@RedRanAmber's Lt. Pearson Timeline](#)

(Timelines Pair Bodycam w/Radio Calls)



Butler County Detail "Area of Operation"



Butler Twp Intersections Map

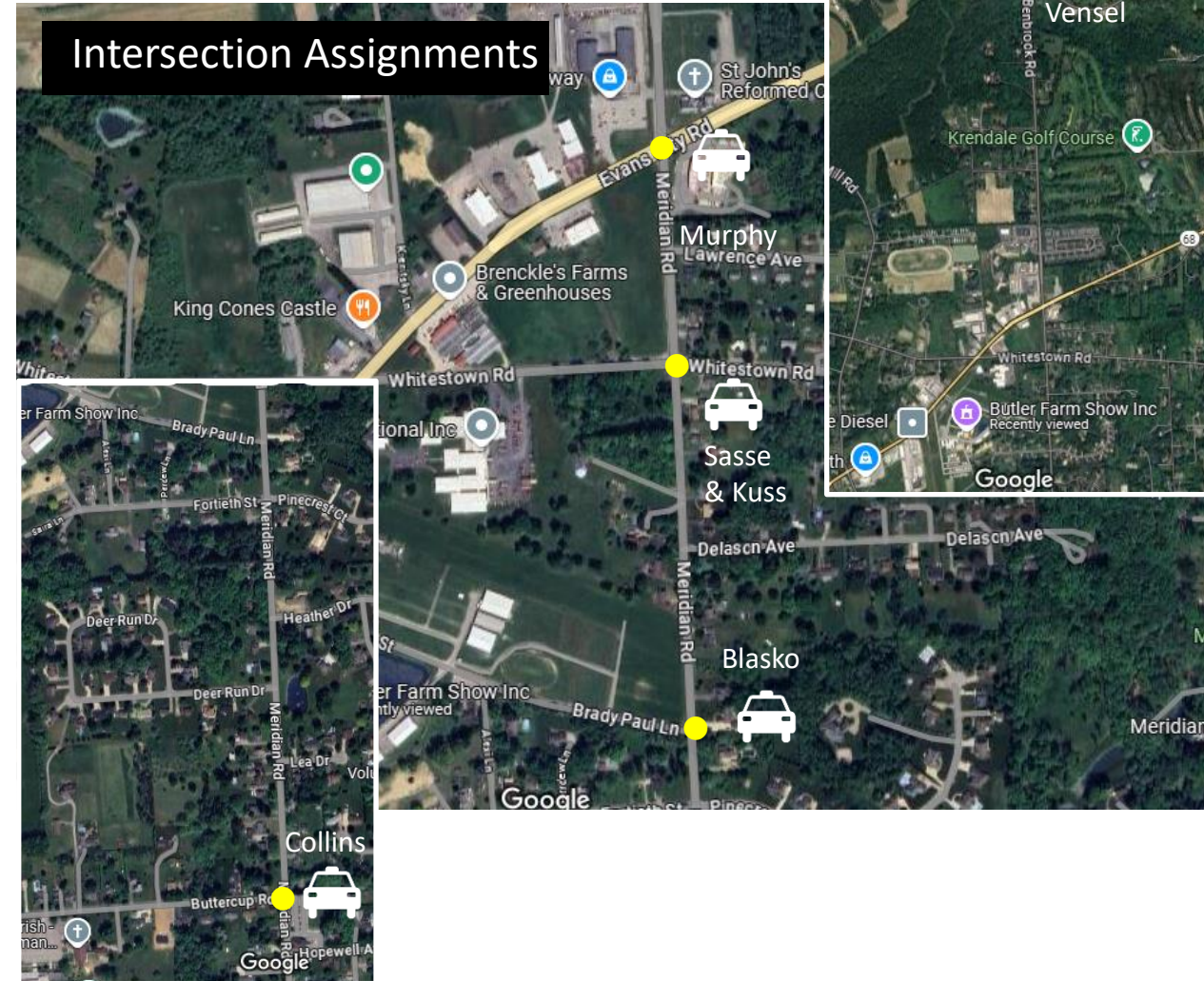
Timeline of BuC ESU Radio Comms

17:25:03	36	PD Ops 3	60282	Pearson	All BT units shut down your intersections, All BT units shut down your intersections
17:25:24	37	PD Ops 3	60282	Pearson	Let me know when you get them shut down
17:25:31	38	PD Ops 3	60286	Sasse	Whitestown and Meridian is clear
17:25:37	39	PD Ops 3	60283	Murphy	68 at Meridian is shut down
17:25:44	40	PD Ops 3	60285	Vensel	Greenwood Benbrook shut down
17:25:49	41	PD Ops 3	60292	Kuss	Whitestown and Meridian shut down
17:25:54	42	PD Ops 3	60282	Pearson	Okay do not open them until the motorcade passes

17:31:27	51	PD Ops 3	60002	Lenz	BT units from TacCommand, they are on S Benbrook headed your way
17:31:36	52	PD Ops 3	60286	Sasse	Copy
17:31:52	198	PD Ops 4	100501	Lenz	ESU from tac command, they are final approach
17:32:02	199	PD Ops 4	60290	Schaffner	10Bravo1 copies
17:32:22	54	PD Ops 3	60295	Blasko	Turning into Brady Paul
17:32:58	55	PD Ops 3	60286	Sasse	They're clear Whitestown and Meridian
17:34:52	202	PD Ops 4	60018	Kopas	Alpha12 comm check
17:35:11	203	PD Ops 4	60018	Kopas	Alpha12 comm check
17:35:33	56	PD Ops 3	60282	Pearson	You can open all intersections

Det. Collins Transcripts

21	Q	Can you describe to us how you came to learn your assignment for the July
22		13th event?
23	A	Yes. So on July 13th, I arrived at the station -- police station at
24		approximately 9:30 a.m. The detail began at 10:00 a.m. I was provided a packet that
25		had my post listed on it, my duties, which would have been the intersection of Meridian
		10
1		Road and Buttercup Road.



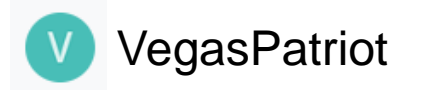
Drone & Satellite Footage

Rough Country Gypsy	News Outlets
DJI 86 Shot 1 (*)	Fox News
DJI 88 Shot 2 (*)	Associated Press
DJI 89 Shot 3 (*)	Columbia Dispatch
Clip 1 (*)	Reuters
Clip 2 (*)	Sky News (Day Of)
DJI 0112 (*)	
DJI 0097 SB (*)	
(*) Videos Removed	
Spa Guy	
First Aerial	
Initial Roof	
Updated Roof	
Content Creators	
Paramount Tactical	
Benny Johnson	





LEO (Bodycam) Videos



BTPD Body Cam footage 7.13.24

1 Lt. Pearson

2 Lt. Pearson

3 Sgt. Vensel

4 Sgt. Sasse

5 Paul Kuss

6 Paul Kuss

7 Paul Kuss

8 Drew Blasko

9 Det. Collins

10 Det. Collins

10w Det. Collins

11 Det. Wittlinger

12 Det. Wittlinger

13 Gianvito

14 Gianvito

15 Gianvito

BeC ESU BC1

BeC ESU BC2

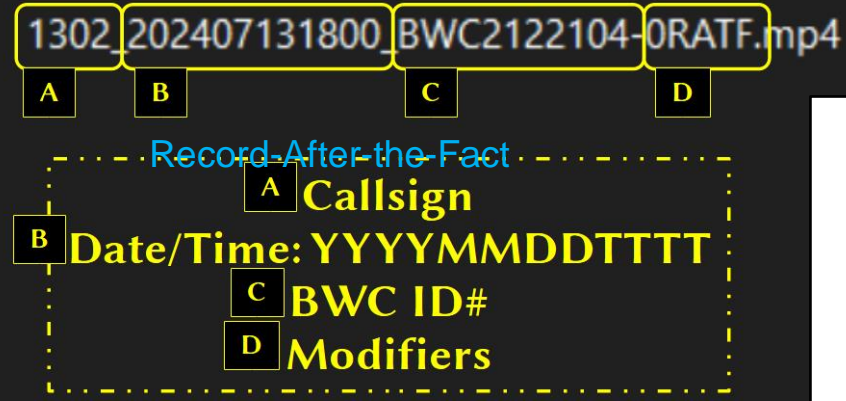
BeC ESU BC3

[Grassley Releases Additional Bodycam Footage](#)

#	Description	△	Act. Start	Ac. Stop
1	BWC2-122104 – 1. During Shooting	+0.12	18:08:48	18:30:45
2	BWC2-122104 – 2 At Greenhouses	+0.12	19:07:22	19:09:27
3	BWC2-122109, Calls Family – “Get Out”	-0.01	18:15:08	18:25:44
4	BWC2-122097, Guarding NW Tree	-0.01	19:18:11	19:22:32
5	BWC2-122111 – 1, Spots Crooks Walking Roof	-0.01	18:04:10	18:31:00
6	BWC2-122111 – 2, Transports Witnesses	-0.01	18:58:50	19:09:52
7	M500-016197, Transports Witnesses	-0.01	18:58:20	19:23:15
8	BWC2-122125, Helps ESU Onto Shed & SS	-0.01	18:12:15	18:33:54
9	BWC2-122110, Propped Up, Sees Crooks	-0.01	18:00:01	18:26:00
10	M500-010482, (Unit 5) Views Door 9	-0.01	18:06:35	20:06:38
11	BWC2-122117 -1, Why Weren't We on Roof?	-0.01	18:21:54	18:55:24
12	BWC2-122117 -2, Interviews Witnesses	-0.01	19:00:01	19:13:50
13	BeC ESU 1, Roof (Third In Time Sequence)	+1:39	19:02:39	19:09:40
14	BeC ESU 2, Roof (First In Time Sequence)	+1:39	18:25:16	18:36:35
15	BeC ESU 3, Roof (Second In Time Sequence)	+1:39	18:47:30	19:01:21

△ = Seconds ahead (+) or behind (-) actual time.

- 🔗 🚩 01. Lt. Matthew Pearson - A - 1302_202407131800_BWC2122104-0RATF.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 02. Lt. Matthew Pearson - B - 1302_202407131907_BWC2122104-0_redacted_1.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 03. Sgt. Tom Vensel - 1305_202407131815_BWC2122109-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 04. Sgt. Jim Sasse - 1306_202407131918_BWC2122097-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 05. Ptrl. Pual Kuss - A - 1340_202407131804_BWC2122111-0RATF.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 06. Ptrl. Paul Kuss - B - 1340_202407131858_BWC2122111-0_redacted_1.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 07. Dashcam - Ptrl. Paul Kuss - 1340_202407131858_Unit4-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 08. Ptrl. Drew Blasko - 1345_202407131812_BWC2122125-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 09. Det. Tyler Collins - 1382_202407131800_BWC2122110-0RATF.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 10. Dashcam - Det. Tyler Collins - 1382_202407131806_Unit5-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 10w. Dashcam - Det. Tyler Collins - 1382_202407131806_Unit5-1WA.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 11. Det. Max Wittlinger - A - 1383_202407131821_BWC2122117-0.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 12. Det. Max Wittlinger - B - 1383_202407131900_BWC2122117-0_redacted_1.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 13. Sgt. Rich Gianvito - A - 2024-07-13 Beaver Co ESU Bodycam 1.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 14. Sgt. Rich Gianvito - B - 2024-07-13 Beaver Co ESU Bodycam 2.mp4
- 🔗 🚩 15. Sgt. Rich Gianvito - C - 2024-07-13 Beaver Co ESU Bodycam 3.mp4
- 🔗 📄 Cam_time_adjust.png



(Source: @RedRanAmber)

Record-After-the-Fact

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATF & PRE-EVENT RECORDING

The practice of continuous background recording is common among body-worn camera suppliers that provide pre-event recording, a practice that adds up to two minutes of video footage before an initiated recording to every captured event. Pre-event recording, however, provides no fail-safe for incidents for which a recording was never initiated.

RATF doesn't require a recording to be initiated and extends the ability to reach further back in time for evidence, even days after the incident. Additionally, RATF doesn't add two minutes of overhead to each recorded event submitted as evidence. RATF events are individually created within a specified window of time and only by authorized users.

[LINK](#)

(Credit: @StarburstSkyer)



[RATF Website](#)

Butler Township uses Motorola body and dash cameras. Motorola offers **Record-After-the-Fact (RATF)** technology to capture video even of the LEO did not turn the camera on. Doing so likely follows an established policy and with the LEO present. In the camera ID nomenclature above, note the footage that was RATF.

See Also: [@RedRanAmber's Personnel List](#)

Rally Videos (1)



[Dropbox](#)

Dave Stewart

[5:02 Extended Cut](#)



[5:38-6:06 pm](#)

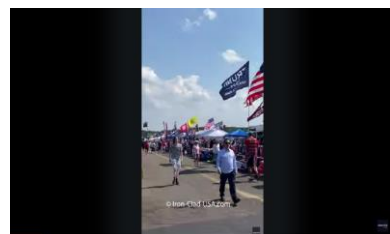


[6:18 pm Final Footage](#)



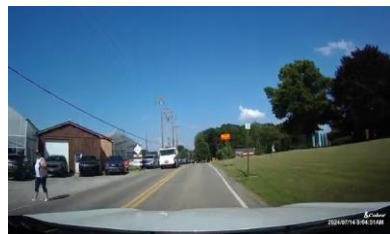
Sightings

[1st - Vendor Alley](#)



[IronCladUSA x.com](#)

[2nd - Malis Dashcam](#)



[NewNation](#) (4:26 mark)

[3rd - WTAE4](#)



Shooting (MSM)

[NTD](#)



[PBS](#)



[Storyful](#) (Behind Stage)



Shooting (Crowd)

[Piper Grimley \(J. Malis\)](#)



[AP - D.J. Laughery](#)



"He's on the Roof"

[TMZ - M. DiFrischa](#)



"Ross, get over here."

Shooting (Crowd)

[In Path of Shots](#)



[NN - Jon Malis](#)



Rally Videos (2)



[Dropbox](#)

Crowd Victims

[Dr. Meyn \(Comperatore\)](#)



Crowd Victims

[Dr. Sweetland \(Comperatore\)](#)



Other

[Fox -Copenhaver Roof Video](#)



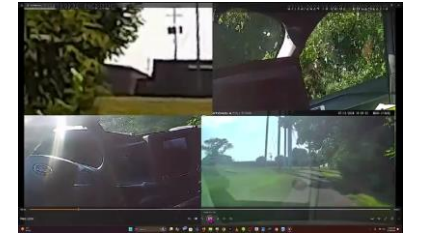
Compilations

[Law & Crime Compilation](#)



Synchronized

[GHI Synch w/ Tedesco](#)



[Storyful \(Comperatore\)](#)



[Copenhaver & Dutch](#)



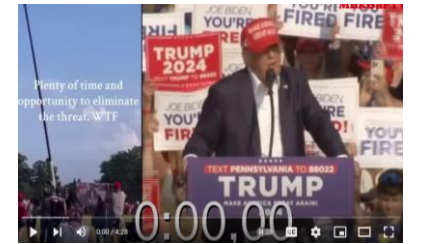
[ragtagvagabond](#)



[Daily Mail Compilation](#)



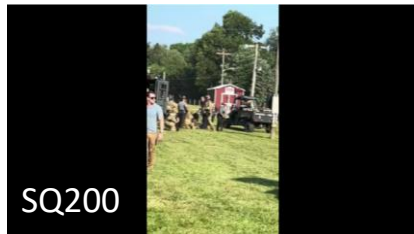
[MilkBarTV](#)



[Storyful \(Comperatore\)](#)



[Wolfstar \(Justin Yerace\)](#)



[Storyful \(Ramming Gate\)](#)



Synchronized

[Rocky Trumpboa](#)



[Spit 7201 Crowd Videos](#)



Rally Videos (3)



[Dropbox](#)

Pre-Shooting

[Advance Footage](#)



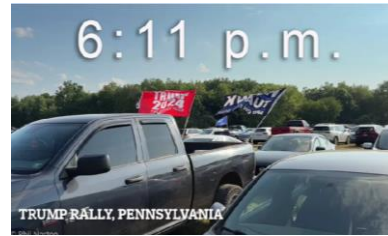
Full Day Coverage

[RSBN Live](#)



Post-Shooting

[Crowd Leaving](#)



Post-Shooting

[Hospital \(Rick Foerster\)](#)



Playlist

[AdudeUknow](#) (226 videos)



Post-Shooting

[RSBN Alt. Angle](#)



[Outside Emerg. Response](#)



[Magnometers](#) (At 1:12)



Bike

[Bike Guy Interview](#)



DJT Motorcade & Hospital

[Motorcade Leaves Rally](#)



[Motorcade to Hospital](#)



[Motorcade Leaves Hosp.](#)



[Motorcade Leaving Hosp.](#)



Fence Line Rail Shot

[Greg Smith](#) (3)



[TMZ](#)



Rally Videos (4)

USSS Counter-Snipers

USSS Counter-Snipers

Grandstand CS

Shot 9 QRF LEO

Media Updates

[GHI Hercules 1 Kill Shot](#)

[Hercules 2 Setup](#)

[Seen Setting Up](#)

[WP – Jon Malis Zaliponi Clip](#)

[7/16/2024 CBS Update](#)



[Jeffostrof Hercules 1](#)

[Jeffostrof Hercules 2 \(16:12\)](#)

[Includes CS Nest Photo](#)

SAIC Tim Burke

[Security Area to Stage](#)

Congressional Visits

[7/22/2024 - Congr. Visit](#)



Miscellaneous

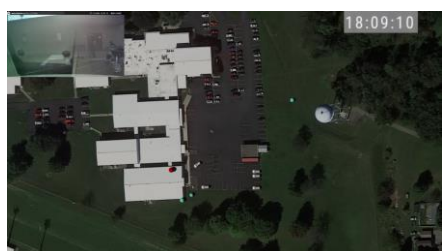
[C3Pmeme](#)

[GHI Where were they?](#)

[X.com Photo Source](#)

[Stage to Motorcade](#)

[8/4/2024 - Benny Johnson](#)



Miscellaneous Videos

[Christy Nevada](#)



[Mia Kopps](#)



[All South Bleacher Videos](#)



[PSP Dashcam](#)



[MA \(Walking Along AGR North\)](#)



[Bruce Snyder Post](#)

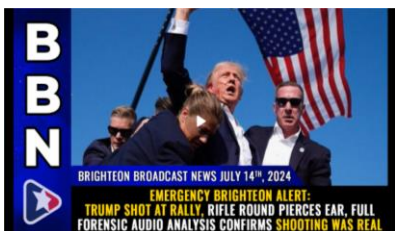


(Disclaimer: These videos are provided for informational purposes, and are not intended to convey accuracy of the information.)

Early Audio Analysis

Mike Adams

[First Analysis](#)



[Second Analysis](#)



[Third Analysis](#)



Dr. Chris Martenson

[First Analysis](#)



[Second Analysis](#)



[Third Analysis](#)



(More Analyses Presented)

Subsequent Forensic Analysis

Other Analyses

[Kenny James](#)



[@mtorrence](#)

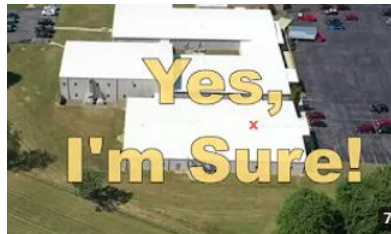


Time Delay of Arrival

[@greg_n \(8/3/2024\)](#)



[@greg_n \(8/16/2024\)](#)



[@greg_n \(8/21/2024\)](#)



NOTE: The Peak Prosperity Citizens Investigation forum thread, titled ["Audio Analysis Is Most Consistent Two Shooters At Trump Rally."](#)

Other Analysts

Mike Bell

[Audio Analysis](#)



[Bullet Trajectories](#)



[Mach Cone Timing](#)



[Jon Malis](#)



[WFAA BuC Sheriff Slupe](#)



[Butler Township Mgr. Knights](#)



[CBC - Dr. Jim Sweetland](#)



[Kurt](#)



[NN BuC DA Goldinger](#)



[Sen. Barasso - Security Area](#)



[NN - Rico Elmore](#)



[GMA Beaver County ESU](#)



[CNN - BeC DA Bible & Det. Young](#)



[NBC - USSS Act. Dir. Rowe](#)



[NBC - Copenhaver & Dutch](#)



(See also [Cheatle](#) on ABC at 1:50 mark.)

Post Event

[7/13/2024 - FBI & PSP](#)



[7/14/2024 - PA Gov.](#)



FBI

SS

PSP

[8/2/2024 - Rowe](#)



[9/20/2024 - Rowe](#)



Congressional Hearings

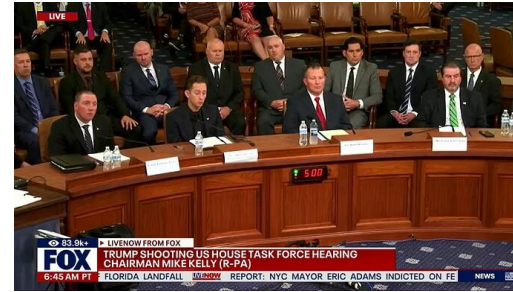
House: SS Cheadle



Senate: Rowe & Abbate



9/26/2024 – Cong. Task Force



Sgt. Edward Lenz, Butler Twp.
PTLM Drew Blasko, Butler Twp.
Lt. John D. Herold PSPP
Mr. Patrick Sullivan, Ex-USSS
Dr. Ariel Goldschmidt, Med. Exam.

Congr. Forum (Full Day)



House: FBI Wray



House: Paris & Yoes



12/5/2024 – Task Force (Wray)



Investigations



[FBI Butler Investigation Updates](#)

[FBI Evidence Photos](#)



[Preliminary Findings](#)

[Preliminary Findings \(Shell Casings\)](#)



[Shared Files](#)



[USSS Mission Assurance Report Summary](#)

[Final Report - Non-Classified](#)



[Senate Investigation Transcripts](#)

[Interim Report](#)



[DHS Independent Review Website](#)

[DHS Independent Panel Review Report](#)



[House Task Force Latest News](#)

[Task Force Interim Staff Report](#)

[Task Force Final Report](#)

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[Views of Rep. Clay Higgins](#)

Date	Source	Document Description	Link
7/17/2024	Sen. Hawley	Request for Information to DHS & Blackrock	LINK
7/17/2024	Sen. Grassley	Grassley Launches Secret Service Investigation Following Assassination Attempt against Former President Trump (Letters to USSS and FBI)	LINK
7/18/2024	Sen. Grassley	Grassley Requests Records from Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Regarding Trump Assassination Attempt (Letters to Butler County , Butler Township , Beaver County Sheriff's Office , Beaver County , Pennsylvania State Police)	LINK
7/19/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter- Loose Security (Press Release)	LINK
7/21/2024	Sen. Johnson	Preliminary Findings (Press Release)	LINK
7/22/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter - Roof Coverage (Press Release)	LINK
7/23/2024	Sen. Grassley	Letter to DHS & USSS Regarding Drone Operator	LINK
7/25/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter - Declined Drone (Press Release)	LINK
7/30/2024	Sen. Johnson	Release of Timeline LE Tracking Shooter (Press Release)	LINK
7/24/2024	Sen. Johnson	Preliminary Findings (Shell Casings)	LINK
7/29/2024	Sen. Grassley	Butler & Beaver County Detail, AAR, and Texts	LINK
8/1/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter - Counter Surveillance (Press Release)	LINK
8/6/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter - Lead Agent (Press Release)	LINK
8/9/2023	Sen. Grassley	Letter to FBI Acting Director Rowe (Images from BuC ESU)	LINK
8/12/2024	Rep. Higgins	Preliminary Investigation Report	LINK

Date	Source	Document Description	Link
8/15/2024	Rep. Higgins	Preliminary Investigation Report -- Casings	LINK
8/16/2024	Judicial Watch	Released Bodycams & Sgt. Lenz Emails	LINK
8/23/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter – Extra Security (Press Release)	LINK
8/25/2024	Med. Examiner	Full Autopsy Report	LINK
9/3/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter – Agent Training (Press Release)	LINK
9/5/2025	Shared File	Unredacted POTUS After Action Beaver County	LINK
9/16/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Report – 2 nd Attempt (Press Release)	LINK
9/17/2024	Just the News	Sen. Grassley Letter to FBI Acting Director Rowe	LINK
9/19/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter – 2 nd Attempt (Press Release)	LINK
9/20/2024	USSS	Mission Assurance Report Summary	LINK
9/24/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter – Wisconsin Rally (Press Release)	LINK
9/25/2024	Sen. Hawley	Call with USSS Acting Dir. Rowe (Press Release)	LINK
9/25/2024	USSS-HSGAC	Examination of U.S. Secret Service Planning and Security Failures Related to the July 13, 2024 Assassination Attempt Interim Joint Report (Interview Transcripts)	LINK
9/25/2024	HSGAC	Peters, Paul, Blumenthal And Johnson Release Bipartisan Report Examining U.S. Secret Service Security Failures And Assassination Attempt On Former President Trump	LINK
10/2/2024	Judicial Watch	Released photographs taken of the patsy by ESU team members.	LINK
10'8'2024	Headline USA	Thomas Matthew Crooks autopsy report released.	LINK

Date	Source	Document Description	Link
10/9/2024	Sen. Hawley	Whistleblower Letter (Press Release)	LINK
10/15/2024	DHS	Independent Review Panel Report of 2024 Attempted Assassination (Press Release)	LINK
10/21/2024	Task Force	Interim Staff Report: Investigating The Stunning Security Failures On July 13, 2024 In Butler, Pennsylvania	LINK
10/28/2024	Headline USA	EXCLUSIVE: Newly Obtained Transcript Implicates Local Snipers in Butler Security Failures (VP Version)	Link
11/1/2034	USSS	U.S. Secret Service Releases Completed Mission Assurance Inquiry into the Attempted Assassination of Former President Donald Trump (Press Release)	LINK
11/1/2024	Task Force	Task Force statement on the Secret Service Mission Assurance Review	LINK
11/6/2024	Task Force	Task Force Sends a Follow-Up Letter to ATF Requesting Information Related to Trump Assassination Attempts	LINK
12/10/2024	Task Force	FINAL REPORT: Task Force Concludes its Investigation, Releases Report Text on Findings and Policy Recommendations	LINK
12/11/2024	Rep. Higgins	Views of Rep. Clay Higgins (Task Force Report Addendum)	LINK
12/13/2024	Task Force	Released Interview Transcripts	LINK

Date	Source	Headline/Title	Link
7/14/2024	CNN	How the assassination attempt on Trump unfolded	LINK
7/15/2024	FOX	Trump shooting: Timeline of assassination attempt raises questions about how gunman evaded security	LINK
7/15/2024	USA Today	Police present outside home of Trump shooter, Thomas Crooks	LINK
7/15/2024	CNN	A shooting range, a gun store, and a ladder purchase: Tracking the Trump rally gunman's movements leading up to his attack	LINK
7/17/2024	NYP	Secret Service was warned about, ID'd Thomas Crooks as a 'threat' 10 minutes before Trump took stage — but let ex-president go on anyway	LINK
7/13/2024	AP	A timeline of the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump	LINK
7/16/2024	CNN	July 16, 2024, coverage of the Trump assassination attempt	LINK
7/17/2024	CNN	Trump shooter requested Saturday off from work and told colleagues he'd be back at work Sunday, officials say	LINK
7/24/2024	WPXI-TV	Butler DA responds to state police commissioner testimony in hearing on Trump assassination attempt	LINK
7/24/2024	Beaver Countian	County Officer Warned Of Seeing Man With Rangefinder Before Trump Was Shot	LINK
7/25/2024	WPX1	Butler DA responds to state police commissioner testimony in hearing on Trump assassination attempt	LINK
7/28/2024	ABC	Failure of communication: Local SWAT team details account of Trump rally assassination attempt	LINK
7/29/2024	ABC	Local SWAT team blames Trump assassination attempt on lack of planning, communication	LINK
7/29/2024	WTAE4	Beaver ESU members describe lack of contact between local SWAT, Secret Service at Trump rally	LINK
7/30/2024	TRIB Live	'A failure on multiple levels': Records reveal security lapses at Trump rally	LINK

Date	Source	Headline/Title	Link
7/30/2024	WP	Trump rally gunman stopped firing after local officer shot at him	LINK
8/1/2024	TRIB Live	Goldinger: Agency left 'on their own' without communication during Trump rally	LINK
8/1/2024	CNN	Pennsylvania county law enforcement officials say Secret Service is presenting a 'misleading' picture of Trump shooting scene	LINK
8/3/2024	WP	'We lost sight of him': Radio traffic shows failed search for Trump rally shooter	LINK
8/10/2024	CNN	'Could it have been avoided?' Local cops detail breakdown in efforts to stop Trump's would-be assassin	LINK
8/12/2024	RCP	Dissension, 'Toxicity' Plagued Trump's Secret Service Detail Before Assassination Attempt	LINK
8/12/2024	Zero Hedge	Sex, Suicide, And Terrible OpSec: Trump's Secret Service Detail Is A Mess	LINK
8/14/2024	US News	Secret Service failed to ensure safeguards were in place at Trump's Pa. rally that could have blocked shooter's view: report	LINK
8/23/2024	CNN	Forgotten radios and missed warnings: New details emerge about communication failures before Trump rally shooting	LINK
9/13/2024	WP	Secret Service probe details failures before Trump rally shooting (Archived)	LINK
9/18/2024	NYT	How the Secret Service Missed Chances to Halt a Tragedy at a Trump Rally (Archived)	LINK
10/2/2024	Headline	Boss of Secret Service's Buffalo Office Ran the Command Center at Deadly Butler Rally	LINK

Psychological Factors To Keep In Mind While Investigating

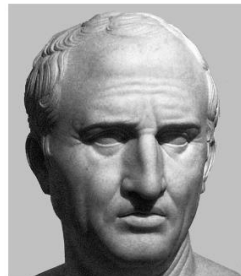
Confirmation Bias: The unwitting tendency to seek out evidence that supports a pre-conceived belief, and minimize or downplay evidence inconsistent with that belief.

Cognitive Dissonance: Individuals experience discomfort or tension due to contradictory beliefs or attitudes. When confronted with new information that challenges their existing beliefs, people may instinctively reject the new information to reduce psychological discomfort.

Overconfidence Bias: Individuals believing that their knowledge or beliefs are superior to new information presented to them. This bias can lead people to dismiss new information as incorrect or misguided without fully considering its validity.

Belief Persistence: Even when presented with evidence that contradicts their beliefs, individuals may continue to hold onto their existing beliefs despite being presented with contradictory evidence, often because their beliefs are deeply ingrained or emotionally charged.

Focusing Effect: The tendency to place too much importance on one aspect of an incident or event. There are typically multiple contributing factors, which are often dependent on each other, and investigators need to uncover and consider all possible factors.



“To err is human, but to persevere in error is only the act of a fool.”

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Psychological Factors To Keep In Mind While Investigating

The Time Factor – Memory fades. The longer the delay between witnessing an event and recalling it, the more a person forgets, especially the finer details of the event.

Post-Event Information - A witness may have learned new information since first observing or describing an incident, which during later testimony is believed to be and is presented as knowledge he or she had at the time of the incident.

Recall (Reporting) Bias - A bias which occurs when the way a witness answers a question is affected not just by the what actually occurred, but also by the witness's prior memories, which can get associated with the recent incident.

Perception Factor - The witness viewed the incident in poor light, at night, against back lighting, from a great distance, in the fog, or very briefly, and thus had limited or impaired perception.

Attention Factor - Distractors that draw attention away from the incident, doing something else at the time, many people being present, or distractive noise, causes information to be missed.

Unfamiliarity Factor - Unexpected events or unfamiliar circumstances limit the mind's ability to absorb all of the information associated with the event. Expected events or familiar circumstances are already in our memory, and require less bandwidth to absorb the new information.

Validity of Evidence

Evidence needs to be examined for validity before using it for investigative and analysis purposes. Here are the three steps I use for verifying the validity before relying on evidence:

Validity (*Being well-grounded, sound, or correct.*)

1. **Authenticity:** (*Being genuine, real, or what is claimed.*) - Evidence must first be verified to be in its original form, or proven to be an unmodified copy, redactions notwithstanding. If something is fabricated, forged, photoshopped, or otherwise modified, it should not be considered valid. Also, consider the source!
2. **Veracity:** (*Being accurate, factual, or truthful.*) – Evidence must be examined for accuracy. If the evidence conflicts with itself, or is contradicted by other evidence, that needs to be taken into consideration when utilizing that evidence for investigative purposes.
3. **Consistency:** (*Being in agreement or harmony with itself and other valid evidence.*) – Evidence must be consistent within itself and be in agreement with other valid evidence. It must align with the overall sequence of events. Otherwise, it has to be considered inaccurate for investigative purposes and utilized only with those inconsistencies in mind.

Quality of Evidence

All evidence is not created equal, it has varying levels of relative quality. This is how I generally rate the quality of evidence used in my investigative and analysis efforts:

Quality (Degree of confidence in accuracy.)

Hard Evidence: Valid evidence that has been recorded and cannot easily be refuted, just interpreted. Examples include film footage, photographs, recorded conversations, or radio communications.

Firm Evidence: Valid evidence that has been documented, such as official government reports, interview testimony, transcribed or otherwise recorded, documents and records, emails, and text messages, that has been corroborated by other types or sources of evidence.

Soft Evidence: Valid evidence that has not been corroborated by other evidence or by separate sources.