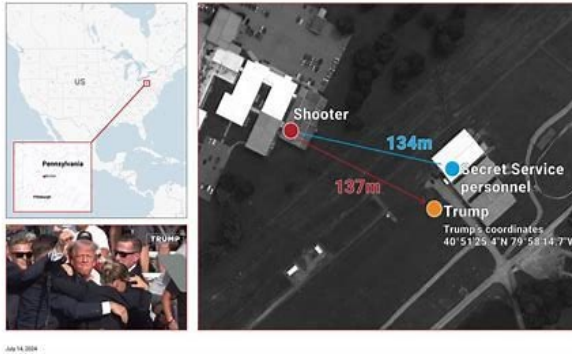


Intel Update

Former US President Donald Trump shot in right ear at campaign rally

Former US President Donald Trump was hit in his right ear and is fine following a deadly shooting at his rally in the US state of Pennsylvania



Update on assassination attempt of former president Trump: While the facts of the attempt to kill former president Trump are broadly known, to provide context, the following is an overview of the events and background, along with likely next steps per senior officials.

- On 13 July at approximately 1812 hours lone gunman Thomas Matthew Crooks shot eight rounds directed toward former president Trump at a rally held at the Butler Farm Show. The shooting took place 10-15 minutes after Trump began his speech.
- Crooks used an AR-15 style assault rifle purchased by his father to commit the act.
- One of the rounds struck the president's upper right ear. He was treated and released, recovering well from his injuries
- Two other civilians present were injured, with another being killed.
 - Corey Comperatore, a 50-year-old former firefighter, died while attempting to shield his family with his body during the attack.
- There is no indication there were others involved in the attack.

The Attacker:



- Crooks is a 20-year-old male from Bethel Park, PA – circa one hour south of the fairgrounds.
- He graduated in May 2024 from the Community College of Allegheny County with an associate's degree in engineering science.

- He was working as a dietary aide at Bethel Park Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- Crooks had no criminal record and efforts to uncover additional details related to him have been difficult as law enforcement and intelligence officials have noted there is not much available online.
- He was a registered Republican, having donated a small amount of money to a progressive cause in January 2021 - \$15 to the Progressive Turnout Project, a liberal voter turnout group.
- His parents are both licensed counselors, with his father working for a local behavioral health provider.
 - Politically, his parents are registered as a Democrat (father) and Libertarian (mother)
- The FBI found explosive materials in his car – enough for two devices – along with additional materials for another device at his home.
- As of this point the FBI has not found a manifesto or any letter/statement online or at his home/on his person explaining why he committed this act.
- It is assessed he learned how to shoot via his membership at a local gun club – The Clairton Sportsmen’s Club, located south of Pittsburgh.
- His interests included playing chess, video games, and he was learning how to code.
- His online presence was also limited, with no accounts found on the major platforms (Facebook and Instagram).
 - He did have an account on the messaging platform Discord – which was rarely used.

The fallout from this incident:

While there were many aspects to this act that are gaining focus, there are two worth noting.

- ***Likely impact of the police officer who startled the shooter on the roof:*** There has been reporting that a local police officer, acting on warnings from people nearby who observed Crooks on the roof, climbed a ladder to the roof, surprising Crooks.

Reports indicate when the officer reached the roof – holding on with both hands - Crooks likely pointed his weapon at the officer, forcing him to drop back to the ground.

Senior officials believe this act likely forced Crooks to shoot earlier than he planned, likely leading him to not have the time to effectively target the former president.

- ***Secret Service performance:*** There has been, and will continue to be, a great deal of focus on the USSS team in the lead up/during to the attack. Specifically, why the Secret Service did not have a person on the roof where Crooks undertook the attack from.

There have also been comments related to the performance of the team that responded to the president after he was struck.

While there will be an intense investigation into all aspects of the Secret Service's planning/performance, senior officials and analysts are pointing out the planning and execution of the security plan represent the more significant concern.

- It has been assessed that on the day of the attack the actual situation was more chaotic than it should have been vis-à-vis the security posture for the event.

The counter sniper who responded to the shots and killed Crooks apparently was apparently aware of his presence on the rooftop. However, until Crooks shot at the former president, Crooks was not assessed as representing a threat.

- Apparently, the counter snipers were unclear if Crooks could have been a fellow USSS officer or some one from another federal, state, or local agency who was providing security at that location.

The lack of transparency, communication and understanding of the security plan for the venue and event will likely surface as an issue of concern that contributed to the shooting taking place.

Concerns regarding the politicization of the incident:

While condemnation of the attack and concern for former president Trump has been broad and bipartisan, there has nevertheless been a great deal of online and media reporting proffering partisan rhetoric and accusations – which could incite violence down the road.

- Recent media reporting accused the former president of inciting the situation by saying “fight” immediately after attack – while he was whisked away by USSS.
 - In some outlets this is being represented as an intentional effort by the former president to incite his Trump supporters toward violence.
- On 14 July, nearly a dozen lawmakers blamed President Biden and Democrats for encouraging the shooting via their intense anti-Trump rhetoric over the past weeks.
 - They point to a comment by Biden while on a private call with donors in which he said he had one job – to defeat Trump. He then stated, “It’s time to put Trump in a bullseye.”
- Press and officials involved in the legal cases against the former president have received a host of threats via social media and other channels by far-right groups/activists.
 - The threats contend these individuals were responsible for creating an atmosphere which encourages people like Crooks to actively target Trump.

Insights into president Trump’s frame of mind:

According to analysts, while the attack was taking place, it was clear former president Trump was aware of his need to react to save his life, as well as to message he was safe to the crowd.

- The fact he immediately dropped to the ground illustrated this awareness.
- His response after was similarly intention – expressing to advisors the need to make sure Americans knew he was okay, and to do so in a strong manner.
- According to analysts, the former president’s use of the word “fight” was not intended to instigate violence, but rather to encourage all Americans to respond to such senseless acts – similar to the response by President Biden.

At present, while the former president is focused on preparing for the convention but has also expressed a keen concern and sadness for the death of Comperatore and for the health of the two others who were shot.

Nevertheless, the former president intends to present a message focused on the need for the country to unify as a result of this attack.

- It has been noted Trump and his advisors will not promote a message that will enflame the situation further, despite the initial statements made by senior Republicans.

- Analysts believe we will see a movement away from such statements from the Republican side of the aisle at the Convention in Milwaukee.

What is next for the investigation?

The investigation will focus on Crooks' motives for the attack.

Given his limited profile and the lack of a manifesto or anything specific, FBI officials are undertaking an extensive behavioral analysis – meeting with his friends and family, assessing his writings and notes, and attempting to gain access to his online/telephone messages and emails.

- This process is aimed to provide a full workup on his psyche and likely intent in carrying out such an act.

While his lack of an active social media presence is not assessed as surprising, there are efforts to explore his relationships with other ***online gamers***. For many gamers, these are the main relationships they maintain – which officials believe could provide insights into his frame of mind and intent. Also, the FBI believes they may be able to learn more from the communications on these channels given he appears to have been active.

What other concerns are present as a result of the attempted assassination attempt?

For law enforcement their intent is to not only understand the motivation for the attack, but to ensure it may not be part of a broader conspiracy and/or effort by another group/nation state to incite such attacks moving forward.

In addition, there are ongoing concerns this assassination attempt could incite far-right groups to target far-left/antifa groups.

- At this point there is no indication that Crooks was a member of any group, although there were active rumors circulating in the immediate aftermath of the attack that he was with ANTIFA.
- Also, the threats against the media, judicial/legal officials, as well as accusations that President Biden could have incited such actions are greatly concerning, and indicative of the tense political situation present.

As such, law enforcement officials involved in this investigation are keenly aware of the possible impact(s) the results of their investigation could have. As such, it is unlikely we will see any final report or initial details provided by the FBI in the near term.

Finally, the USSS investigation into its own response will likely lead to a number of significant actions within the Service.

- Analysts believe the Director of the USSS – Kimberly Cheatle - will likely be fired or may step down from her position.
- Also, it is expected there will be intense scrutiny into the security plan for 13 July, which could also lead to the removal of the senior USSS Presidential Protection Detail officer and possibly others, to include replacing much/all of the team protecting the former president.