

# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## A Three-Part Analysis

### Rev 3

#### Disclaimers & Terms of Use (\*)

#### Part 1: Secret Service Counter-Sniper Teams

- A. Hercules 1
- B. Hercules 2

#### Part 2: Local Counter-Sniper Teams

- A. AGR Building Counter Snipers
- B. Grandstands Counter Snipers

#### Part 3: Butler County ESU Officer (Shot 9)

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© 2024 VegasPatriot All Rights Reserved Introduction: USSS Uniform Division, Special Operations Branch



Secret Service Counter Snipers are part of the Uniformed Division. The Special Operations Branch (Division) was formerly known as the Special Programs Branch, and was initially part of the Presidential Protective Division. In 2005 it became part of the Uniformed Division.

Special Operations Division (SOD)

The Special Operations Division (SOD) is composed of highly specialized units that directly support the agency’s worldwide protective mission. Each unit has a specific function that enhances the secure environment required by our protectees. The eight units include the following: Airspace Security Branch (ASB), Canine Explosive Detection Unit, Counter Assault Team (CAT), Counter Sniper Team (CS), Emergency Response Team (ERT), Hazardous Agent Mitigation Medical Emergency Response Team (HAMMER), Specialized Rifle Unit (SRU), and Technical Operations Branch).

Counter Sniper Team (CS)

The Counter Sniper Team (CS) provides long-range observation and real-time information gathering at exterior sites visited by Secret Service protectees. Counter snipers are highly trained, precision marksmen responsible for long-range threat identification and mitigation in coordination with other tactical elements.

Counter Snipers also participate in advance planning for events.

USSS Advance Agents Assigned to the July 13 Rally

| Title                           | Associated Office           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lead Advance Agent              | Pittsburgh Field Office     |
| Site Agent                      | Donald Trump Detail         |
| Site Counterpart                | Pittsburgh Field Office     |
| Intelligence Advance Agent      | Pittsburgh Field Office     |
| Technical Security Investigator | Technical Security Division |
| Counter Sniper Team Leader      | Special Operations Division |
| C-UAS Advance Agent             | Donald Trump Detail         |

([HSGAC Interim Joint Report](#), Pg. 13)

## Introduction: [First Use of Counter Snipers for FPOTUS](#)

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Michael Plati

Assist. Dir. Protective Ops.



[HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 30-31

**[PSI Majority]:** “So, for instance, there was counter sniper support. Were you made aware of that there would be counter sniper support the day of the rally, prior to the rally?”

**Asst. Dir. Plati:** “In regard to counter sniper support, that was something earlier that week. I and my other DDS [Deputy Directors] had a conversation about. Two of my DADs [Deputy Assistant Directors], one whose particular portfolio the Donald Trump detail falls under, the other one, the Special Operations Division falls under. And we had a conversation where we felt moving forward, we wanted to authorize our CS support for this visit and outdoor rallies going forward.”

(2) [9/2024 Retirement](#)

**[PSI Majority]:** “And why did you make that choice?”

**Asst. Dir. Plati:** “**Based on generalized reporting at the time**, and due to the fact that we felt those outdoor rallies for the Former President were something that we’ve never seen a former president do in size, scale, and scope. On the cusp of being the nominee, it made sense to authorize our own CS, counter sniper resource, which is uncharacteristic due to the finite nature of the amount of counter snipers that we have.” [After Plati’s counsel intercedes to remind PSI Majority about confidential information, and PSI Majority references the Iranian threat, that might be an assumption, then asks a clarifying question.] “Well, let me answer that question this way. I think some of this reporting at this point is now in the news. However, based in aggregate on the information that we were seeing at the time, I will say this, we were not in possession of any specific adverse intelligent to Butler. However, again I guess, I would rely on intelligence informs operations, but it doesn’t necessarily dictate operations. And based on the totality of circumstances, we felt at this point being as close as he was to being, which we assumed, the nominee, that this was a prudent decision.”





# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## Part 1: Secret Service Counter-Sniper Teams

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Unknown  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 2



[Video](#)

Unknown  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 2



### Meet The USSS Counter-Sniper Teams



John Marciniak  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 1



BWC2-122104

Lead CS

D. King  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 1



BWC2-122104

Fired Shot 10

[Video](#)



Hercules 2  
North Barn

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)



Hercules 1  
South Barn

## Part 1A: The Counter-Sniper Team Leader

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“On July 10, Secret Service counter sniper and technical security personnel arrived in Pittsburgh and began the specific advance planning for their teams.” (FBI Acting Director Rowe [Opening Statement](#), Senate Joint Committee Hearing, July 30, 2024)

“The USSS Counter Sniper Team Leader told the Committee that when he went to the Butler Farm Show site on **July 10** before the event, he identified where the USSS counter snipers would be posted and took pictures of the approximate views the sniper teams would have from their postings. <sup>89</sup>” ([HSGAC Interim Joint Report](#), Pg. 24)

“I was the team leader for the Counter Sniper Team. I was sent to help advance for the outdoor event...I was in charge of basically the Counter Sniper Team's logistics, how the teams would arrive up there, their hotels, where they were going to stay, the postings for the day, as well as creating documents that support said visit, on the counter sniper side.” ([HSGAC Interim Joint Report](#), Pg. 15-16)

### [Advance Footage](#)



Marciniak has been with the Secret Service just under eight years, including two at the White House (2 years of experience is required to join the CS team) and six as a counter-sniper.

Officer-Technician  
John Marciniak



Lead CS

John Marciniak was the Secret Service’s lead counter-sniper at the rally. (Source: [NYT](#))



## Part 1A: The Counter-Sniper Team Leader

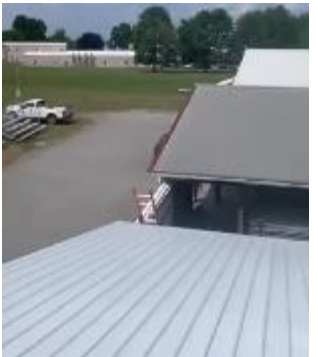
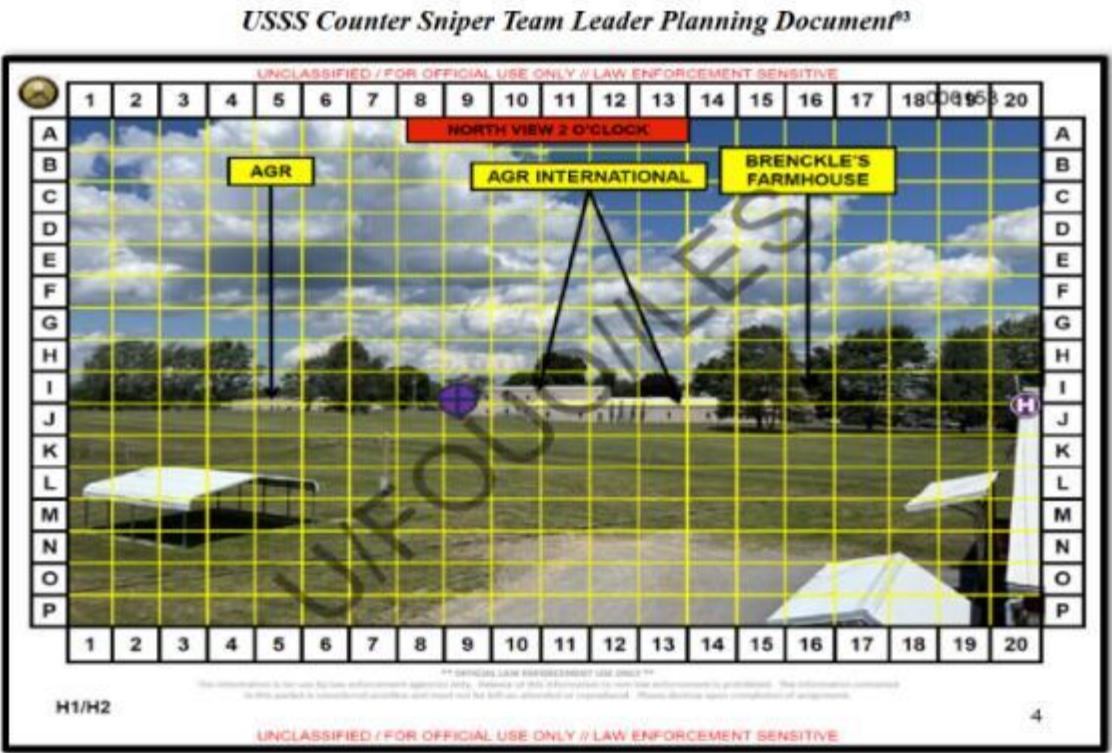
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[HSGAC Interim Joint Report](#), Pg. 25-26

“The USSS Counter Sniper Team Leader told the Committee that when he initially took the photograph contained in the above [right] image, “I looked over at the AGR building, but I didn’t really make a mental note of, hey, this is actually being blocked. It wasn’t until later that I was actually doing the grids and doing a 360 that I went, I don’t know if you can see that [the AGR building] from Hercules 2, so I make note of that at the time. But Hercules 1, you had a clear line-of-sight, so I was okay with it.”<sup>94</sup>

When the Committee asked the USSS Counter Sniper Team Leader if he ever notified the Hercules 2 counter snipers about the tree line obstruction of the AGR building, he said, “I did not mention [to] them that hey, part pf the [AGR] building is going to be obscured from you.”<sup>95</sup> When the Committee asked why USSS Counter Sniper Team Leader did not mention the obstruction to the Hercules 2 team, he responded:

Honestly, I just didn’t think about it. This is one of the many threat areas that looked it (sic). I wouldn’t have mentioned that hey, we can actually see the buildings on the left side, the private residences and the wood line, and you guys can’t see that. It’s kind of, between each posting, when we’re working together we have full coverage, but there are certain things a certain post would see better than another post..”





## Part 1A: Hercules 1 Team Member Who Fired Shot 10

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D. King, as seen on his equipment bag, was the other counter-sniper on Hercules 1. As of August 4, 2024, no transcripts of an interview have been released. Officer-Technician John Marciniak, Kings partner on Hercules 1, and the lead counter sniper, testified that King is the one who took shot 10.

[HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 81

7

HSGAC Minority: And so your partner was Hercules 1 C/S?

8

Witness: That is correct.

9

HSGAC Minority: And he was the one who took the shot?

10

Witness: That is correct.

D. King  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 1



Fired Shot 10



## Part 1A: Hercules 1 Team Just Before Shots Fired

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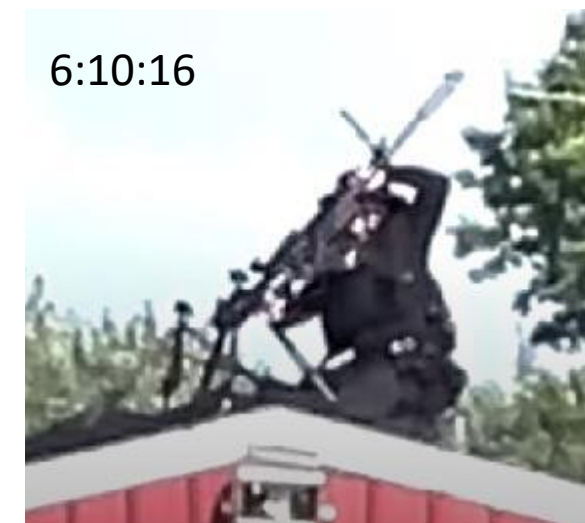
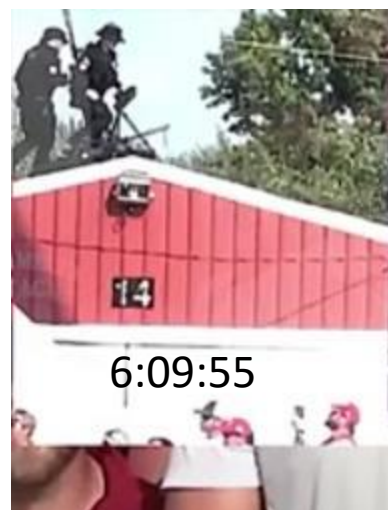
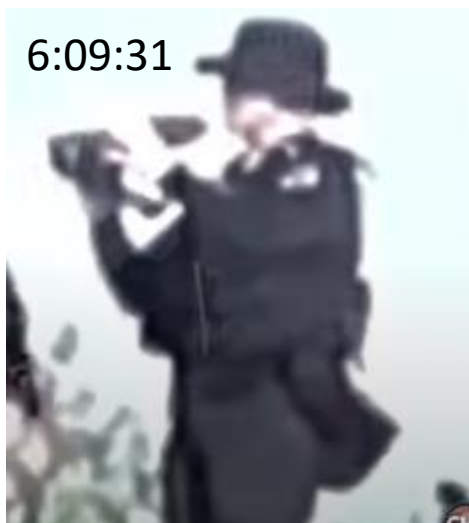
### Hercules 1 Prior to Shots Fired

6:09:31 – Turning to look north.  
6:09:55 – Switching to south side of roof  
6:10:08– Seeing something with binoculars  
6:10:16 – Turning rifles northward  
6:11:33 – Shot 10 Fired (Not on video.)

(Source: YT [Gray Hughes Investigates](#), August 24, 2024)

### Lead Counter Sniper John Marciniak's Testimony

"The way it occurred was- we both started scanning, looking for threats. [D, King] said, "I got him." I immediately gave him a wind call...So I gave him the wind call center, send it, basically don't make any corrections... From there I heard his round go off, and then I immediately -- I still couldn't find what he was shooting at, so I got off my gun and looked to see what angle he was looking at. I figure out he was looking at the roof, got on, and then I saw the target that he had shot at." ([HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 81-82)



## Part 1B: Hercules 2 Team Member Interviewed

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Unknown  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 2a



Unknown  
Counter-Sniper  
Hercules 2b



[HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 19-20

“I was first hired by the Secret Service back in 2009, so 15 years [This leads me to believe he is Hercules 2a] ...I've been with the Counter Sniper Team since 2017, so 7 years...[Before being a CS] I was a firearms instructor and I also worked at various branches, to include the Vice President’s residence and also the White House branch.”



“My chain of command would be the supervisor who is there . We tend to put a supervisor on every trip that we have . But also the team leader who conducts the advance work would also fit into that chain of command . So typically information would go to him, the team leader, and that would be relayed to the supervisor who is on the trip, who then could relay back to D. C. or wherever if there was an additional supervisor on a detail.”

When asked if he had “regular team member or partners, he replied: “It changes almost daily.”



# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## Part 1B: Hercules 2 Team When Shots Fired

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Just Before Shots Fired



“When I was up on post with my partner, we noted several trees, several wood lines that blocked the three to four o'clock view of the AGR building, and we observed the crowd and the surrounding area. We received a BOLO, which is a "be on the lookout," and in that BOLO there were two photographs of an individual. I cannot recall who was the original sender of the email, but the team leader had forwarded it to all teams, all Hercules teams.”

[HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 12

Just Before Shot 10 Is Fired



Just As First Shots Fired

Resets Rifle Downward



“But the next transmission that I heard was that a local was moving up to the AGR rooftop, and I went over the radio to say, "Send them up," because I did not know who had put that radio transmission over. And as I was observing, trying to spot this local on the roof, he all of a sudden emerged from the trees that were obstructing our view, and we followed him. We were worried about a potential blue-on-blue incident, because we knew that locals were in that area.”

Just After Shot 10 Is Fired

Pulls Head Off Scope





## Part 1B: Hercules 2 Team When Shots Fired

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We continued to observe. We were trying to pick up on what the locals were actually working, but we couldn't figure out. And I'd like to say that the Security Room repeated my message back to me, saying that they had copied. And that's when I heard the first thud and a whip like crack, and I immediately went to my radio to say, "Hercules, shots fired." And I put that radio transmission over, not knowing who was shooting or what direction they were shooting in. But I knew I needed to trigger the emergency action of the shift on the ground around the protectee."

"I heard more cracks. I thought that my partner was hit, due to the proximity of these whip-like cracks and the impact report."

...

"And while we were at the hospital, we took a position on the rooftop, and my partner and I discussed the proximity of the rounds that were being fired at the site. And I asked my partner how close he thought the rounds were to our left, and he looked at me and said, "I heard them on my right." And they were approximately six feet between him and I when we were on the rooftop at the main site."

[HSGAC Interview Transcripts](#), Pg. 13

Just As First Shots Fired



## Part 2: Local Counter-Sniper Teams

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

### Meet The Local Counter-Sniper Teams



Matthew Wagner  
East Grandstand CS  
Prospect Boro,  
Butler County ESU



BuC CS Team Leader



Mike Murcko  
AGR CS  
Jackson Twp  
Butler County ESU



Ben Shaffer  
West Grandstand CS  
Washington Reg. SWAT



Sgt Gregory Nicol M  
AGR CS  
Monaca Boro  
Beaver County ESU



Spotted the Patsy

Jason Woods  
AGR CS  
Economy Boro  
Beaver County ESU



BEC ESU Lead Sharpshooter

## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Butler County Detail “Area of Operation”



AGR Building (AAR 2)



Grandstands



This “Area of Operations” map was provided by Butler County ESU, as part of their [FPOTUS Detail](#) plan, shows the various locations of law enforcement and assets, including the local counter sniper nests.



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In the Butler County ESU [FPOTUS Detail](#) plan, there are two different maps for the local counter sniper locations, which can and did lead to some early confusion in the Citizens Investigation. An understanding of their two different purposes helps to avoid confusion. The “Execution” map was not intended to show a counter sniper team on top pf AGR Building 6.

|            |              |      |
|------------|--------------|------|
| Butler ESU | Wagner, Matt | 10S1 |
|------------|--------------|------|

## Area of Operation

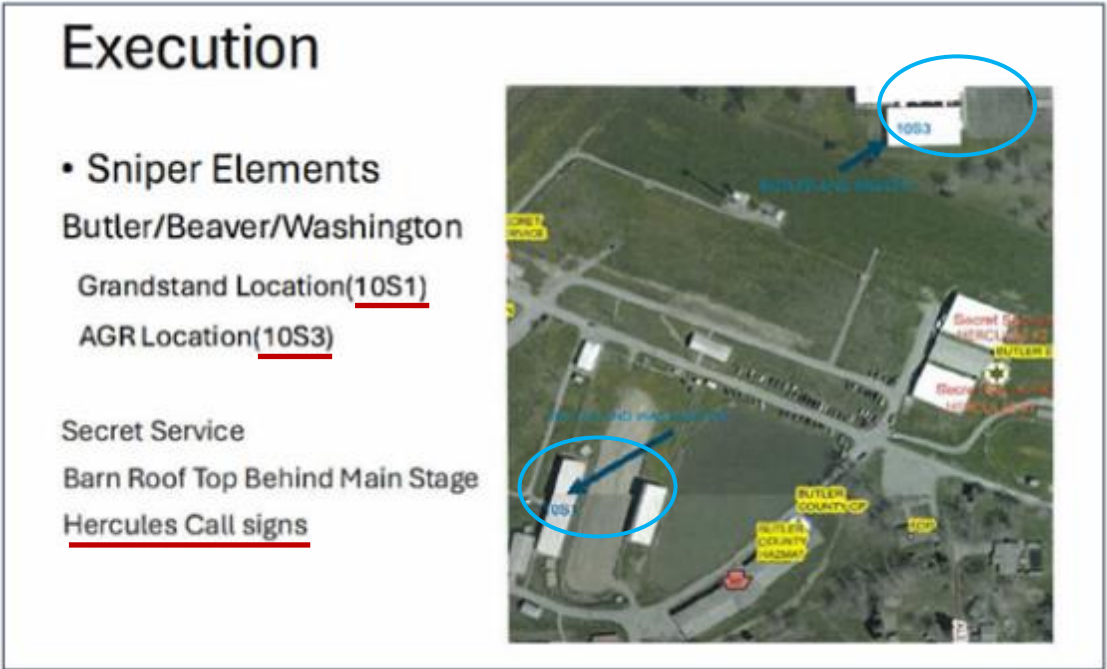
The purpose of this map is to show the location of all law enforcement and emergency response units.



|            |              |      |
|------------|--------------|------|
| Butler ESU | Murcko, Mike | 10S3 |
|------------|--------------|------|

## Execution

The purpose of this map is to show the call signs for the counter sniper teams, each being assigned a BuC FSII radio



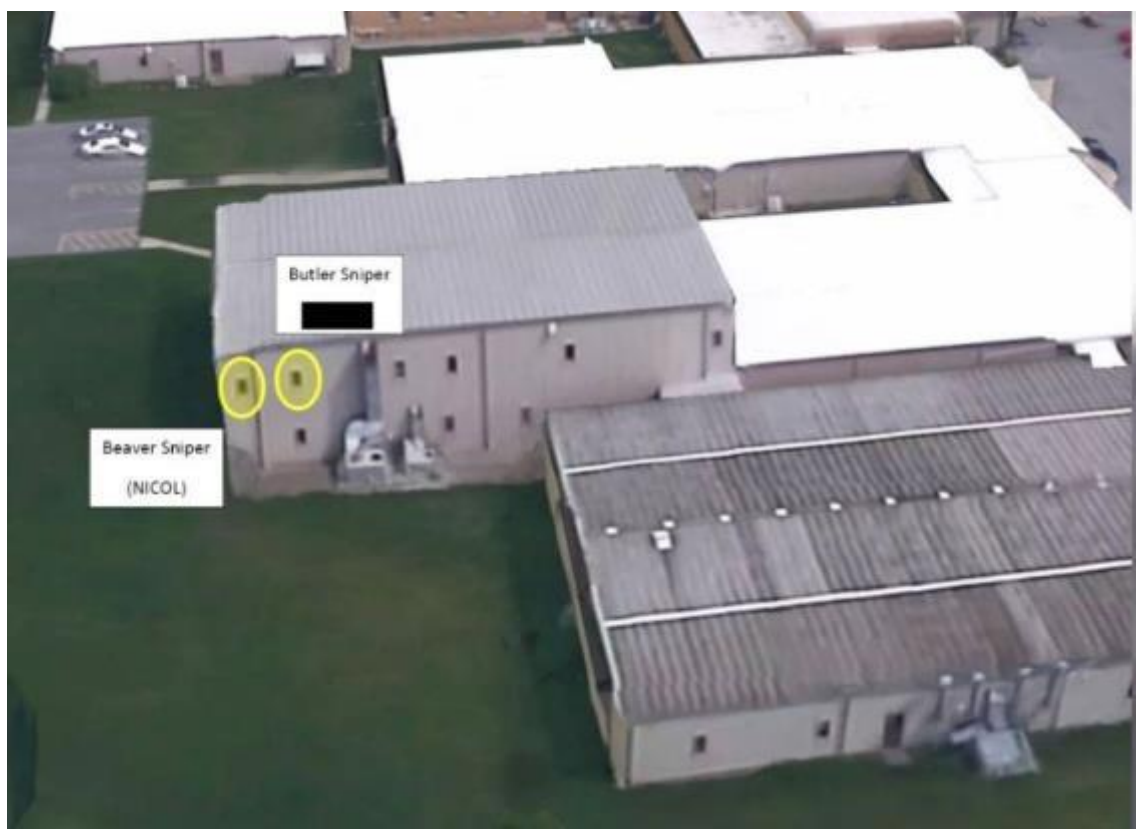
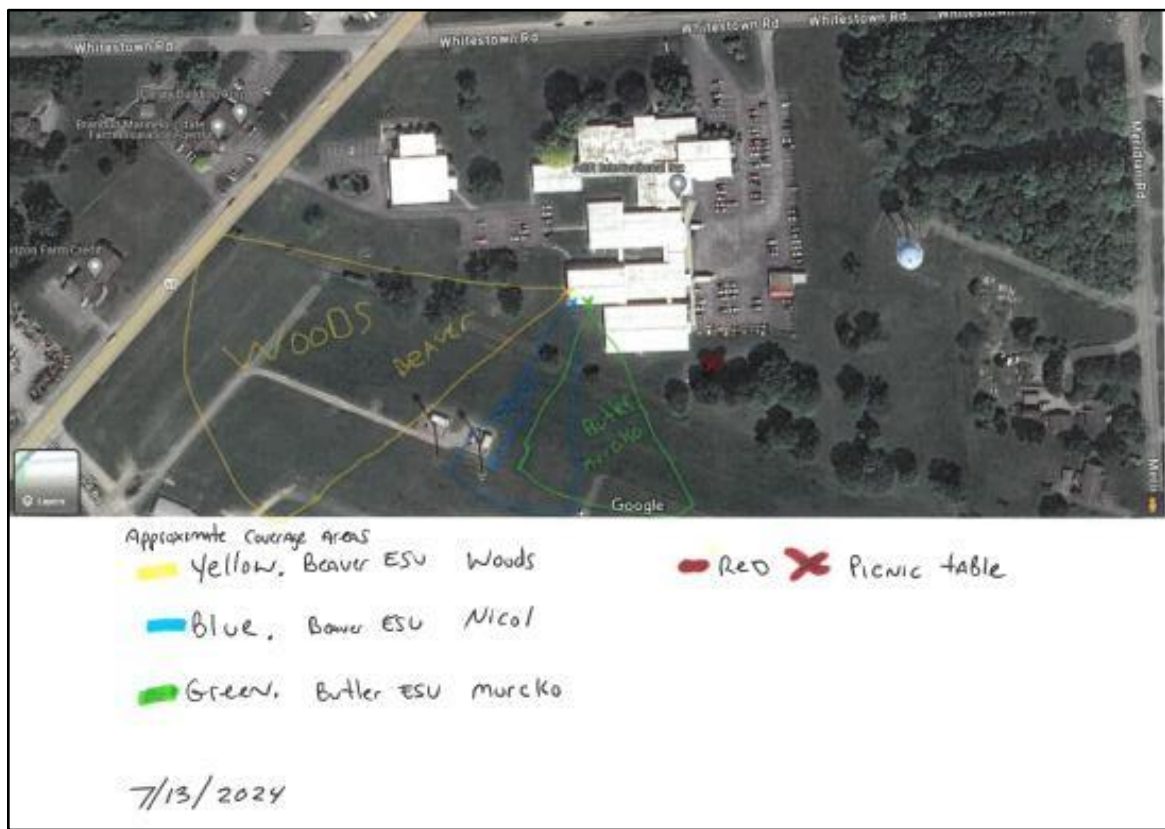


Local Counter-Snipers Locations

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This diagram, “Beaver & Butler County Counter-Sniper Positions,” was initially released by Sen. Grassley. Later, an unredacted version was provided to Jason Goodman (Crowd Source the Truth) by Beaver County Detective Bonnie Sedlacek. It shows detailed assignments made the morning of the rally.

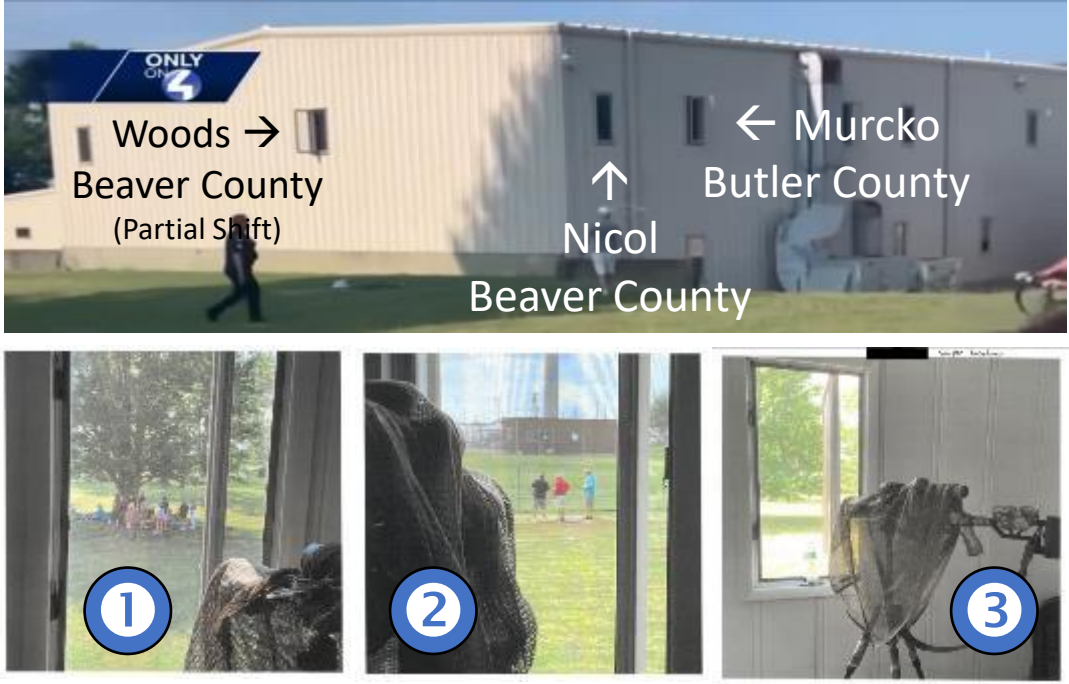
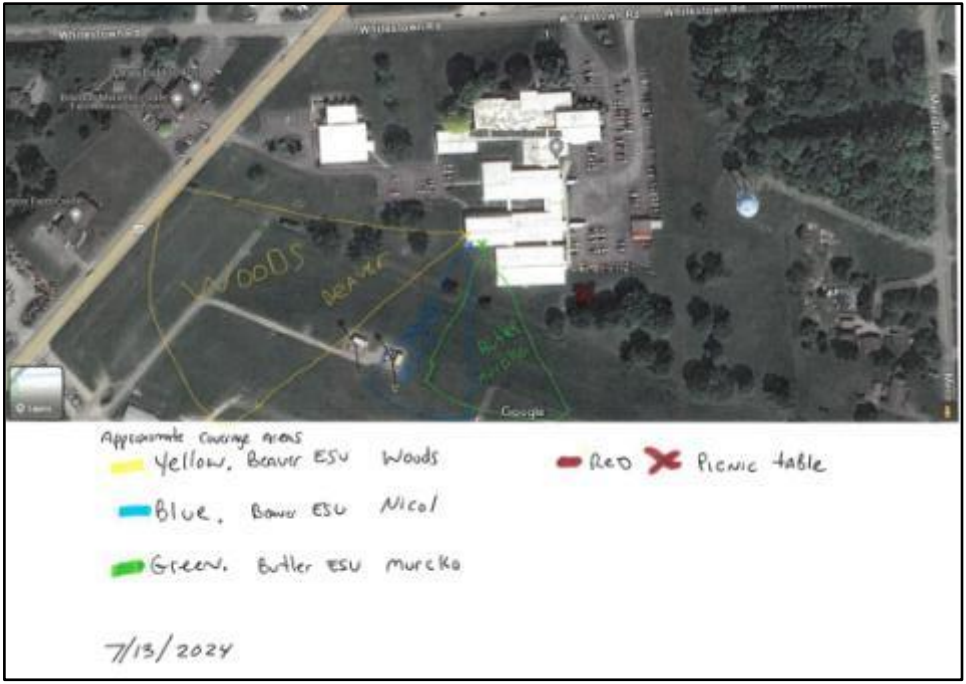
In a [letter to USSS Acting Dir. Rowe](#), Sen. Grassley provide this photo. It does not show the west window because Counter Sniper Woods left before the shooting. The letter stated: “Local law enforcement assert their true physical location was the following: <sup>3</sup>”



## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

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In the [letter to USSS Acting Dir. Rowe](#), Sen. Grassley also included three photos provided to him by Butler County ESU showing a counter sniper nest(s) located in the two-story AGR building. The letter did not indicate which window(s) the photos were taken in. To some, the images appeared to be on the first floor, and too others they appeared to be three different windows. A detailed analysis was needed to determine which window(s) the photos were taken from. The following slides provide a summary of my analysis.





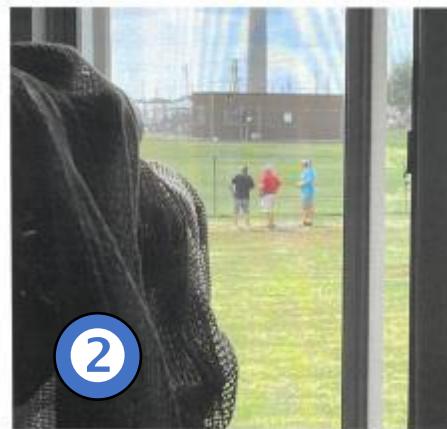


## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

**What floor are these photos taken from?**



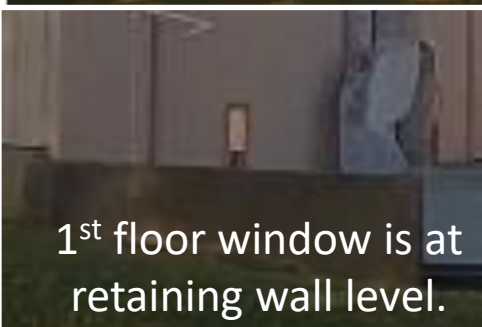
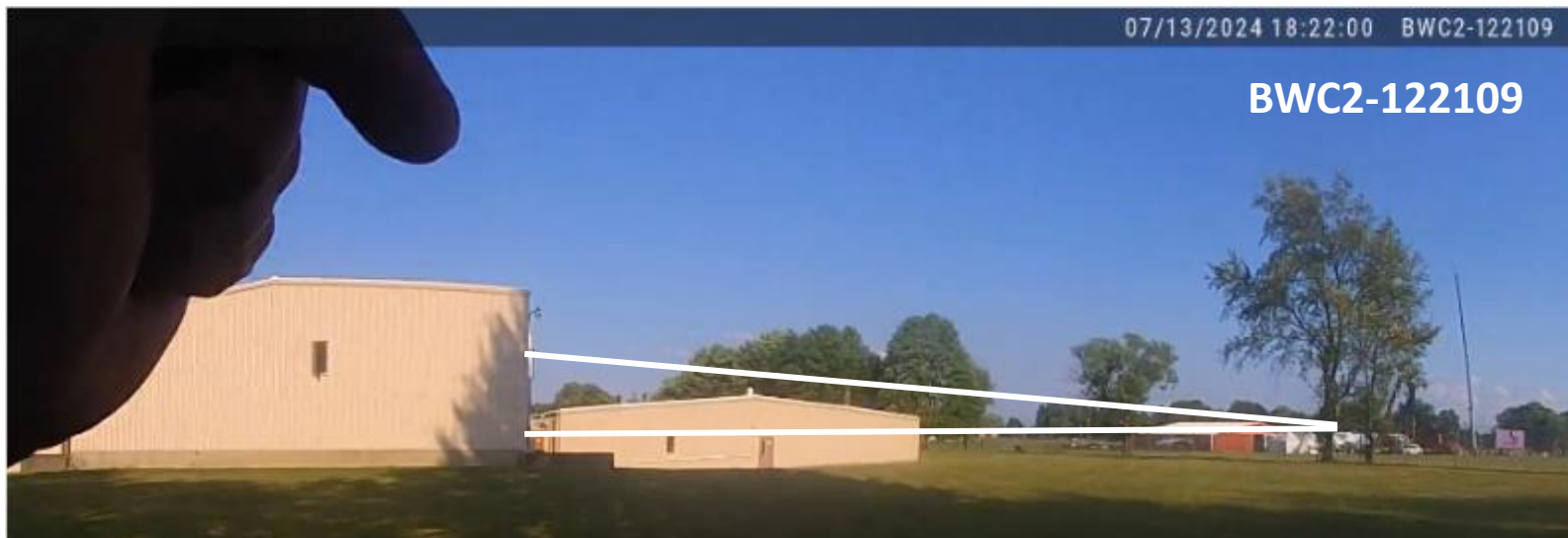
The second-floor windows have only a slight downward angle to the base of the trees. The first-floor window, which is slightly above the retaining wall, is level with the base of the trees.



The optical illusion seen in the windows appearing to be on the first floor are due to the building being located in a depression.



**They are all located on the second floor.**



Window

## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

**Window 1:** It is the only window that can see the multi-trunk tree to the west. You can even see some of the attendees in the window photo still at that time of the shooting, as denoted by the shirt-colored arrows. **It's the west window.**



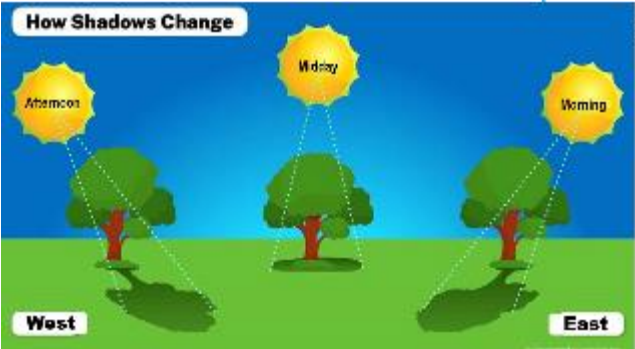
The screenshot below was taken from a LEO bodycam while he was standing directly under the multi-trunk tree.



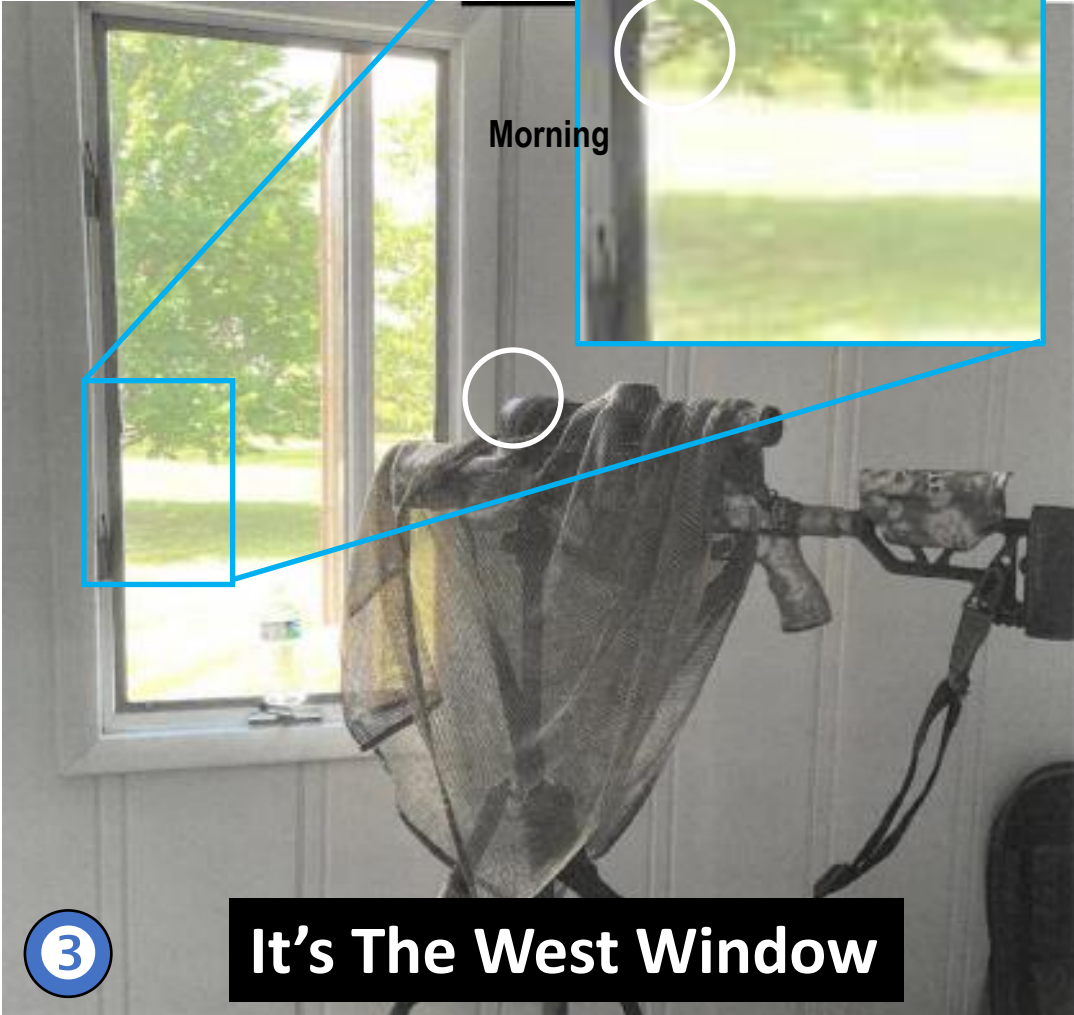


## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

**Window 3:** The same tree is seen in windows 1 and 3, as evident by the lower branch. People are not under the tree in window 3 due to time of day, based on shadow analysis. **It's the west window.**

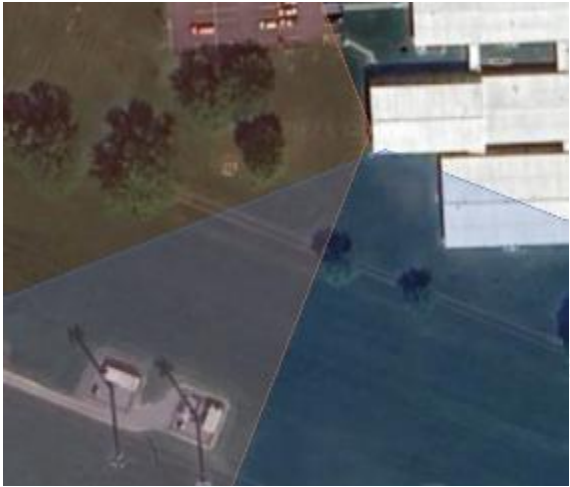


The netting over the scope is also in the same position in windows 1 and 3, which means it wasn't disturbed at all between those two times.



## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

**Window 2:** The cellular service tower building seen in window 2 can be seen from both the west and south windows. Given the angle from which the sniper took the photo, it can be a little difficult to determine which window it is. Further analysis was required.



Right Seen In Window

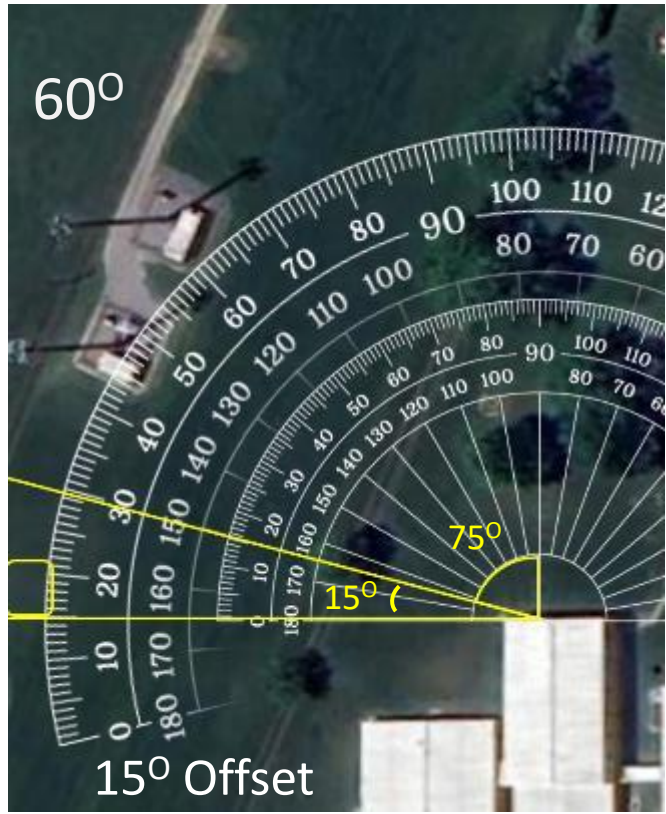
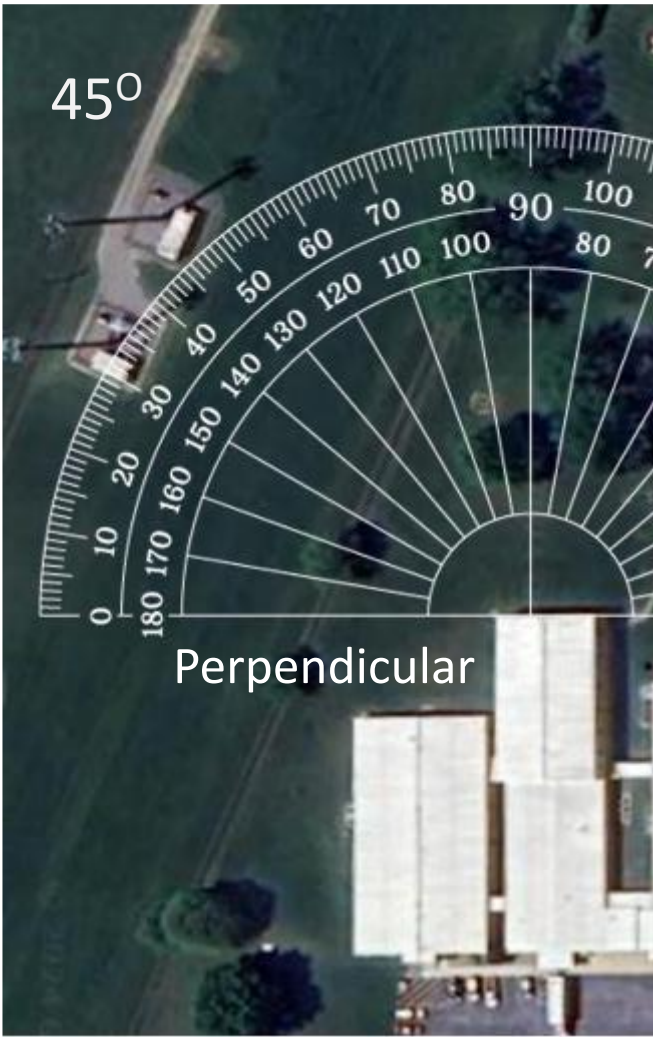


2

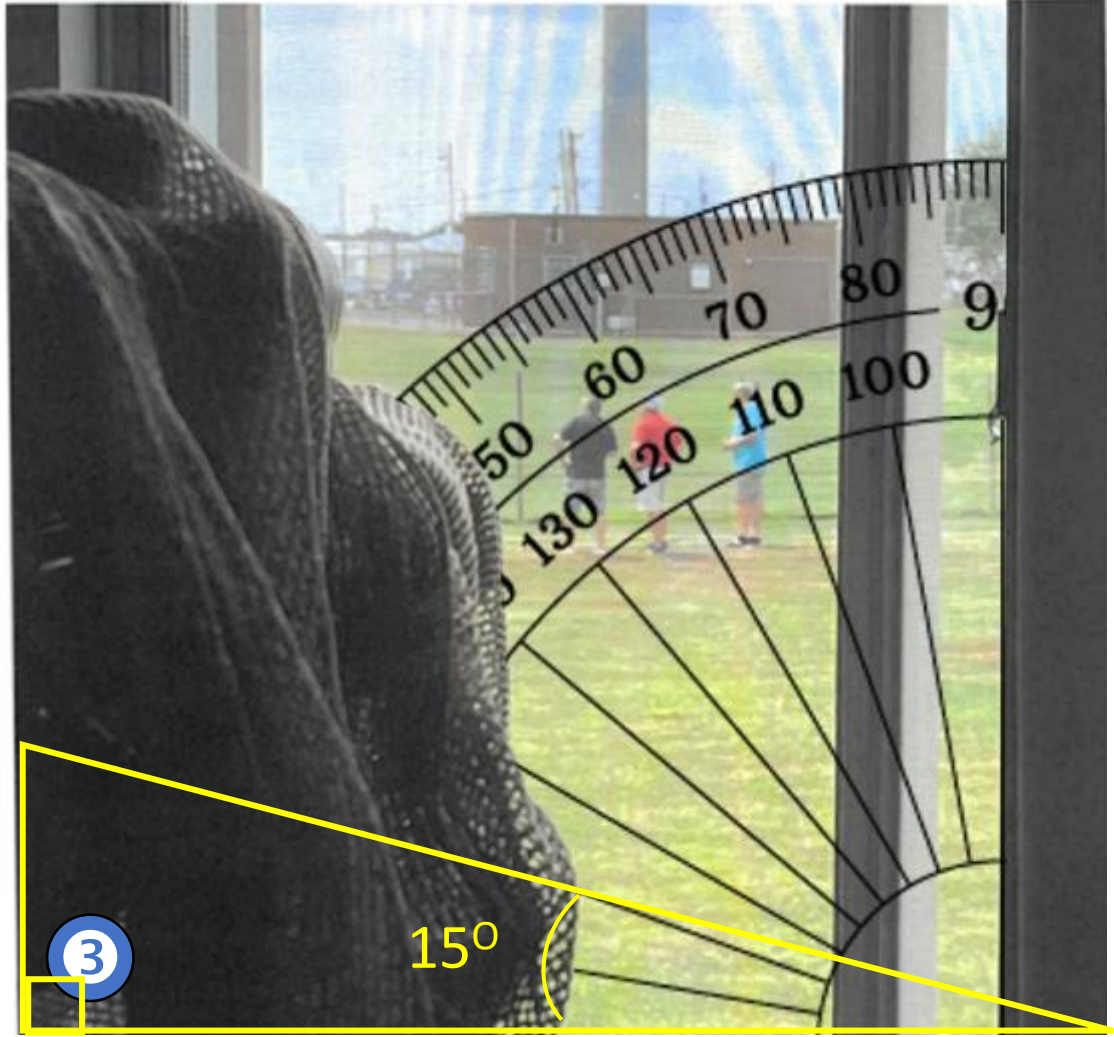


Local Counter-Snipers Locations

**Window 2:** Perpendicular to the west window looking out the cell tower building is 45° from the left. If you move 75° to the right the window appears at a 15° angle, offsetting the building by 15°, thus putting it at 60° from the left. **It's the west window.**



It's The West Window



## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

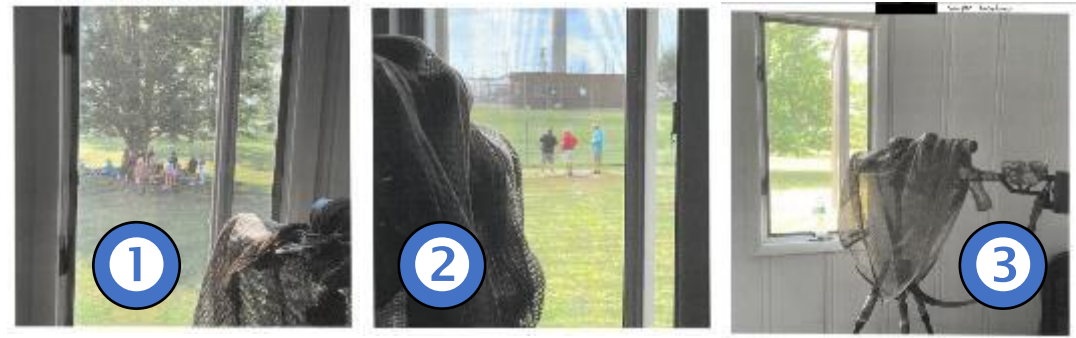
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### Excerpts from Counter-Sniper Interviews

“A security operations plan had placed each of the three Counter Snipers inside of the building looking out of windows toward the rally, with none stationed on its roof. **Due to a lack of manpower, the men did not have spotters assigned to them**, as would be standard operating procedure.” (Source: [Beaver Countian](#))

“For more than five hours, the three snipers – Nicol, a fellow SWAT team member from Beaver County named Jason Woods and a third shooter from Butler County’s SWAT team [later identified as Michael Murcko of Butler Township Police] – remained hidden in **their second-floor perch** without incident.” (Source: [CNN](#))

"A Butler sniper leader who met Nicol and his partners at the AGR building told them **their mission was to look out those windows and scan the area for threats, Nicol said. They were instructed to remain covert.** They set up their rifles on tripods so that the barrels were a foot or two inside the open windows to prevent them from being seen from outside.” (Source: [CNN](#))






## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

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### FPOTUS After Action Beaver County ESU/SWAT





Pennsylvania county law enforcement officials say Secret Service is presenting a ‘misleading’ picture of Trump shooting scene (August 1, 2024) [LINK](#)

**Beaver County District Attorney Nate Bible and Det. Patrick Young, head of the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit:**

“Where our people were was the far-right side of the AGR building. Their views in no way could have seen Crooks without pushing their heads outside the window and looking back,” Young said.

**“The snipers had been instructed to be covert, meaning they could not stick their heads out the window to see Crooks,” Young said.**

“The muzzles of the guns were about a foot behind the window,” Young said, “and the snipers were about three feet back, observing through the window with binoculars.”

# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

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It’s difficult to see, but it doesn’t appear that there is a CS nest in the ease grandstand, like seen in the west grandstand.

West Grandstand, 16:57 (4:47 PM)



East Grandstand, 17:14 (5:14 PM)



~3 Minutes After Shooting

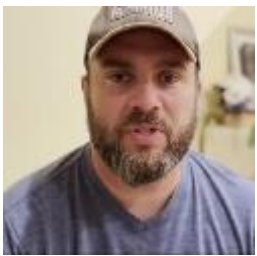




## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Attendee saw CS Ream Set Up



Seen Setting Up



Shared Image of CS Nest



Includes CS Nest Photo



X.com Photo Source



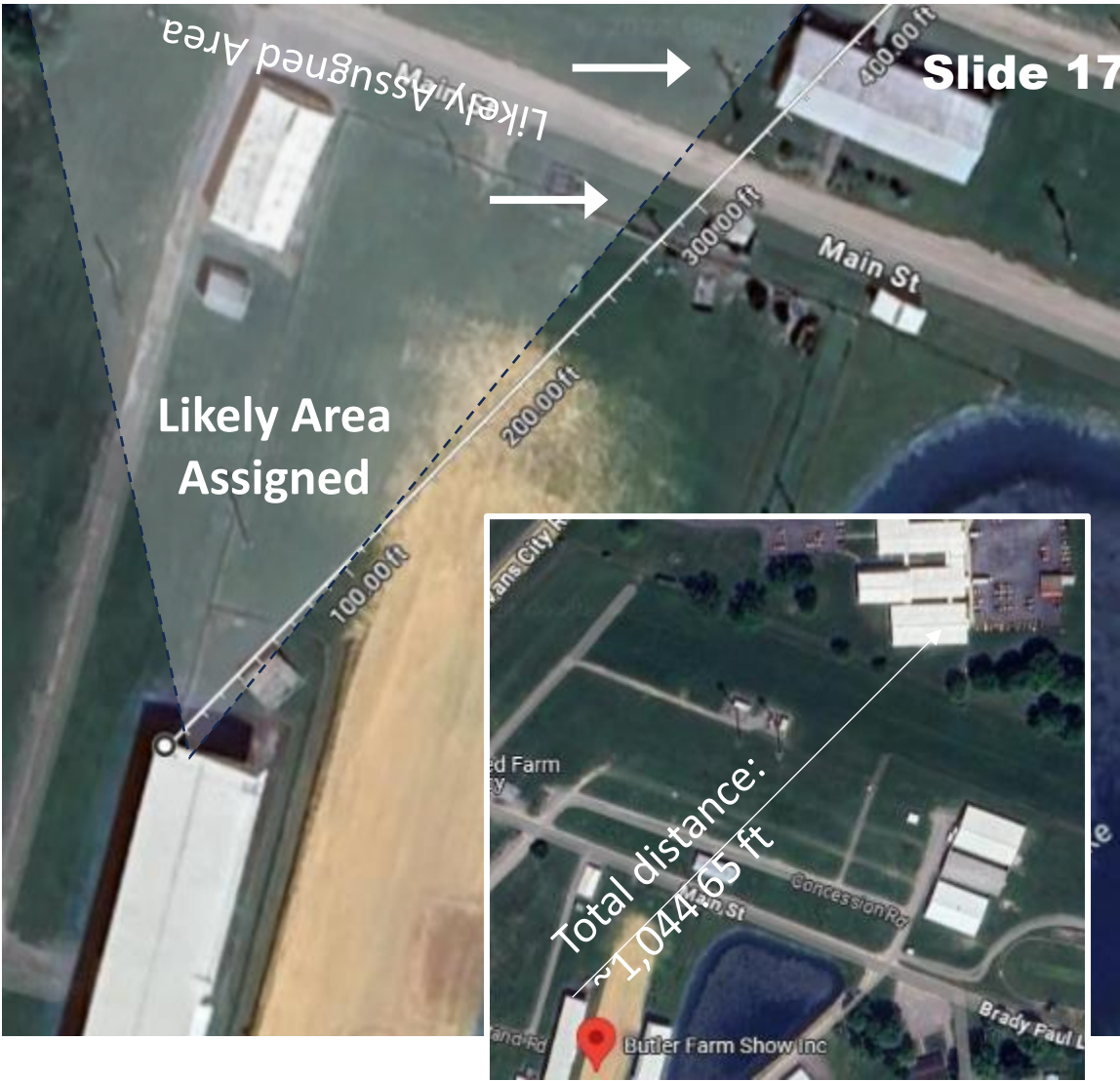




## Local Counter-Snipers Locations

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Rifle Aimed At Patsy’s Location



## Part 2A: AGR Building Counter Snipers

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

**Jason Woods:** He is the Lead Sharpshooter for the Beaver County ESU team. He was only able to work until 4 pm the day of the rally, based on text messages during the buildup days before the rally. Upon leaving AGR 6 at approximately 4:26 pm, he alerted the other two AGR counter snipers of a new car parked where they had parked, and someone sitting at a nearby picnic table. This was initially believed to be the patsy, but was later revealed not to be.

**Sgt. Gregory Nicol:** He was the counter sniper who spotted and photographed the patsy, and later alerted the local counter sniper group, and even later, Butler County ESU command.

**Cpl. Michael Murcko:** He and Butler Count ESU counter sniper Matthew Wagner, who was in the grandstands, were the only counter snipers who have not provided a public interview or testimony.

**Cpl. Michael Murcko,  
Jackson Township Police  
Butler County ESU**

**Jason Woods  
Economy Boro  
Beaver County ESU**

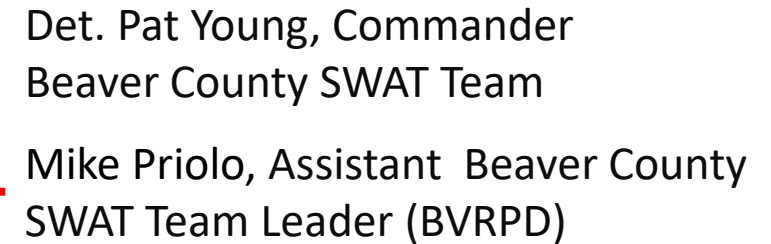


**Sgt. Gregory Nicol  
Monaco Police Department (K-9)  
Beaver County ESU**





- LINK





## Suspicious Person Reporting Analysis

### The Devil is in the details!

It would have been the boots on the ground, State and local law enforcement, who would have apprehended the patsy, not the ESU teams who had dedicated roles and positions.

#### Elapsed Time:

From when Nicol spotted a “Suspicious Person,” it was:

- **28 minutes** before tactical group informed
- **35 minutes** before the BuC ESU got photos
- **41 minutes** before State and locals got photos.

#### Shot 1 Countdown:

From when Nicol spotted a “Suspicious Person,” State and local law enforcement had:

- Awareness with just **1/2 of the time remaining**
- Photos with just **1/3 of the time remaining**
- Command post got direction of travel with just **1/6 of the time remaining**
- Sheriff’s deputies got direction of travel with just **1/10 of the time remaining**

| Countdown To An Assassination Attempt |   |                                   |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Time                                  | Description   | Elapsed Time & Threat Level (min) | Shot 1 Countdown (min)                                | Climb On Roof Countdown (min)   |
| 5:10                                  | Nicol Spots Suspicious Person                             | Suspicious Person                 | 61.00   | 32.00   |
| 5:14                                  | Nicol Takes Crooks Photo                                  | 4                                 | Notified with 1/2 the time remaining already elapsed. | Nicol had already lost sight of him. No direction of travel for 18 minutes. |
| 5:28                                  | Nicol Takes Bike Photo                                    | 18                                |   |   |
| 5:30                                  | President Trump arrives at the Butler rally site.         | 20                                |   |   |
| 5:32                                  | Nicol Sighted Patsy With Rangefinder                      | Person of Interest                |   |   |
| 5:34                                  | Butler County C-S (Murcko?) Sends Text to Butler Team     | 24                                |   |   |
| 5:38                                  | Nicol Sends Photos and Rangefinder Sighting to C-S Group  | 28                                | 1/3 of the time remaining                             |   |
| 5:40                                  | Response text to {Nicol} "Call into command"              | 30                                |   |   |
| 5:42                                  | Nicol Radioed Description To Command - <b>We Lost Him</b> | 32                                |   |   |
| 5:44                                  | Sgt. Lenz, BuC Tactical Commander, Informs State Police   | 34                                |   |   |
| 5:45                                  | Lenz radioed that PSP and sheriffs should be en route.    | 35                                |   |   |
| 5:45                                  | Nicol Texted Photos to Beaver ESU Group Command           | 35                                |   |   |
| 5:45                                  | BuC ESU C-S (Wagner?) Sends Photos to SS C-S              | 35                                |   |   |
| 5:48                                  | Reported Internet and Cell Service Down                   | 38                                |   |   |
| 5:49                                  | Butler County Officer "Notified Hercules"                 | 39                                |   |   |
| 5:51                                  | <b>"S" Texted Photos to Command</b>                       | 41                                |   |   |
| 5:53                                  | SS C-S Team Leader Sends email to SS C-S Teams            | 43                                | 1/6 of the time remaining                             | -11.00  |
| 5:54                                  | "Our sierra units lost visual of him," Lenz               | 44                                |   | -12.00  |
| 5:55                                  | Crawford acknowledges rcpt to Priolo and passing to Cmd   | 45                                |   | -13.00  |
| 5:59                                  | Crawford to Priolo sent to Cmd. and asking for direction  | 49                                | 1/10 of the time remaining/                           | -17.00  |
| 6:00                                  | Nicol Responded "Away from Event"                         | 50                                |   | -18.00  |
| 6:02                                  | Nicol Radioed Patsy Had Backpack, "towards the Sheetz"    | 52                                |   | -20.00  |
| 6:03                                  | President Trump Takes the Stage                           | 53                                |   | Sighted Again   |
| 6:03                                  | Nicol Goes to 1st Floor Door 13                           | 53                                |   |   |
| 6:04                                  | Sheriff's Deputy Radios "He's Heading For Sheetz"         | 54                                | Threat  | -23.00  |
| 6:05                                  | <b>Patsy Climbed on Roof</b>                              |                                   |   |   |

## Suspicious Person Reporting Analysis

When Nicol spoke about the photos he took of the patsy, he said: “The first thing I did, I sent those pictures out.” (Source: ABC)



**Fact:** It was **24 minutes** later, 5:14 pm to 5:38 pm, that he texted photos of a “Suspicious Person” to the 8-member tactical chat group. He sent the photos six minutes after he spotted the patsy using a rangefinder, making him a “Person of Interest.”

It was **31 minutes** after taking the photos when he sent a copy to command, and even then, one member of the tactical team prompted him to do that. When he did send the photos to command, he downplayed the importance it despite the patsy elevating to a “Person of Interest” by using a rangefinder, as standard threat level protocol would dictate.. He worded it as follows:

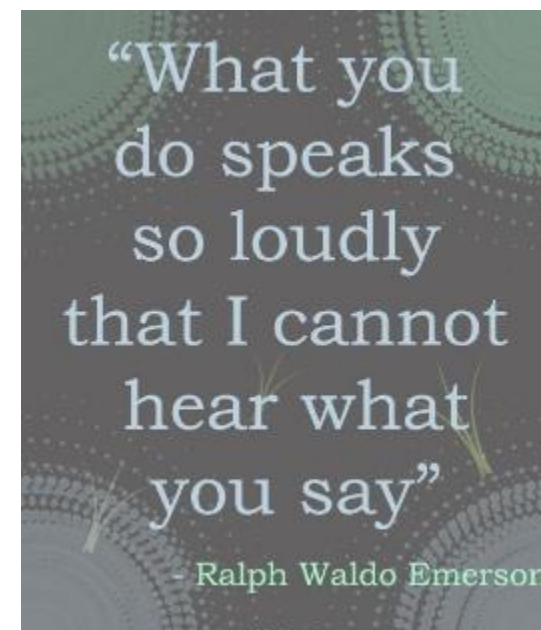
“{Redacted} if you wanna send this to whoever at command if you have cell number.”

If you wanna? That doesn’t sound like, “his assessment of the young man was elevated from simply odd to potential threat.” (Source: CNN)

Despite the **31 minutes** delay in sharing the photos to other law enforcement agencies, which Nicol was responsible for, he questions why those other agencies took so long.

“I assumed that there would be somebody coming out to -- you know, to speak with this individual or, you know, find out what's going on.” (Source: ABC)

“I don’t see any patrolmen or anybody outside looking for him,” he told CNN. “It’s like, what is going on here?” (Source: CNN)



**Nicol is either trying to cover up for his gross incompetence, or he is covering for something else!**

Part 2B: Grandstands Counter Snipers

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

**Ben Shaffer:** We could not connect him with a home police department, and judging by his testimony during the Congressional Forum, he may be a security consultant who maintains membership on the Washington Regional SWAT team..

**Matthew Wagner:** He and Butler Count ESU counter sniper Cpl. Michael Murcko, who was in AGR building, were the only counter snipers who have not provided a public interview or testimony. Other than the Butler County “FPOTUS Detail” plan, there has been no other evidence to corroborate that he was positioned in the east grandstand. He may have been in the west grandstand with Shaffer.

Ben Shaffer  
West Grandstand CS  
Washington Reg. SWAT



Matthew Wagner  
East Grandstand CS  
Prospect Boro,  
Butler County ESU



BuC CS Team Leader



## West Grandstands Counter Sniper

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)



**6:14:41, Schaffer:** “I was in a counter sniper role uh with one of my teammates in the southwest quadrant of the Event Center um distance-wise it was approximately 238 yards Southwest of the podium uh and approximately 348 South Southwest of the shooter's final firing position.”

**6:15:03, Rep. Andy Biggs:** And so he was not ever in your in your sector of responsibility?

**6:15:08, Schaffer:** “Uh nor in my uh visual uh nor sector nor visual. **I never had visual.**”

**Ben Shaffer, Washington Regional SWAT**  
[August 28, 2024 Congressional Forum](#)



## East Grandstands Counter Sniper

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

Nothing has been found related to the smaller grandstand to the east of the larger one. It is possible that the Butler ESU Counter Snipers were in the same truck with the Washington County SWAT team that was seen going to the west grandstand. The attendee did state that it looked like they had military camouflage uniforms, which is consistent with Butler ESU uniforms. It could also be that just one of the grandstands was used.



## Part 3: Butler County ESU Officer (Shot 9)

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

The Washington Post Is Saying  
Something Completely New!

The Washington Post  
celebrating 225 years

Trump rally gunman stopped firing after  
local officer shot at him



### Shot 9 stopped the patsy's volley of bullets!

“The officer, who was not a sniper, had left the barn and was outside on the ground nearby when Crooks began firing from the rooftop about **110 yards** away, the official said. The local officer saw the muzzle flashes from Crooks’s rifle, the official said, and fired his rifle at Crooks.”

“The shot from the local officer caused the would-be assassin to temporarily recoil from his perch on a rooftop, according to the two officials and a Washington Post analysis of video evidence,” the Post reported.

“A rally worker told The Post they witnessed the local officer shoot at Crooks from the same location.” (Source: [Washington Post](#))



## Butler County ESU Officer Movements

**(Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

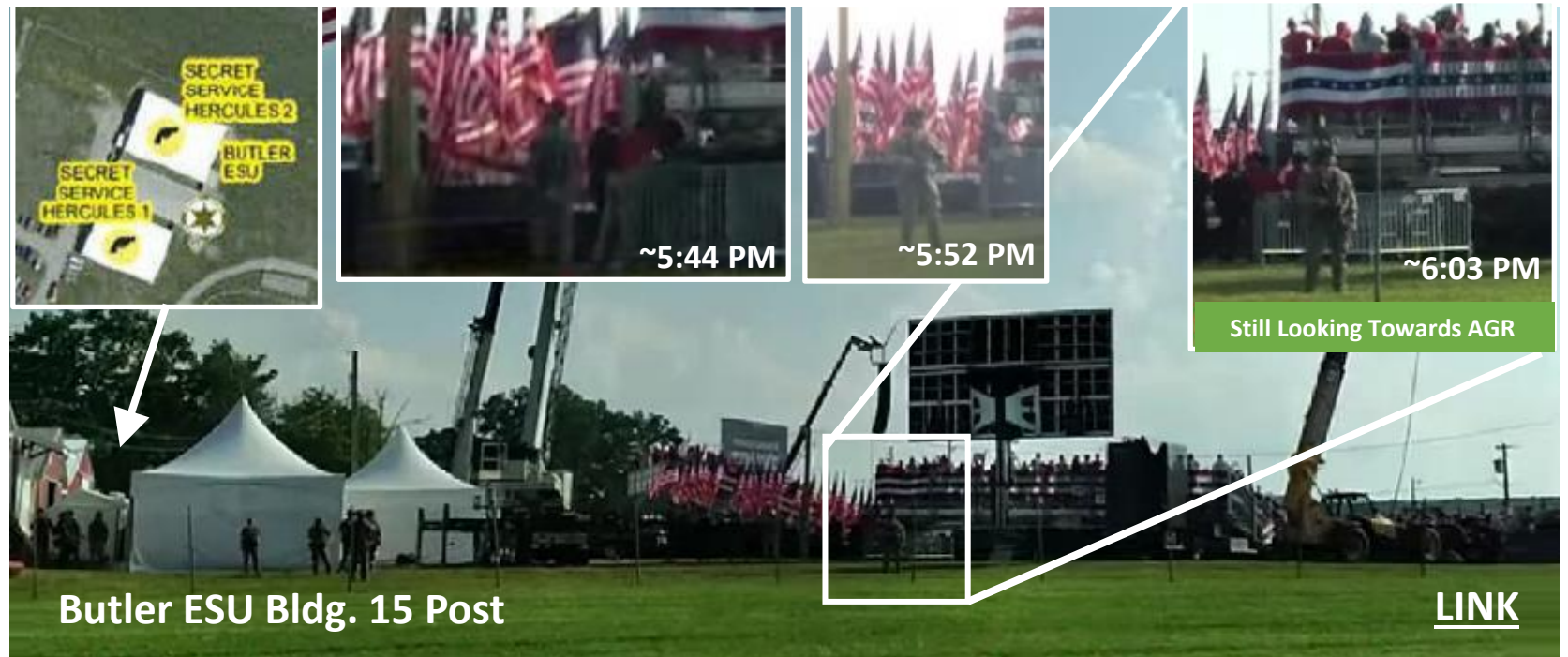
“Just an FYI, we had a younger white male, long hair, lurking around the AGR building.,’ a local counter sniper [Nicol] said at **5:42 p.m.**, according to a time-stamped transcript of encrypted radio communications obtained by The Washington Post. ‘He was viewed with a range finder sighting the stage,...We lost sight of him.’” (Source: [WP](#))

Minutes later (between ~5:44 and ~5:52 pm), the Butler County ESU officer moves east to the general location he remains in until shot 9 is taken. (Sources: [Dave Stewart Video](#), Below)

“At **6:02 p.m.**, the same local sniper who first radioed in the message about the range finder was on the second floor of the building owned by Agr International. From a northwest window, facing away from the rally site he glimpsed the suspect again just as Trump was preparing to take the podium? (Source: [WP](#))

“Inside the Butler County command center, Lenz again called Olayer in the Secret Service command post to pass on a message during a 40-second call at **6:03 p.m.**, according to the law enforcement official familiar with the police response and call logs. The message was also passed on to local police units.” (Source: [WP](#))

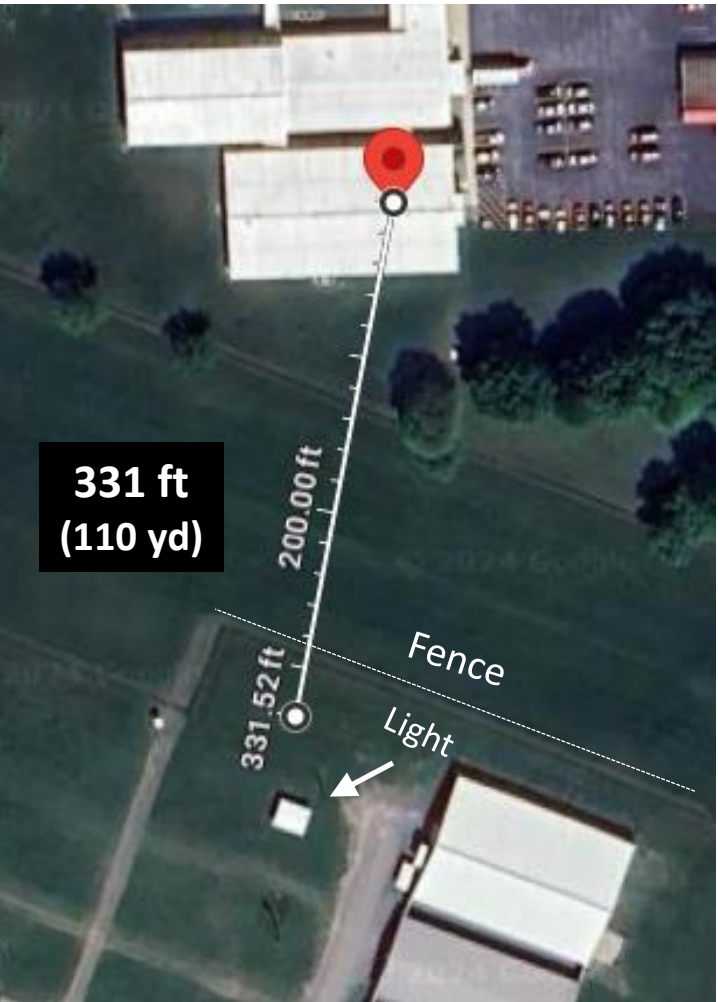
**Note:** The WP article was based on LEO radio transcripts.



## Butler County ESU Officer Locations

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

The location the Butler County ESU officer was at fits the initial reports of the distance the shot was taken from.



“The officer, who was not a sniper, had left the barn and was outside on the ground nearby when Crooks began firing from the rooftop about **110 yards** away, the official said. The local officer saw the muzzle flashes from Crooks’s rifle, the official said, and fired his rifle at Crooks.” (Source: [Washington Post](#))



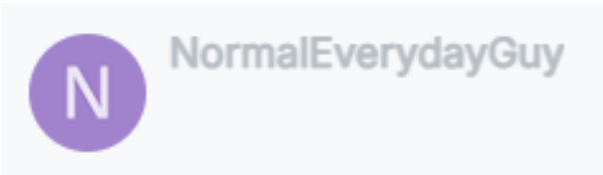


# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## Butler County ESU Officer Confirmed

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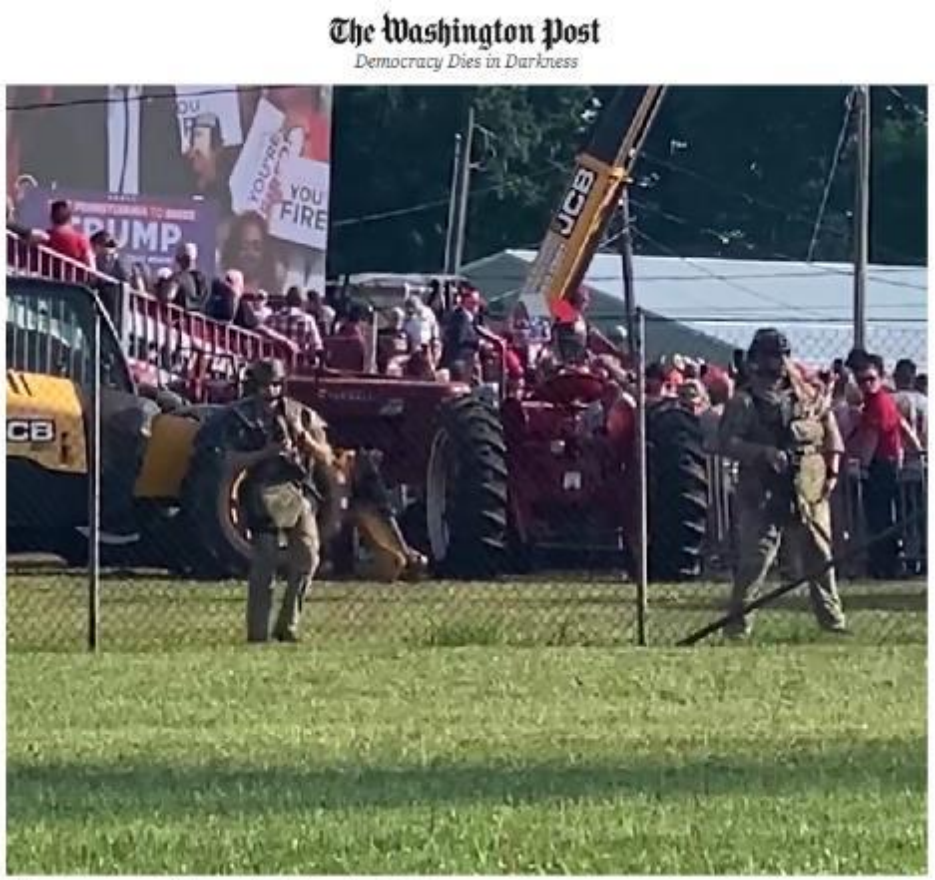
It was confirmed by a Peak Prosperity Citizens Investigation contributor that this was the officer who took shot 9.



A Citizen's Investigation contributor posted this Washington Post excerpt and stated:

"Guy on right took the 9th shot. My brother knows the guy in the middle."

"The big guy took the shot from exactly where they are standing in the picture. One shot from the fat guy. Missed." (A Subsequent Post)



# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

Butler County ESU Officer Confirmed

(Disclaimer: This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)



## Looks Like Same Guy

- 1. Beard
- 2. Left Sleeve & Watch
- 3. Same Build & Height
- 4. Similar Stance
- 5. Holding rifle the same
- 6. Eyes in same direction





## Butler County ESU Officer's Testimony

(**Disclaimer:** This information is provided for investigation identification purposes only. No blame or fault is intended or implied.)

During the September 26, 2024 Congressional Task Force Hearing, Rep. Clay Higgins reads a statement from Officer Aaron Zapolini, when questioning Butler County ESU commander Sgt. Lenz.

2:10:47 - "Commander [Lenz] I'm going to, I'm a quote from the uh transcribed interview of. **Aaron Zaliponi**. That's a tactical SWAT officer under your command that took shot number nine. He deploy, he was deployed, **he heard the radio traffic**, he saw the commotion, he left his deployed position, and ran into a position where he thought he might be able to get a shot on, if there was a shooter up on a roof, somebody on a roof. He said:

'Seconds after that is whenever the first three shots were fired. So, I hear the first three crack, crack, crack, and at this point I'm like okay where we at here. I look up that's when I see Crooks. I got his head, his shoulders, I can see a rifle at that point, I hear another crack. That's when I start pulling my weapon up. He gets three off as I'm getting my Target acquired. I'm getting my Red Dot up. I can see the gas emit from his barrel, his muzzle, then right after that I hear the snap of his fifth shot go off. Then immediately after that I press one off and that's when he immediately goes down. When I say goes down it wasn't like he was ducking to get out of the way, I mean I know I hit him like there's no doubt about it. He goes down, he kind of jerks to the right, and then he slumps over slowly, and then kind of slowly rolls backward out of my field of view. So, at that point I did not have a second shot at that point he tries to recover.'" (Source: Rep. Clay Higgins, [Congressional Task Force Hearing](#).)





# Sidebar Analysis – Counter Snipers

## Butler County ESU Officer's Actions

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Lt. Matthew Pearson's Body Camera (BWC2-122104) captured Aaron Zapolini as he was taking shot 9, as well as his response to seeing the results of shot 10 from Hercules 1. Gary Hughes Investigates (GHI) provides a good look at Officer Zapolini's actions during the shooting from that bodycam video.

### GHI – 9<sup>th</sup> Shot Shooter



Taking Shot 9 (Partial View)



Fist Pump After Seeing Shot 10

