

Machine transcript of the third FBI press conference on the events of Jul, 13th 2024

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[00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:07.840] It is now my pleasure to turn the call over to Assistant Director of the FBI's Office of Public Affairs, Kathy Nohon. Thank you. May begin.

[00:00:07.840 --> 00:00:26.360] Hey, good afternoon, everybody. And thanks for joining us for the latest press briefing regarding our investigation into the actions of the individual with the attempted assassination former President Trump and Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13.

[00:00:27.400 --> 00:00:41.680] As most of you know, this is the third in a series of calls that we've had specifically with few members of the media, but additionally, we provide briefings to members of Congress and others as we work to be as transparent and forthcoming with information as possible.

[00:00:41.680 --> 00:00:56.920] We continue to do these press briefings by phone because we found that it allows us to reach as many of you as possible. Right. We could do this in person, but that's going to limit the amount of people could be in the room. And so we just continue to do this by phone.

[00:00:57.320 --> 00:01:05.560] Because we know we can reach as many reporters and outlets as possible. So we really appreciate the time that you've taken to call them for these

[00:01:05.560 --> 00:01:22.720] The FBI has been extremely open about our investigation since we took the lead on the evening of July 13.

And since then, again, we've just continued to provide updates when available and to explain our role in this very active and ongoing investigation.

[00:01:23.800 --> 00:01:32.000] For those of you who have covered us for a long time, you know, right, that investigations take time. We follow the facts and we take all those necessary investigative steps.

[00:01:32.000 --> 00:01:46.120] And we don't normally discuss ongoing investigations, but we understood from the very beginning the significance of this event and recognize the importance of continuing to relay accurate and timely information to the public.

[00:01:46.880 --> 00:01:54.600] And we appreciate all that you all do to share the facts that the American people and I want to stress facts here.

[00:01:54.600 --> 00:02:01.880] You know, I talked to many of you, you know, every day, but I continue to find it extremely disappointing

[00:02:01.880 --> 00:02:13.760] That those who either seek to spread lies and conspiracies or who are just outright ignorant of facts processes continue to be afforded both ink and airtime

[00:02:14.840 --> 00:02:17.760] In your outlet. So continue to check in with us.

[00:02:17.760 --> 00:02:28.400] And continue just to ask us, right? We can a lot of the information is out there. It's been made public. We can help you, you know, point to you guys in the right direction. So

[00:02:28.400 --> 00:02:32.560] So thanks for that. Before we get started.

[00:02:32.560 --> 00:02:40.440] And with the actual brief, I just want to reiterate that this cause on the record, you may recall, record the call for audio.

[00:02:40.840 --> 00:02:55.200] However, that audio is embargoed into the call is over. So again, on the record, you may record for audio, but embargoed into the calls over. So joining us today is FBI national security branch executive assistant director Robert Bobby Wells.

[00:02:55.200 --> 00:03:10.160] And our FBI Pittsburgh special agent in charge, Kevin rojak. Now, we also have the assistant director for our lab division, Eric Pokerak. And he's here to answer any lab related questions during the Q and A portion.

[00:03:11.120 --> 00:03:19.920] So he did well to begin with his remarks and then said see rojak for an on the ground perspective and in depth, brief of our investigation thus far.

[00:03:19.920 --> 00:03:29.880] And then we'll take questions. So, um, and gentlemen, I'll just remind you that when we do the Q and A, please just re identify who you are. It's hard for the folks on the phone. It's just three voices.

[00:03:29.880 --> 00:03:35.920] So just just restate who you are when you're going. So with that, Bobby, I'll turn it over to you.

[00:03:36.680 --> 00:03:45.480] Gotcha. And everyone, my name is Bobby. Well, the system executive assistant director of the FBI's national security branch. This is our third call with the media since he attacked.

[00:03:45.480 --> 00:03:54.640] And as you've heard me say before, the FBI remains steadfast in investigating the details surrounding the attempted assassination of former president Trump.

[00:03:54.640 --> 00:04:06.560] This extraordinarily tragic set of circumstances is of national importance. And we are determined to ensure the facts of the case are appropriately shared with Congress, the media and the American people.

[00:04:07.400 --> 00:04:15.600] I'll go go throughout this process has been and continues to be transparency, which is why we have agreed to proactively share new information as it comes to light.

[00:04:15.600 --> 00:04:28.400] We've also been cooperative with the bipartisan congressional task force and the ongoing independent reviews of the attack and we're committed to working closely with each of these teams and being as transparent as possible.

[00:04:28.960 --> 00:04:41.400] Before we get into the details of the investigation, I would be remiss by did not highlight the incredible work of the agents, analysts and professional staff in the Pittsburgh field office and around the organization throughout this investigation.

[00:04:41.400 --> 00:04:50.480] Whether it was covering down on a lead analyzing countless points of data or providing victim services to witnesses and victims alike.

[00:04:50.480 --> 00:04:57.880] Every member of the investigative team has worked around the clock to understand what try transpired on and leading up to July 13.

[00:04:58.720 --> 00:05:06.920] We continue to leverage the amazing cooperation with our state and local partners in the area to leave no stone unturned in this investigation.

[00:05:06.920 --> 00:05:17.400] At this time, the FBI is not identified a motive, nor any co conspirators or associates of crooks with advanced knowledge of the attack.

[00:05:17.400 --> 00:05:25.400] And I want to be clear, we have not seen any indication to suggest crooks was directed by a foreign entity to conduct the attack.

[00:05:26.240 --> 00:05:34.600] As always, we will continue to follow all logical investigative steps in this ongoing investigation and have not ruled anything out at this time.

[00:05:34.600 --> 00:05:38.640] I will now turn it over to Pittsburgh. Feel how specialized in charge, Kevin Rojek.

[00:05:38.640 --> 00:05:51.160] He will provide the latest investigative update and the various steps the FBI has taken thus far to conduct a thorough and full some investigation into the attack on July 13. Thank you and look forward to answering your questions. Kevin.

[00:05:51.160 --> 00:05:53.800] Thank you, Edie Wells.

[00:05:55.040 --> 00:06:01.440] As stated, my name is Kevin Rojek. I'm the special agent in charge of the FBI Pittsburgh field office.

[00:06:01.440 --> 00:06:16.200] The Pittsburgh office continues to lead the investigation into the attempt to the assassination, the former President Donald Trump through the tireless efforts of our agents, intelligence analysts and professional staff employees.

[00:06:17.720 --> 00:06:26.520] We've also received invaluable assistance from countless personnel from several FBI field offices and FBI headquarters divisions.

[00:06:26.520 --> 00:06:39.920] Additionally, I want to acknowledge the incredible partnership with both the Pennsylvania State Police and the US Attorney's Office who have worked jointly with us on this investigation since day one.

[00:06:39.920 --> 00:06:45.920] Since July 13, we have worked diligently towards two goals.

[00:06:47.080 --> 00:06:56.640] Identify the subject motive for the attempt of the assassination and determine whether he worked with any co conspirators or conducted this tack alone.

[00:06:56.640 --> 00:07:12.800] Regarding motive, extensive analysis of the subject's online search history, as well as a specific online activity has provided us valuable insight into his mindset, but not a definitive motive.

[00:07:14.040 --> 00:07:27.720] Regarding co conspirators to date, recognizing that this is an ongoing investigation, we have not uncovered any credible evidence indicating the subject conspired with anyone else.

[00:07:27.720 --> 00:07:43.200] During the last few weeks, the FBI has received numerous requests to support external investigations associated

[00:07:43.960 --> 00:07:49.680] with the attempted assassination, including the independent review panel formed by DHS Secretary of Mayorkas.
[00:07:49.680 --> 00:08:02.720] The DHS's Office of Inspector General, as well as the bipartisan Congressional Task Force.
[00:08:04.600 --> 00:08:14.600] As EAD well stated, the FBI remains committed to transparency in sharing appropriate investigative results with each of these investigative teams and with the American people.
[00:08:14.600 --> 00:08:26.600] Regarding the scope of the investigation, first, I want to remind the public that the FBI is responsible for investigating the actions of the subject.
[00:08:27.600 --> 00:08:38.600] It is not the FBI's role to investigate the actions, the security posture, or the responsibilities of the Secret Service or local law enforcement related to the campaign rally.
[00:08:38.600 --> 00:08:47.600] To date, we've conducted nearly 1,000 interviews, served numerous search warrants, issued dozens of subpoenas, and analyzed hundreds of hours of video footage.
[00:08:47.600 --> 00:08:54.600] The FBI continues to follow up on all potential leads in order to refine the timeline of events leading up to the attempted assassination.
[00:08:54.600 --> 00:09:13.600] We also remain in contact with the subject's family members who have been extremely cooperative with our investigation.
[00:09:14.600 --> 00:09:26.600] Now, regarding the subject's online activity, analysis of searches conducted between 2019 and 2024 provided extensive insight into the subject's mindset and specific research he conducted in preparation for the attack.
[00:09:27.600 --> 00:09:42.600] In late September, 2023, an account connected to the subject was used to search the former president's campaign schedule and upcoming appearances in Pennsylvania.
[00:09:43.600 --> 00:09:52.600] Next, from April of 2024 through July 12, the subject search campaign events for both former President Trump and President Biden, including events scheduled to take place in Western Pennsylvania.
[00:09:52.600 --> 00:10:04.600] Specifically, on July 4, 2024, the subject searched for details of the former president's campaign event in Butler. On July 6, the subject registered to attend the rally, and that same day, he specifically searched for "how far was Oswald from Kennedy?"
[00:10:05.600 --> 00:10:14.600] Where will Trump speak from at Butler Farm Show, quote, Butler Farm Show podium, and quote, Butler Farm Show photos?
[00:10:14.600 --> 00:10:20.600] On July 8, the subject searched, quote, "AGR International."
[00:10:20.600 --> 00:10:30.600] On July 9, he searched, quote, "holistic calculator," and on July 10, he searched, quote, "weather and butler."
[00:10:31.600 --> 00:10:40.600] In the 30 days prior to the attack, the subject conducted more than 60 searches related to President Biden and former President Trump.
[00:10:40.600 --> 00:10:51.600] A particular note, our investigation identified specific searches conducted on July 5 to include, quote, "when is the DNC convention?"
[00:10:52.600 --> 00:11:05.600] When is the RNC in 2024? Next, regarding the two improvised explosive devices located in the shooter's vehicle, as well as the device found in his bedroom,
[00:11:05.600 --> 00:11:15.600] the subject conducted multiple searches pertaining to explosive devices as early as September 2019 continuing through this summer.
[00:11:16.600 --> 00:11:31.600] These searches specifically included, quote, "debtonating cord," quote, "blasting cap," quote, "how to make a bomb from fertilizer," and quote, "how to remote detonators work."

[00:11:31.600 --> 00:11:42.600] The subject also searched for ammonium nitrate, nitromethane, and other materials consistent with the manufacturing of explosive devices.

[00:11:43.600 --> 00:11:56.600] 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.

[00:11:56.600 --> 00:12:10.600] Additionally, regarding the subject's rifle, the FBI lab division successfully test-fired the weapon, concluding it was and remains fully operational.

[00:12:11.600 --> 00:12:18.600] They also possibly matched all H.L. casings located on the roof with the subject's rifle.

[00:12:18.600 --> 00:12:25.600] I would now like to take this opportunity to clarify some information.

[00:12:25.600 --> 00:12:35.600] First, regarding the subject's use of overseas encrypted email accounts, we understand these accounts were encrypted.

[00:12:36.600 --> 00:12:44.600] However, the level of encryption was no more sophisticated than any standard widely used internet-based email service.

[00:12:44.600 --> 00:12:51.600] We successfully accessed the information from these accounts and appropriately analyzed their content.

[00:12:51.600 --> 00:12:57.600] However, we continue to identify and exploit the subject's accounts.

[00:12:58.600 --> 00:13:11.600] Second, regarding the release of the crime scene, the FBI did release the crime scene at the Butler farm grounds, as well as the AGR complex to the property owners in a timely fashion.

[00:13:11.600 --> 00:13:25.600] In fact, we released these sites on a rolling basis, but only after completing a thorough processing of each location, exhausting all efforts to collect any items of evidentiary value.

[00:13:26.600 --> 00:13:36.600] Prior to releasing each site, we followed all appropriate evidence gathering procedures and completed the final release of the scene seven days after the attack.

[00:13:36.600 --> 00:13:49.600] Third, regarding the cleaning of the AGR roof, the FBI followed established evidentiary procedures and policies for the return of crime scenes to the property owner.

[00:13:50.600 --> 00:13:58.600] This included cleaning the biologic material from the AGR roof only after ensuring we collected all relevant evidence.

[00:13:58.600 --> 00:14:05.600] I would now like to clarify the process undertaken to release the subject's body to his family.

[00:14:05.600 --> 00:14:16.600] After rendering the scene safe and following our established evidence gathering procedures, the FBI contacted the Butler County coroner's office.

[00:14:17.600 --> 00:14:23.600] Subsequently, the coroner removed the body from the scene and conducted a death investigation.

[00:14:23.600 --> 00:14:31.600] The Butler County coroner's office then deferred to have the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner conduct the autopsy.

[00:14:31.600 --> 00:14:44.600] Once Allegheny County completed the autopsy, the Butler County coroner's office consulted with the FBI asking if there were any additional necessary investigative steps with respect to the body.

[00:14:45.600 --> 00:14:55.600] The FBI and Pennsylvania State Police then concurred with the Butler County coroner's office decision to release the remains to the subject's family.

[00:14:56.600 --> 00:15:16.600] I want to stress that it is not standard procedure or practice for the FBI or any law enforcement agency to request at the coroner or medical examiner maintain indefinite custody of a deceased subject's body

once the investigative purposes of our agency and our partner agencies are completed.

[00:15:19.600 --> 00:15:28.600] I would also like to mention that the FBI is now in possession of the subject's autopsy and toxicology reports from the coroner's office.

[00:15:28.600 --> 00:15:42.600] The autopsy report indicated the subject was pronounced deceased at 6.25 p.m. on July 13, 2024 as a result of a single gunshot wound to the head.

[00:15:43.600 --> 00:15:52.600] All of our review evidence collected from the AGR roof and from the subject's body are consistent with the round fired by the secret service site.

[00:15:52.600 --> 00:16:01.600] Additionally, the toxicology report revealed negative results, quote, for alcohol and drugs of abuse.

[00:16:01.600 --> 00:16:10.600] Next, regarding questions surrounding the release of first responders from the shooting scene on the night of July 13.

[00:16:11.600 --> 00:16:17.600] The FBI had no reason or intention to hold or detain any first responders.

[00:16:17.600 --> 00:16:26.600] As the law enforcement community assembled in Butler was actively responding to public safety risks and assisting with investigative activity throughout the night.

[00:16:26.600 --> 00:16:37.600] The FBI appreciates the monumental law enforcement response that lasted hours after the attack and continues to this day.

[00:16:38.600 --> 00:16:47.600] Our priorities that night as shared by local law enforcement were to secure the scene, preserve evidence and ensure public safety.

[00:16:47.600 --> 00:16:56.600] As previously reported, the FBI and the Pennsylvania State Police conducted a standard victim interview of former President Trump.

[00:16:56.600 --> 00:17:07.600] During this productive interview, agents took the time to provide the former president with an in-depth briefing on the investigation and answered his questions regarding the attempt on the investigation.

[00:17:07.600 --> 00:17:13.600] Regarding the attempt on his life, we're grateful to the former president for his cooperation and his time.

[00:17:13.600 --> 00:17:21.600] I will now provide an update to the timeline associated with the subject's actions prior to the shooting.

[00:17:21.600 --> 00:17:30.600] Prior witness interviews indicated the subject was in the area of the AGR building complex at 426 PM.

[00:17:31.600 --> 00:17:47.600] 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 426 PM.

[00:17:47.600 --> 00:17:58.600] Second video obtained from a local business showed the subject climb to the roof of the AGR complex at approximately 605 PM.

[00:17:59.600 --> 00:18:13.600] Video from a local business, police dash cam and police body cameras confirmed the subject's movement across multiple AGR building roofs between 605 and 608 PM.

[00:18:13.600 --> 00:18:20.600] Finally, at 611, the subject fired eight rounds before being neutralized.

[00:18:21.600 --> 00:18:32.600] Our overall finding is the subject was only on the roof for approximately six minutes prior to the shooting between 605 and 611 PM.

[00:18:32.600 --> 00:18:38.600] The FBI continues to work diligently to determine the subject's motive.

[00:18:39.600 --> 00:18:50.600] We believe the subject engaged in detailed attack planning well in advance of the campaign rally.

[00:18:50.600 --> 00:18:57.600] We continue to pursue all investigative leads to determine any possible links to co-conspirators.
[00:19:01.600 --> 00:19:20.600] The American people deserve answers and the FBI stands committed to providing them. Thank you.
[00:19:20.600 --> 00:19:27.600] So this is Kevin Roadjack regarding first responders on the roof. The only evidence we have of any
[00:19:27.600 --> 00:19:38.600] first responder attempting to climb the roof was the single officer at approximately 609 who attempted
[00:19:38.600 --> 00:19:43.600] to get on the roof to view the subject who was already on the roof.
[00:19:43.600 --> 00:19:56.600] We have no other evidence that indicates that any law enforcement officers were on the roof at any time.
[00:19:56.600 --> 00:20:07.600] And regarding the second question, we need to get back to you on whether there were any prescription drugs in the system.
[00:20:07.600 --> 00:20:22.600] The information that I have now just reports no alcohol or drugs of abuse.
[00:20:22.600 --> 00:20:34.600] This is Kevin Roadjack again. I can confirm that there was no second shooter shooting at the former president.
[00:20:34.600 --> 00:20:43.600] We know that there were 10 rounds fired that day, eight from our subject, one from a local law enforcement officer,
[00:20:43.600 --> 00:20:51.600] and one from the secret service sniper.
[00:20:51.600 --> 00:20:58.600] All the rounds have been accounted for and attributed to those three individuals. So we have zero reason to
[00:20:58.600 --> 00:21:05.600] believe that there was ever a second shooter targeting the former president. Thank you.
[00:21:05.600 --> 00:21:06.600] So this is Kevin Roadjack again regarding the rounds fired by the local officer.
[00:21:06.600 --> 00:21:11.600] We have no forensic evidence indicating that that round either struck our subject or the subject rifle.
[00:21:11.600 --> 00:21:20.600] Regarding the parents, the parents remain cooperative throughout the investigation.
[00:21:20.600 --> 00:21:31.600] From the initial night on June, July 13 continuing through today.
[00:21:31.600 --> 00:21:45.600] They have provided all the information that we've asked and been extremely cooperative. Thank you.
[00:21:45.600 --> 00:21:46.600] Thanks.
[00:21:46.600 --> 00:22:00.600] Hey, this is Bobby Wells.
[00:22:00.600 --> 00:22:04.600] Just want to say as I said in the beginning that we've been very forthcoming and transparent with the DHS panel.
[00:22:04.600 --> 00:22:05.600] As well as the congressional committee, you know, we continue to have engagements with them and share information
[00:22:05.600 --> 00:22:18.600] as appropriate and we will continue to do that throughout this entire process.
[00:22:18.600 --> 00:22:20.600] So, Mr. Thomas, this is Kevin Roadjack again. Thank you. So regarding the subject mindset.
[00:22:20.600 --> 00:22:39.600] So we saw through our analysis of all his, particularly his online searches, a sustained detailed effort to plan
[00:22:39.600 --> 00:22:40.600] and attack on some events.
[00:22:40.600 --> 00:22:44.600] Meaning he looked at any number of events or targets.
[00:22:44.600 --> 00:23:02.600] And then when this event was announced, the Trump rally was announced early in July, he became hyper focused on
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] that specific event and looked at it as a target of opportunity.
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] So again, I want to stress that we continue to analyze all the evidence associated with his accounts with his
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] online search activity and we have a clear idea of mindset, but we are not ready to make any conclusive
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] statements regarding motive at this time. Thank you.
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] Thank you, sir.
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] This is Kevin Roadjack again regarding your first question. We continue to see through our analysis a mixture
[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:02.600] of ideologies. So I would say that we seem no definitive ideology associated with our subject either left leaning

or right leaning.

[00:23:02.600 --> 00:23:10.600] It's really been a mixture and something that we're still attempting to analyze and draw conclusions on regarding your second question.

[00:23:10.600 --> 00:23:14.600] I need to refer to the Pennsylvania state police investigation.

[00:23:14.600 --> 00:23:20.600] They are handling the investigation associated with the death of Corey Comparatore.

[00:23:20.600 --> 00:23:28.600] And so at this time, I cannot answer that question as is more appropriate for the Pennsylvania state police. Thank you.

[00:23:33.600 --> 00:23:41.600] This is Kevin Roadjack to answer that question. So we can continue to consult daily with the behavioral analysis unit.

[00:23:41.600 --> 00:23:58.600] We initially brought them here the first week and worked side by side with them. They are continuing their work at Quantico, Virginia. And like I said, our investigators are working with them on a regular basis.

[00:23:58.600 --> 00:24:12.600] But as of right now, the initial assessment that you just stated remains consistent with the current conclusions based on all the information that we've provided him or provided them to date. Thank you.

[00:24:17.600 --> 00:24:26.600] So this is your project. Our current assessment that those statements were associated with accounts associated with the subject.

[00:24:26.600 --> 00:24:35.600] And we continue to work to determine if they were in fact attributed to the subject himself. Thank you.