



***“Examining the Assassination Attempt of July 13”***

**Statement of**

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**COMMISSIONER**

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE**

**Presented to the**

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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## **Introduction**

Chairman Green, Ranking Member Thompson, and members of the House Homeland Security Committee, I am Colonel Christopher L. Paris, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). I proudly enlisted in the PSP in 1999 and was appointed Commissioner in January 2023 and confirmed unanimously by the Pennsylvania State Senate on March 8, 2023.

I would like to offer my condolences to the victims and acknowledge the selfless actions of the PSP members at the July 13<sup>th</sup> rally of former President Trump in Butler County, a tragic occasion that has deeply affected the PSP, the Butler County community, the Commonwealth, and the nation. I appreciate the opportunity to join you today to discuss the event as it pertains to the Pennsylvania State Police.

## **Investigative Responsibilities**

The PSP is responsible for investigating one homicide and two attempted homicides of rally attendees, both state crimes under Pennsylvania's Crimes Code, as well as the use of force by a United States Secret Service (USSS) sniper. Conversely, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Federal Criminal Code, the FBI is responsible for investigating the attempted homicide of former President Trump. Due to these crimes stemming from the same sequence of events, the FBI and the PSP have combined investigative efforts. To date, over 100 interviews have been conducted and 1,000 pieces of evidence gathered. It is important to note that PSP's investigative responsibility is completely separate from and unrelated to any internal review of the USSS protocols or procedures. As this is an ongoing investigation, I may be unable to

comment on all aspects of it. Additionally, any information I may offer today should be considered preliminary in nature and not final.

## **Department Composition**

The PSP is the tenth largest police agency in the United States, having jurisdiction in all political subdivisions within the Commonwealth and providing full-time or part-time police service to approximately 67 percent of the Commonwealth's municipalities, 61 percent of the Commonwealth's roadways, and 81 percent of the Commonwealth's total land area. We are a full-service police department composed of 4,562 sworn members and 1,616 civilian employees providing various law enforcement services to communities and our local, county, regional, state, and federal partners.

The PSP operates independently from our local partners. The PSP troopers are dispatched by our own police communications operators and not by county 911 centers. The PSP houses and staffs its own forensic service, research and development, special operations, training, communications, and criminal intelligence assets.

PSP works cooperatively with full and part-time local law enforcement agencies, but we do not have administrative or operational oversight over local law enforcement agencies or county sheriff's offices. PSP is dedicated to keeping our communities safe and inspiring public trust and confidence through effective 21st century policing strategies, as the purpose of the PSP is to seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all. This is attained through our core values of honor, service, integrity, respect, trust, courage and duty. PSP's priority is always ensuring the safety of every

Pennsylvanian and everyone visiting our state. We have always and will continue to work with our law enforcement partners at the local and federal level to protect public safety.

### **Preplanned Request for Resources**

The United States Secret Service (USSS) is the lead agency at events involving its protectees. These types of events occur regularly in Pennsylvania, and the PSP routinely provides resources and personnel to assist the USSS. As a matter of protocol, the USSS advises the PSP that an event is anticipated followed by a joint meeting and site visit to ensure areas of responsibility are clearly identified for state and local law enforcement.

On Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, the USSS notified PSP that a rally for former President Trump would take place at the Butler Farm Show Grounds. There was an initial planning meeting with law enforcement agencies on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> and PSP participated in a walk through at the Butler Farm Show Grounds on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. The PSP provided all resources requested by the USSS.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

Thirty-two members of the PSP were assigned to various roles to support the USSS. This included members providing escorts for the motorcade route, staffing posts within the secured perimeter, performing roving patrols and staffing the USSS command post. PSP was not responsible for securing the building or property at AGR International.

### **Communications**

The USSS established and managed the primary command post for communications in the office of the Butler Farm Show. Command posts are established to coordinate communications between different agencies that may utilize different mechanisms for communication. A PSP supervisor was stationed in the USSS command post to relay any communications made by PSP personnel to our local and federal partners.

## **Conclusion**

Today's hearing is one of many inquiries about the tragic events of July 13<sup>th</sup>. Our investigation into the shooting is in process and interviews in this investigation remain ongoing. Again, any information I may offer today should be considered preliminary in nature and not final. I thank you for the opportunity to provide clarity about the activities and the mission of the Pennsylvania State Police and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.