

FBI Timeline

Rev. 2

Note: Compiled from [FBI Butler Investigation Updates](#), beginning with the first timeline released by Special Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek during a July 29, 2024 press briefing. Dates of additions and revisions from subsequent updates are noted.

Prior to July 13, Day of the Attack

September 2019 – (July 29, 2024) Next, regarding the two improvised explosive devices located in the shooter's vehicle, as well as the device found in his bedroom, the subject conducted multiple searches pertaining to explosive devices as early as September 2019, continuing through this summer. These searches specifically included, "Detonating cord", "blasting cap", "how to make a bomb from fertilizer", and "how to remote detonators work". The subject also searched for ammonium nitrate, nitromethane, and other materials consistent with the manufacturing of explosive devices. Continuing on the topic of the explosive devices located in the subject's vehicle, the FBI lab determined that components used by the subject were legal to purchase and readily available online.

Spring 2023 - (July 29, 2024) Starting in the spring of 2023, the subject made more than 25 different firearms-related purchases from online firearm's vendor using an alias.

1st Half 2024 - (July 29, 2024) Throughout the first half of 2024, the subject made six chemical precursor-related purchases online of materials used to create the explosive devices recovered in the subject's vehicle and home. And again, for those purchases, he used aliases.

June 2024 - (July 29, 2024) In the 30 days prior to the attack the subject conducted more than 60 searches related to President Biden and former President Trump.

July 3 - (July 29, 2024) The campaign announced its intention to hold a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania...

July 5 – (Added August 28, 2028) Of particular note our investigation identified specific searches conducted on July 5 to include, "When is the DNC convention" and "When is the RNC in 2024".

July 6 - (July 29, 2024) The subject registered to attend the event. That same day, the investigation revealed our subject used an internet search browser to query "how far away was Oswald from Kennedy." (Added August 28, 2024) And that same day he specifically searched for, "How far was Oswald from Kennedy?", "Where will Trump speak from at Butler Farm Show?", "Butler Farm Show podium", and "Butler Farm Show photos."

July 7 - (July 29, 2024) The subject traveled from his home to the site of the rally, spent approximately 20 minutes in the area, including the area around the AGR buildings in what we believe was an early surveillance of the site before heading back home.

July 8 - (Added August 28, 2024) The subject searched, "AGR International."

July 9 - (Added August 28, 2024) He searched, "Ballistic Calculator." A

July 10 - (Added August 28, 2024) He searched, "Weather in Butler."

July 12 - (July 29, 2024) The day before the rally, the subject visited a local shooting range (the Clairton Sportsman Club) and practiced with what we believe was the same weapon used in the attack.

July 13, Day of the Attack

10 a.m. – (July 29, 2024) The subject traveled from his home to the site of the rally at approximately 11 a.m. and spent over an hour in that area before traveling home again. (Revised July 30, 2024) The shooter returned to the Butler Farm Show Grounds and remained there for about 70 minutes before returning home

~1:30 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) The subject obtained the rifle from his residence and informed his parents he was heading to a nearby shooting range.

~1:55 p.m. – (Added July 30, 2024) About 25 minutes later, the shooter purchased ammunition while en route to the Butler Farm Show Grounds. We assessed the ammunition used the day the attack was purchased legally that day. The subject brought 50 rounds at a local gun store.

~ 3:45 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) The investigation confirmed the subject again arrived in Butler at the site of the rally. The subject then arrived at the scene and was moving around the Farm Show grounds, close to the AGR [American Glass Research] building, from which he ultimately committed the attack.

~3:51 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) He parked his vehicle and began flying his drone in proximity to the rally site from about 3:50 p.m. to just after 4 p.m. for approximately 11 minutes. The investigation found this drone flight was conducted approximately 200 yards from the site of the rally by reverse engineering the metadata associated with the subject's drone. The ongoing analysis did not reveal any photos or video taken by the drone, as there was no memory card recovered inside the device when it and the controller were discovered in the subject's vehicle. The FBI is still working to determine if the subject was viewing footage on the drone's controller and whether that may have revealed further insights that day into the security posture at the location from which he ultimately carried out his attack. (Revised July 30, 2024) Shortly thereafter, at approximately 3:51 p.m., the shooter flew a drone approximately 200 yards from the Farm Show grounds for about 11 minutes.

~4:00 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) Just after approximately 4 p.m., he left the scene in his vehicle and appeared to drive throughout the area in the vicinity of the shooting for a period of time.

~4:26 p.m. – (Added July 30, 2024) The first reported sighting of the shooter by local law enforcement was at approximately 4:26 p.m. (Revised August 28, 2024) Prior witness interviews indicated the subject was in the area of the AGR building complex at 4:26 pm. Subsequent digital evidence review shows the subject was in fact near the farm show airstrip walking past a row of vendors outside the secure perimeter approximately a half mile away from the AGR grounds at 4:26 pm.

~5:10 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) Shortly after approximately 5 p.m., we assess the shooter was identified by law enforcement as a suspicious person in the area of the AGR building and grounds. A local officer took a photo of the subject and sent it to other SWAT operators on scene, as well as local command

personnel. (Revised July 30, 2024) At approximately 5:10 p.m., the shooter was again identified by local law enforcement as a suspicious person around the AGR building.

~5:14 p.m. - (Added July 30, 2024) A local SWAT operator took a photo.

~5:32 p.m. – (July 29, 2024) Approximately 30 minutes later, shortly after 5:30 p.m., SWAT operators observed the subject using a range finder and browsing news websites on his phone. (Revised July 30, 2024) At around 5:32 p.m., local SWAT observed the shooter next to the AGR building using his phone, browsing news sites, and with a range finder.

~5:38 p.m. – (Added July 30, 2024) The photo of the shooter taken earlier is sent to local SWAT operators in a text message group.

~5:46 p.m. - (Added July 30, 2024) Approximately 25 minutes prior to the shooting, the U.S. Secret Service command post was notified of the suspicious person.

~5:56 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) The next confirmed observation is at approximately 5:56 p.m., when the subject was seen walking in the vicinity of the AGR building carrying a backpack.

~6:02 p.m. - (Added July 30, 2024) Officers lost sight of the subject from approximately 6:02 p.m. to 6:08 p.m. but continued to communicate and attempt to locate him.

6:05 p.m. – (July 29, 2024) Recently discovered video from a local business shows the shooter pulling himself up onto the AGR building rooftop at approximately 6:06 p.m. (Revised August 28, 2024) Second, video obtained from a local business showed the subject climb to the roof of the AGR complex at approximately 6:05 pm. (Revised August 28, 2024) Our overall finding is the subject was only on the roof for approximately six minutes prior to the shooting, between 6:05 and 6:11 pm.

~6:08 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) Police dashcam video observed the subject walking along the roof of the business in the direction of where he ultimately fired his shots. (Revised August 28, 2024) Video from a local business, police dash cam, and police body cameras confirmed the subject's movement across multiple AGR building roofs between 6:05 and 6:08 pm.

~6:11 p.m. - (July 29, 2024) A local police officer was boosted onto the roof by another officer, where he encountered the subject. The subject pointed the rifle at him, and the officer immediately drops to the ground.

~6:11:30 – (July 29, 2024) After approximately 25 and 30 seconds after this encounter, the subject fired eight rounds before being successfully neutralized by a United States Secret Service counter-sniper. After the shooting, the FBI identified eight shell casings at the scene, and we assess the subject fired eight rounds at the former president and into the crowd of attendees. (Revised July 30, 2024) Within approximately the next 30 seconds, shots were fired.