

10/21/16

K: Hello?

A: Hi, Chief Kessler?

K: Speaking

A: Hi, it's Alex. How are you?

K: Hey What's up? Good.

A: Good. It's good to talk with you. It's been a long time.

K: It's been a long time. What's goin' on?

A: Yeah, um, nothing. I was happy to get your email about a follow-up interview. I've been curious.. what you've been up to.

K: Uh.. yeah, sure, I mean. Uh, ask away.

A: Um, should I just get right into it?

K: Yeah. Mm-hm.

A: OK. Um, so I saw a video of an interview with you, um, on Fox News with Alan Colmes.

K: Mm-hm.

A: Um, and in the interview you said that you used the videos that went viral on youtube as a tool to weed out domestic terrorists. Can you explain that to me?

K: So, uh, what happened was... Uh, let me see, uh, what the dates were.. back in 2013, uh.. we passed.. uh, a piece'a legislation on the local level where, ya kinda have- it's just like a (ball and chain?) for the Second Amendment right OK. After we passed that legislation I had some people

approach me that were in militias. And one individual's not a really good guy. He came to me and stated that, uh, he was going to start killing police officers. Which I found a little disturbing since I was standing in front of him in full uniform. Uh...

A: Did he know you were a police officer?

K: Excuse me?

A: Did he know that you were a police officer?

K: Yeah. I was in full uniform when he said it to me. Which I found very, very, very, odd. So, at that point I contacted the state police, and the state police did confirm that this individual was on their radar. Like they'd been keepin' an eye on this guy. He's uh.. uh, like a lone wolf, *extremely* anti-government, anti-law enforcement, uh, uh, I don't know why he came to me. Um, y'know probably because of that legislation we passed at the local level protecting the Second Amendment within our boundaries of my jurisdiction at the time. Uh, I guess he thought I was some sort of insurrectionist that worked with the government, but, uh, that's the furthest thing from the truth, so...

At that point we.. I kept contact with him. Just because, they wanted.. when I say "they" I mean state police wanted..

A: Is that the state police of Pennsylvania?

K: Yeah. They wanted to get inside information on this guy. They wanted to know what he's been up to, this and that, where he hangs out, the whole nine yards, so, um..

We started- they started sendin' me to- they started "OK'ing" trips- the state police did- to where this individual by the name of.. I don't know if I should say the name.. this individual that was on the watch, that they were watching, hung out and trained, like, militarily-wise trained, with other individuals down by Harrisburg, uh, Pennsylvania.

So I was sent to infiltrate this group of, uh, I-I guess you could call them

insurrectionists. That's the word I would classify them with. They're militia-type, heavily armed, trained, heavily trained, uh, they train all the time. They build their own firing range, you name it. Uh, I went- they were self sustaining, too. Had their own livestock, grew their own vegetables, uh.. they have like odd jobs they would do for money. They weren't like full-time; they don't have full-time jobs.. like contractors, they would go out and do work like that, ya know.

A: But it was a fully functioning, self sustaining kinda community, is that what you're saying?

K: Yeah, exactly. There were several properties on it, uh, several homes where several people- one of 'em was the main house was like for the main family, uh, leader, I guess. Then there were several other properties on the grounds where you could stay- like barracks- uh, you know, for as long as you wanted basically. So that was one area we infiltrated in Pennsylvania and after that I came to- I went to the state police with an idea. I said we need to weed out more of these guys. I would like to see what else is out there as far as, uh.. I mean these guys are making plans to do some pretty nasty stuff and uh.. I mean they were talkin' about it but once I turned over my information about it, I got out of it. Like it was turned over and I was no longer allowed to go down to that facility, so...

A: Were you able- what happened when you were there- did you say you were, uh, you curbed their plans?

K: What was that?

A: Were you able to stop them from following through with their plans?

K: Well that's later on in the scenario. Up in Pennsylvania I don't know how they were handled, by the state police. So I went back after I infiltrated, uh, information on people in that area and the insurrectionists and stuff like that for down by the Harrisburg area, outta that group. I went back to the state and I said "Hey I wanna do somethin' where I could possibly attract more of these lone wolf.. insurrectionist-types, militia-types, domestic terrorists, anti-government, anti-law enforcement individuals..." so I came up with an idea. Of making a video. Now...

A: So that was your idea?

K: Yeah, it was my idea. They didn't- the state- they didn't give me the blessing and... they just said well, if ya think it's gonna work, go for it. They had no idea what I was gonna do, all right.

A: So you didn't.. you didn't get down to details, you just said "Hey, what if I- I have this idea.."

K: ...Yeah, like I have an idea that might work, if you wanna draw out some more of these, uh, you know, insurrectionists from out- in- from, from- in the woods, and bring 'em out to daylight, you know.

A: Right.

K: Uh, some'a these real bad guys, and, (clears throat) they're like "Well you know if you think it's gonna work, then, go for it." They had no idea what it was until, I mean they thought- it was like- I couldn't- we couldn't even believe it, from just that one video, uh, I don't even know if it was a minute long. Uh, it's got a few curse words, and tearin' up a piece'a paper and calling John Kerry (laughs) some nasty names..

A: I remember! I remember the videos (laughs) I saw them.

K: Yeah, that was, that was the first one and that one just went absolute- people went absolutely bonkers over it. I mean I had so much, uh, intelligence comin' at me I couldn't keep up wid it.

A: But when you say people went- can you be more specific, like- do you mean that people then approached you, thinking... Because what you're saying now is that that wa- those weren't your- You were playing double agent in those videos, correct?

K: ...Yeah, I was, yeah.

A: So those weren't your true beliefs, but by acting as a decoy...

K: No, no, no, no. I mean, exactly. See...

A: Then, these people contacted you because they identified with the content of the video?

K: See- yeah- basically. But the reason why I went that way and did all that is because I seen an opportunity, an opportunity to expand my law enforcement career- that was the whole, that was the whole end game, all right. I- I wanted to go (be there with?) the state or with the feds as a- wh, either as an undercover operative or like a confidential informant, paid confidential informant and infiltrate with the state and infiltrate with the federal government and FBI, uh, and move on from Gilberton. Like I was ready to move on from Gilberton way... no matter what.

A: Were you actually employed in- as the Police Chief of Gilberton?

K: Yeah. Yeah I was ready to move on from that.

A: But that was a real job that you had before you started this-

K: What was that?

A: That was a real job that you had before you became a federal informant?

K: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. That's when I seen an opportunity to expand my career and get out of- and get away from the Gilberton side of patrolling and all the political politics and those just those pack'a idiots down there. I seen an opportunity to expand my career and run with the big dogs, basically, so I took it (clears throat.) And.. I mean.. my employer did not know, you know, I was not telling them a word.

A: So you were in complete, um, that was completely concealed, that was a secret.. mission, basically.

K: Correct. Only a few people knew about the situation what was really goin' on, uh, you know..

A: Can I ask, did your family know?

K: Huh?

A: Were you able to share that with your family?

K: I had explained to my family what was going on, uh, to, uh, my immediate family. I didn't explain to anybody else, my mother, my father, 'ey had no idea nuttin like that, just like the people I lived with, I had to tell them, cuz it's dangerous. It's very, very, dangerous.

A: Right, right.

K: So, uh, I had to explain it to them and I mean they weren't very receptive but I, y'know, got an opportunity to expand my law enforcement career. Uh, that's what- that's what the state and the federal eventually s'- y'know, said, "Hey we're gonna, y'know, do this we want you to get in here and do this, so, uh- (clears throat.)

After the videos I met wit, uh, state police, took me to uh, uh, a meeting area over (a hike back?) with the FBI out of Harrisburg, PA. And that's when we had a short meeting with them, and, um, and everything's fine, and they wer- and that's when they got involved. Uh, I wasn't signed up at the time with the feds, I was only, actually I wasn't signed up wid either at the time cuz I was just- I was still a police officer and it was my *duty* to, uh, turn over that information that would hurt or harm society in any way, shape, or form. It's my *duty* to do that so that's what I did. I was able to work out a deal wit Gilberton where I could retire and the whole nine yards and get outta that.

Then that's when I started. That's when I got signed up, uh, wit'da FBI first. I got signed up wit'da FBI first. Uh, then a few more videos, more people came out, we held some rallies, uh, more people start coming out, intelligence-wise was just a mess, I mean so much intelligence was comin' at me... it was unreal. Um... then we started..

I came up wid another idea where we could form some sort' like-a, like-a, like a group of people, like a militia-type, y'know..

A: Is that the Constitutional Security Force?

K: Correct. And that was all pre- uh- that was pre-approved by, I mean, that was all the plans... everything was approved by the state. And the feds, OK? Like I did all the work on it, I did all the paperwork and I did all.. the, uh, like- y- people had to apply, all right.

A: People had to apply to be a part of that group?

K: Correct... (?interruption) militarily..

A: And what- was that a group- was your belief in the values of the Constitutional Security Force authentic or was that part of the sort of alter ago you had developed?

K: Well I could tell ya one thing, my beliefs in defending our Constitution and the oath that that's taking, is- that's 100%.

A: So that is something that you truly do believe?

K: I truly believe in the Second Amendment. I truly believe in the Constitution but I don't- I'm a police officer, I'm a law enforcement officer- I do *not* believe in people planting bombs in federal buildings or planning or plotting to take over any kind of anything like that.

A: So- right.

K: That's- that's (?inaudible) and that's the vast majority of people that were comin' at me were like that. And I was between a rock and a hard place and that's what I got- that's when I went to the state police and we started workin' an' workin' and it got bigger 'n bigger 'n bigger. Uh.. at that point I mean I was bein' sent to, uh, Maryland, we stopped in the capital of Maryland. There was a group that came up from Florida, Georgia that came up some insurrectionists, definitely armed. They set up a bunch campsites and stuff. I was supposed to be a guest speaker at this camp- this campsite, this campground over in Maryland where they were going to go from Maryland in to Washington D.C. and just.. and start.. trying to take

over the capital. Uh, I was the one that you- you'll search that- you'll find some story out there- there's a little story about it out there somewhere but I was the one that stopped that. I got that stopped, shut them right down.

A: How did you stop- how did you- how were you able to stop these groups? It sounds like they were, like you said, heavily armed, they were well trained..

K: Mm-hm.

A: They were basically a militia. So how- what was your strategy that was successful in-

K: They were- well, we- we had a SWAT team (laughs).

A: Sorry?

K: SWAT team. We had a SWAT team from Maryland. A SWAT team came in to the campground and shut them right down, took 'em into custody, they took the weapons, they took their guns. And some people were arrested, some people weren't arrested, uh.. y'know, they had SWAT teams. 'An then went off from Maryland, we went to, uh, Rome, Georgia, where we actually were the agents- I was just the intelligence. I- I wasn't- the only time I was actually on the ground was in Texas, uh, Arizona.. I was down there. But as far as Maryland, I was mainstrea- I was just the intelligence guy. I- they would feed me- the groups would feed me the intelligence, I would pass it on to, uh, the appropriate (channels?)

A: So you were sort of like a middle man, in this.

K: Correct, correct.

A: So you were the informant. OK.

K: Correct. Yeah. And couple'a dem I was (?) there a couple'a dem, the one in Rome, Georgia, uh, that one got started, I was passin' intelligence from, I had- uh, guys in Warn Jodin- Rome, Georgia that were passin' *me* information and I would pass it on to the feds and they-they would- they-

where we stopped uh, three guys from a militia group, uh, that were actually purchased fake explosives off the FBI agents that we got hooked up with down there. And they were about to bomb a federal building in Rome, Georgia, so we put the brakes to that, took 'em into custody. And 'en I went down to the border.

That's where- when all these, this border nonsense was goin' on, so I got permission to go to the border. I went down to the border and I met up with a... absolute, crazy lunatic who was, um.. his plan was to kill the Mexican military that patrolled their side of the border. Take their equipment- their weapons and their equipment and their fifty calibers and their Hum V's.. take all that and then ambush the next unit that came over and then go into the next town which was, uh, jeez, what was the name.. it's like a huge smuggling port, its right next to Arizona, uh..

A: Is this in Mexico or in the states still?

K: It was right on the border, literall- I mean, I was right *on* the border. Um, oh, Jesus, where was it..? Nogales? I think it was Nogales? Nogales, Mexico? I think it was Nogales. Pretty sure it was Nogales, uh, but they wanted to go into the next town which is like a huge, uh, cartel (? inaudible).. cartel, I guess, held area and just start killin' everybody. So, uh, that was put the brake- (laughs) I mean we put the brakes to that, so.. y'know.

A: Oh my goodness.

K: Yeah, I mean it was a lot, I mean I- I did a lotta work and-

A: I was just gon- I was just-

K: I met a lotta good people. I did meet a lotta good people but I met a *lot* of extremists. And- and- they use the Second Amendment, unfortunately, they used the Second Amendment (?inaudible adverb) as a- a catalyst I guess if you wanna say, they used it as a catalyst to promote their agenda as far as they hate government. Absolutely hate government.

A: Right.

K: They hate anything- they hate all laws, they hate law enforcement, they believe that they don't need to pay taxes, that they don't- they don't need driver licenses. They don't- (?inaudible; sounds like "they believe that the family fund is to there all this stuff up and this is not fixed"?) Like, they believe in full-permit freedom. Uh..

A: So they sort of- like-

K: Kinda like the wild- the way the wild west.

A: Right. So it seems like you were in kind of a unique position because you do- it sounds like you do have strong feelings, you're adamant about defending the Constitution and you do truly believe in Second Amendment preservation, however-

K: Correct.

A: You have your foot in the other door as a law enfor- you know, you are a police officer and a law enforcer.

K: Correct.

A: So, you- it seems, it- it almost makes sense this sort of dual role happening which is why your story is so fascinating.

K: Correct.

A: Yeah. That's interesting.

K: I mean, it was- it was just an opportunity that I would- I wasn't gonna let pass me by. I just was not gonna let this go. This opportunity was (clears throat) it- it- it.. this was a lo- an opportunity of a lifetime for me. To go and infiltrate and work wit the federal (?sounds like "thick woods") the feds, the FBI. They are the most- I had the ultimate *respect* for the FBI agents that I worked wit. They were at the *tip*'a the spear. These guys are highly, highly, professional, uh..

A: Mm-hm.

K: *Superior* professional., compared to what I'm used to dealing wit on a local level. These guys were just *outstanding*, outstanding agents.

A: So that contrast must've been very refreshing for you.

K: Oh it was awesome. It was a unbelievable. I mean these guys re great they treated me good, uh, uh, they didn't treat me bad, y'know, huh, and the state troopers, too. They were all undercover guys 'at I worked wit and I had a *great* rapport wit them all. I mean these'r really good guys, uh..

A: Are you still working with- are you still working with-

K: No. No, no.

A: ..or in touch with these people at all. No? That wa- so did you have- uh- when you entered that, um, role or that job, did you know that it was finite? You knew there was an end- you had like a certain amount of time whee you were going to be working, there would be an end to the project?

K: Yeah, there was going to be an end to the mission as far as I'm- y'know, as far as that goes, uh, sooner or later it edda come to an end, y'know, that's what I found anyways. I was still in a very unique position because I was pretty much at the center of all domestic- I wouldn't say *all*, cuz not everybody trusted me, y'know, cuz I was still a cop.

A: Who was most distrustful of you? Or, did you have, you know, a hard time with a particular group gaining trust in order to do what you needed to do?

K: Mm... they came to- they came to me. These groups that came to me, are the one-

A: Who did?

K: The- the, the minutemen group... the

A: The Triple "X" Minutemen? Like the insurrectionist groups.

K: Yeah. All the insurrectionists- militias came to me-

A: But they came to you because they trusted you because they saw your videos, right?

K: ... Correct. They thought I was an insurrectionist.

A: Right.

K: They thought I hated government, they thought that, y'know, hey this guy's a cop and he (baby cries in in background) hates government..

A: So they thought that you just- well that's really what everybody thought, right That you sort of like, flipped a switch and then your true feelings came out.

K: Yea- well, at the- at the end of everything, after like two years- er- whatever it was a year 'n.. almost two years where we were doin' this, uh, you know... things were just gettin'- just wearin' me down. It's just...

A: Having the double life?

K: It was- it was very- yeah, that was one (laughs) but I mean, physically and mentally it was just wearin' me down.

A: I would image- it sounds so psych- I mean, that's one of the reasons I'm so interested in your story because it sounds so psychologically fascinating and complex. I mean to be able to maintain.. I think it takes either a mentally strong person or maybe crazy person, I don't know. But to be able to maintain that level of, um..

K: It's a lot. I'll tell ya that, it takes a lot out of you. Uh..

A: It sounds like a lot of travel, too, like did you a lot of traveling and... yeah, I can- I can imagine.

K: Well, chru- chru-ought Pennsylvania, I drove around... I mean, we went chru- all out chru Penn- everywh- we've where we went in Pennsylvania I always made sure there was security as far as undercover state troopers, uh..

A: Mm-hm.

K: No matter where I was in Pennsylvania there was- they didn't tell me der- where they were, like, they would be around, y'know. They would be there.

A: In Gilberton area as well?

K: Exactly. Well, yeah, that big rally we held down in Gilberton with- the, uh..

A: What- yeah- can you tell me about, is this when the Constitutional Security Force rallied for you in protest after you got fired?

K: ...Yeah well I got suspend'it- I got suspend'it down there 'ats when at- that's when we had that big meeting down there...

A: Right. I remem- did- people stood outside the town hall with firearms in your defense, is that right?

K: Yeah, yeah., well there was a large majority of- oh'well I would say four hundred, probly, about like five or six hundred undercover state troopers working the crowd.. uh, they were working' the crowd, they were takin' license plate numbers, I mean they were doin' all kinds'a crazy shit, cuz, there was a group that had threatened to come up from Philadelphia to.. uh,

A: To Gilberton?

K: Yeah. To cause problems.

A: When was this?

K: Yeah, they t'reatened to come up to cause problems. Excuse me?

A: When was that?

K: That was.. I don't remember.

A: Just generally.

K: Yeah it was a while- it was like 2000- July... I believe it was in August 2000 and 13, that's when we-

A: Right after the videos.

K: Yeah, like my suspension me. That's when I got suspended. You know everybody was down there carryin' on. And there was a group that threatened to come up, y'know, hey we-we have guns, too, and we'll come u[too, y'know and so I was like, I co- contacted my guys I'm like listen, hey, I'm not gonna.. like, if somebody try's take a pop at me y'know, I'm just tellin' ya I'm gonna shoot back, I'm not- I'm not gonn- ya know.. so, uh..

A: Did you feel like your life was threatened at any time through this whole process?

K: Uh, no. I- it wasn't, uh.. it was a little, uh, scary..

A: (laughter)

K: ..at times. I remember meetin' some strange guy in the middle of a hotel in Arizona 'n uh.. y'know 'n he's like, lookin' at me like he's like "I just came back from the border for three days- I been layin' in the back'a my truck for three days watchin' these..." tellin' me he's gonna start killin' people down there, it's like, ya don't know who he is, uh.. it was a little, uh, different. I guess you could say. An' 'en yer supposed to go meet him down on the border.. at night.. it's, uh.. different, ya know, it got yer blood pumpin' put it that way.

A: Yeah.

K: It got yer blood pumpin'. So, uh.. and when I came back I mean I wrote a frickin nineteen page report about it from d'start to finish. That operation from all the way from Pennsylvania down we stopped to- picked up the 'surrectionists in Te- wh- in Tennessee, at a.. in Nashville.. an' we went from der down to Texas, and from Texas to Mexico, and from Mexico to Arizona.. and..

A: So what happened to these people? Are they locked up now?

K: The ones that were- the dangerous ones? Yeah, Oh God, yes, yeah. Uh, the last- the last guy that- the group- the last group that I was investigating was the group that took over that place in.. uh, Jesus, Oregon? They-

A: In Oregon- the Bundy Ranch?

K: Yeah- those- those-

A: I wanted to ask you about that, and your FaceBook page because I know you said in a recent email that those are impostor pages, that it's not your actual feed-

K: Yeah, yeah. They're not- they're not mine, yeah.

A: So that's not you at all, so that's- somebody just made a Chief Kessler FaceBook page and posts- posts on i- it's not you?

K: I don't know who it is- we don't know who it is but they're doing all that- it's whoever is connected to.. that Bundy Ranch (deep breath in) and that Pete Santilli guy.

A: It sound- yes! I was gonna ask y'- yeah I'm glad that you brought up these two groups- this is, these were my next questions actually. Um, because on, so- uh, you're saying that they actually took- invented- and took over a FaceBook page?

K: No they just, they- they- they created their own. My stuff was shut down at the end'a d'operations. My stuff was shut down. Uh, I came out at the

end'a the operations with everything (?inaudible: was overcome wit, then wen on Alan Colmes and said.): "Hey this is.. this is what was really goin' on" because I wanted to write a book (laughs.) To tell you the truth I wanna' write a book.

A: (Gasp) are you planning on writing a book?

K: I would like- I didn't start it yet, but I- I wanna write a book cuz I think it's a very.. interesting story to tell.

A: It's a very captivating story, yeah. I mean, you got to so man- you- I mean your videos went vi- uh.. viral and then, I mean, then you came out I think, what was that.. two years later and said then basically to the whole world who had been watching you that that was all false, and that you actually had this other identity.. I mean, the concept is really captivating.

K: Ha, haha.. it was interesting, I can tell ya that. Y'know they weren't happy about it.. when I abandoned the operation. Uh, like the feds and the state police were angry cuz I did that. I'm like "Well listen, hey, I can't be- I got (a life to live?) but you know what I mean- I can't be playin' this role my whole life.

A: Right.

K: No, I- y'know, I need t- st- t'back peddle a little bit here and say, this is what's goin' on, y'know, I wanna write a book someday about it, y'know.

A: And what about a reality TV show? I heard, I read something on the internet that you were- may, or, are in the planning stages of a reality show? Is that true?

K: There's a place that- there was a- uh, place in Hollywood, in California, that contact- Relativity TV, I think it was called.

A: What was it called?

K: They had said- Relativity TV or, somethin' like that? Relativity? Relativity somethin'

A: In California?

K: ..uh, Media?

A: Hm.

K: Yeah, I- might'a been Relativity Media, I think it was Relativity Media. They contacted me and they wanted to do, um, a reality TV show about militia and I was like, no. And so they sent me this paperwork and I gave it to the feds, you know, and they were like, listen what would it take for you to not do this?

A: (laughs) that's what they said to you?

K: That's what the FBI said to me. An' like, I'm sittin' in the parkin' lot wit dis, this state trooper in the back'a dis, uh, souped up Dodge Charger all blacked out- (laughter) y'know wit da radars in it an' every- undercover- undercover FBI car and the federal agent's in the driver's seat like.. What's it gonna take for you to not do this?

A: Did you tell him a million dollars?

K: (laughs) what's that?

A: Did you tell him a million dollars?

K: No, no, I didn't say anything. I said, I don't- I- I- truly don't think its gonna take- I don't think it's gonna go anywhere and just, so.. just so you guys know here's the big work that they did, I did everything for these- for the feds y'know and the whole nine yards.. so OK listen, sh- I never heard nuttin from these people again, so..

A: Was it a- was it a problem that you spoke out as much as you did about your experience with the FBI?

K: Uh.. as afar as wit the federal- as far as wit them? Or wit, just the public

A: Um did the government have any- did they take issue with you revealing your story to the public?

K: Uh.. yeah, I mean they were pissed off (laughs).. y'know they were like "what the hell" y'know "we could never use ya again." Well.. dat's da point, y'know, I-I-I- I'm out. I'm done. Like, this is the end'a the mission, y'know, this is two years 'n I'm burned out I mean, I didn't see any- any other, they weren't gonna like just throw me into another operation somewhere else, y'know, so..

A: Right. So, but back to, um, the Bundy Ranch. Did you say you actually- did you- were you on site there? Were you part of the SWAT team that broke up-

K: No..

A: ..their, um, I- y'know.. I read a lot about that just through the media and through things that were in the news that, you know, they had uh, they had like a bomb shelter and they were preparing to attack the government because they wanted to have the rights to occupy federal land.

K: They're insane. Yeah, correct, they're insane. I didn't go-

A: So you think they're crazy (laughs)

K: Absolutely. I didn't go, but there was people that kept in contact with me. People that said that they.. uh.. y'know that they were CSF members. And, hey- you wanna go and check that out go ahead you check it out, I wanna know what's goin' on there.

A: What? Why didn't you go? It sounds like that would be..

K: They wouldn't let me.

A: ..a goldmine for you. Who wouldn't let you?

K: It wa- it would'a been but they wouldn't let me.

A: Who? The feds?

K: No, the state police would not let me.

A: Why not?

K: No, no, the feds wanted me to go. But the state police didn't, so..

A: Why- also, why were you still in contact with- why, why did the state police have, um, kinda jurisdiction I guess over your actions at that time if you were working for the government? Were you still working for-

K: I signed wit the state. I signed wit the state- (alien noise)

A: So you had contracts with both?

K: Yeah. I had handlers from the state police and I had handlers from the feds. I only had one handler from the FBI compared to I had one, two.. I had three handlers from the state police that.. constantly monitored me. They gave me a cell phone that was government property. They paid for d'cell phone.. they, y'know..

A: So you were under surveillance, too.

K: Yeah, correct. Yea- well, they- once in a while I was, I mean they would- I can get- if I get killed (laughs) y'know what I mean, if I...

A: Right. That would be helpful (laughs)

K: Yeah, that would be helpful to know where I am so they gave me a-a cell phone to use at all times.. like I said they paid for it, they paid the bills, they paid for everything on the phone, uh, y'know, plus they gave me a little money every month, y'know, it wasn't much but they gave me a month- a monthly fee (*I think he means "stipend") like, and, uh.. Basically after that's- that's- that's what happened. It was fantastic- I think it was a fantastic opportunity- one that I could not-

A: So you don't regret it.

K: Absolutely not. Absolutely not, not at all. Not one bit of it. It was an experience where most local and I would say even state- even some state troopers, state police, absolutely would fantasize to be in- a position that they would absolutely love to be in, and I was given the chance on a silver platter.

A: It is movie material. It sounds like a- like I love the idea of you writing a book because it's ju- the idea is so compelling.

K: Oh- uh, I'd love to write a book (laughs) but my wife's not too- she's kinda laid back and shy.. she she doesn't like the spotlight.. Like she doesn't want.. 'n I'm like "hey I'm gonna write a book" 'n she's like "No! Absolutely not 'at'll ruin-" y'know, so..

A: (laughs) Um..

K: So, I don't- in a couple years I might write one.

A: So what- so how has this affected your personal life, really? Like- I mean- whatever you feel comfortable sharing, I don't mean to pry. But I mean, like, it sounds like you had this really.. I mean, extremely intense like physically demanding, dangerous, psychologically trying experience, and then you kinda just went back to normal. I mean are you in- are you in Frackville? That's where you live, correct?

K: Yeah. Yep.

A: So do you have any- because I- I still have, you know, a little.. I spent time in that area, I have family there and.. around Gilberton.. Are you just back into a kind of regular routine there? Was it difficult for you to transition back to your life in Northeastern Pennsylvania?

K: A little bit, you know, people looked at me like I was a complete lunatic, uh..

A: And there were some- I read something in the- I mean.. It's interesting for me to talk to you now, and I've also met you in person, I've seen you at

town hall meetings, um, there are things in the news that say, y'know, you're a terrible person, that you lash out at people and you create arguments and you're violent. How do you deal with that? Even on a daily basis.

K: Well, y'know, I'm not popular wit the politicians. Cuz'a- wh- I- I- y'know, one part of my, uh, one part of my routine I guess if you wanna call it that, here, was to belittle politicians. Y'say "hey these people are idiots." Y'know, I- I- 'n they are. I mean I truly believe summa these politicians out there are- I mean they're definitely corrupt-

A: Are you speaking locally or on a-

K: Like on a local level.

A: OK

K: Like on a local level. A lotta the politicians that I know in this area- a lotta them are corrupt, there's good ones and there's bad ones and I let them know and I let them have it. Y'know the bad ones I let them have it. Uh- on the radio, y'know, I had my own radio program for a little while, and..

A: Right, I used to listen to it.

K: ..and it was all part'a this whole.. I dunno what ya wanna call it, mission.. or this whole, whatever, to bring in intelligence.

A: Right.

K: It was all a part'a bringin' in intelligence. Uh, I was the intelligence guy, so they were mad at me Uh, even after, all the stuff came out. Y'know I tried to explain I was workin' wit da state, I was working wit da feds, the whole nine yards, live and let live, blah, blah, blah, well they didn't see it that way. Uh, y'know..

A: Do you feel or has anyone- do you feel or has anybody ever accused you of saying like "Hey, this guy, y'know, put out these videos, it cost him his job. Maybe he's embarrassed or maybe he regrets it so he just came

up with this story.”

K: Y- no, no, I mean- somebody had said, who was it- (*sounds like “the young Turk” ??) said somethin’ like that, y’know, uh, because’a the way I was carryin’ on about liberals and all that stuff. Y’know, and they really- they were really.. they were really offended by that. So, I think (*young Turks??) said “Yeah all this he’s just, he’s playin’ this, he’s playin’ that or whatever.” But no, uh, y’don’t uh- it’d be impossible, like it’s impossible to come up with stuff like that. It’s impossible.

A: So you think most people believe- most people believe you is what I’m saying, like when you tell your story.

K: Correct.

A: OK

K: Yeah, correct. Ev- all the law enforcement guys are like “Nah I can’t believe like, y’know, that was unbelievable an’ they would’a did the same thing if they had the opportunity they woulda jumped.

A: Right.

K: Y’know it was an opportunity of a lifetime an’ I wasn’t passin’ it up. Y’know, uh

A: Right.

K: I still talk to summa the troopers. I don’t talk to the FBI guys. They’re off doin’ bigger and better things, uh, but the state troopers I still- still talk to them, I hang out wit them every once in a while you know, uh, and they’re still, they’re great guys. They need information on somebody in the area they’re like “you know this guys?” they’ll call me up and uh- uh, and if I see something that’s out of the norm, I’ll let them know about it too y’know.

A: But you’re not actively working in a law enforcement position anymore is that-

K: Nah, uh-uh- no, no. I'm fully retired from law enforcement.

A: OK

K: Got my retirement, got my card, for my retired ID card, the whole nine yards, so..

A: Yeah.

K: Like I'm out. And that's basically it, I mean..

A: I have- I have one question to ask you, too, that's um.. So when I- I first met you at the town hall meeting I actually read- I saw you first on the news- this was year ago, it was right- it was right around the same time you were sort of starting this mission it seems. It was 2012, 2013..

K: Yea.

A: And *then* we went to the shooting range. And I remember it so clearly. It was like the hottest day of summer. It was July 17th 2013..

K: (laughs)

A: ..and you picked me up in your Hummer with a machine gun on the dashboard.

K: Uh-huh.

A: .. and we drove to the shooting range near Gilberton and I shot a fun for the first time.

K: Yeah, yeah.

A: And I still saved those- I saved all the bullet shells (laughs) because that experience...

K: (laughs)

A: a) was sort of crazy to begin with I mean I had never shot a gun, and then here I was shooting, y'know, a fully automatic assault rifle which was insane. But then..

K: Yeah, yeah.

A: ..you can probably imagine my fear in seeing those videos.

K: Yeah.

A: I think it was literally two or three days later

K: Hahaha

A: ..where I was like "Oh my God." This guy didn't seem like a threat at the time, and here now I'm witnessing this just through like, viral.. just y'know these violent videos speaking viral on the internet. So, um, my question is when we were on the shooting range that day did you already have your plan in place? Did you know what you were about to do?

K: Yeah, yeah. Cuz I was leavin' for Texas. Right after dat, 'bout a few days after dat, I was leavin' for Texas and that's when I released 'em that's when I put them out, uh..

A: So had you already started.. the- working for the federal government ?

K: They're- nah, no. The videos were already over. They were already made, and- and-

A: Oh you had already made the videos, yu were waiting to post them?

K: What's that?

A: You had already recorded the videos and you were waiting to post them?

K: Yeah. They were uploaded to like YouTube. We already had them- I had them uploaded to YouTube. I didn't share den wit the state police, d'FBI..

A: But your strategy was already in play.

K: Correct, yeah. They had no idea what I was up to, y'know, an' I didn't-

A: Neither did I! (laughs)

K: ..I truly.. exactly, like, an' nobody knew. A- and I didn't know the response was gonna be so big; I had no idea. I thought maybe we'd get some response like I knew we wold get some'thin out of it, but I had no idea.. it would just *explode* like- like- I had no idea it would get that much attention, uh, which kinda freaked everybody out, I mean..

A: Did it freak you out?

K: ..we were freaked out, I was freaked out the state was really fr- they were freaked out, the FBI was freaked out, they're like holy shit y'know, how'r we gonna handle this.. y'know, they're- they're like "holy shit"

A: Right- because like you said you had a duty, I mean these people who were dangerous say- they were basically confiding in you, revealing their plans to kill people, right, so you had that duty to report it to someone.

K: Correct.

A: (big breath in) yeah.. it's an a- it's an amazing story (laughs)..

K: Yeah, it was a wild time. It was a really, really, wild ride I'll tell ya that an' I loved every minute of it, I mean, yeah. I met some- I met some good people-

A: Mm-hm.

K: ..uh, that were just all about, hey protectin' their rights and that's all they wanted to do is make sure that, hey, nobody infringed on our second amendment, y'know, uh, and then I met some really.. really, really, crazy, crazy, people.. like really crazy people, y'know, wit da cult churches, there's

a guy-

A: You met people like that? Who were living in like, cults and bomb shelters and things like that?

K: Yeah, there was a- there was a guy from Bangor, PA, George- his name is George Cook, uh.. he- I don't know if he's a real pastor or not, he has like a, i- it's like a cult-type church in a basement..? It was really *freaky*, like, he's just a weirdo, uh..

A: And they were con- they were sorta' reaching out to you to confide in you?

K: Yeah- they- yeah reached right out to me as George Cook because A) I think he wanted to use me as a platform to recruit individuals that thought like him, into his church, his cult.

A: People who were exploiting the second amendment for these twisted kinda' reasons?

K: Correct, correct.

A: Wow. Who was the weirdest person or the weirdest group who encountered?

K: Uh..? Uh, I mean, there's just so many a'them..

A: I mean I guess a cult in Bangor, Pennsylvania sounds pretty unusual (laughs)

K: Y'know der's a- der's a group'a people dat call themselves, uh, T.I.'s or targeted individuals where day believe dat the government puts voices from- from the satellites into their head..

A: Y'know what? I was gonna' ask you, throughout- like through this experience how much do you think mental illness plays a role in the way people interpret..

K: (muffled) Huge.

A: ..concepts like the second amendment? A- a huge role, you said?

K: Yeah, I think it plays a lot, there's a lotta people that need, that need, uh, y'know, a lotta.. uh- uh- some kinda psychiatric drug.

A: I mean to me that just- that sounds like schizophrenia, it sounds like maybe like, people who would've joined the Manson Family.

K: Correct. And these are older people, I mean these are not, I mean these people, the one that were from Michigan came down and then.. wow. I mean, Alex Jones, did you ever hear of the Alex Jones Show?

A: No, is that a radio show or a TV show?

K: It's like a.. internet thing.

A: Oh.

K: All you do is google search Alex Jones, he's like this conspiracy theorist wack job. Uh, but it's all entertainment, y'know, and these people think it's real, I mean.. these people think.. that they're being *followed*. That there's drones followin' them around the country no matter where they go.. and they travel- this one guy travels all over the- oh, he travels all over the country, passin' paraphernalia out.

A: I bet he has a following, too.

K: ..What's that?

A: I said I bet he has a following, too. I wouldn't be surprised.

K: Uh, I'm not really sure if he has a *following*. He's- he's part of a group..

A: Mm-hm.

K: ..that are- are from like, all over the country they- they consider

themselves targeted individuals like I said and the government sends messages to them from satellites, directly into their skull. They say, oh, it's called "voice-to-skull technology" or "word of God." And they're like really freaky people, man, I mean, eh.. totally, uh- totally off the wall. *Nice*- like the one guy was nice, real nice.. and the one time I didn't show up ta.. ta.. like, one'a these things.. and he was really nasty after that to me.

A: So you had to attend like, meetings and gathering and t things with people like that?

K: Yeah. W- that's where I'd get the information I'd get their license plate numbers and their names and stuff like that. Cell phone. Cell phone if- if they had cell phones if they'd give me their cell phone numbers, y know. Just fer the people that I thought were.. bad. What I learned from my law enforcement experience is I had choose, and kinda weed through them and say well this guy's.. he's here because.. he wants to defend his rights. Y'know he's not an insurrectionist and he's- he doesn't believe, y'know.. y'know, that y'don't need laws, y'don't need anything like that y'don't need cops 'er anything 'n.. he's a good guy. He's just worried about his rights.

A: Was that a difficult distinction to make? Like you said, like the kinda bad guy-

K: No. Not at all.

A: So you were able to tell that fairly easily?

K: No, it wasn't hard at all. Uh, y'know.. considering the people that came to me it was pretty easy (laughs)

A: Oh yeah, cuz theban guys were probably pretty forthcoming.

K: Yeah, they talked about some really off-the-wall shit, an' I, an' I- mean it's just stuff that I never heard the word- I didn't even know what the word "insurrectionist" meant.. until I got a call from the LA times. 'N they wanted- they wanted to do an interview wit me and they were like "are you an insurrectionist?" and I said "What's that?" I didn't know what it was.

A: Mm.-hm.

K: I had google it. I google- googles searched the word: “insurrectionist” and I’m like “holy shit.”

A: (laughs)

K: Y’know and I was asked.. the FBI came to me ’n said ‘ey said we wanna put you on the cover of, uh, the Southern Poverty Law Center’s magazine.

A: Southern what?

K: They were gonna put me on the cover of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s magazine.. uh, they asked me about that they were like, d’ya mind bein’ on the cover, if ya don’t wanna be on the cover we don’t put ya on I said Absolutely put me on. I said that adds credibility to me. And that’s more information that I could get and I would use, y’know, maybe to stop a mass killing somewhere, who knows? I said do it, go fer it. So, I have the magazine somewhere. It’s, oh, it’s Southern Poverty Law Center track-circulates throughout the United States.

A: So I have to ask you..

K: Go ahead.

A: ..what do you think about Donald Trump?

K: Uh.. I think he’s.. I think he’s a good guy at heart. That- that obviously he’s not stupid. He’s a very smart businessman. Uh, he’s not a politician.

A: Mm-hm.

K: He kinda talks off the cuff. Uh.. i- it-s kinda refreshing to see something to that, talkin’ off the cuff a little bit, y’know, he’s not kinda like robotic goin’ along with all the- all the nonsense. Where (laughs) I mean.. (sigh) I don’t know about Hillary Clinton, there’s just so much stuff going on about her right now, I mean.. who’s hacked into her servers an’ the- the wikileaks are poppin’ stuff out into the mainstream media.. y’know, how they were-

they got videos sayin' der gonna go to the Trump rallies and start riots.. this 'n that.. uh, that's just dirty. I don't think politics should be that way. I- I th- it shouldn't be a nasty drug out fight it should be, hey, I'm a good person, you're a good person; let the people decide. It shouldn't be: uh, look what he did to women and look what he did to women.. 'n what her husband did to this one... y'know it's just.. i-it's outta control. I think it's just way outta control, but.. I think Donald Trump he's a good guy.

A: Do you look- after your experience do you look at people differently or maybe think.. er- at least say with this, y'know, current political climate and with the election pending, do you look at people and think maybe they also have these kind of.. secret or covert roles elsewhere in their lives?

K: Eh..

A: Or did that not quite affect your perspective of other people?

K: I'm not really sure I mean, some- I mean these were some people that I met that I know for a fact were kinda like sent to infiltrate me.. y'know? Uh..

A: I- yeah. I mea- I guess what I'm asking is like wh- I would think maybe that would make me a little paranoid, right? Like say I- I- I know that I'm doing something behind closed doors I would start assuming other people do the same thing.

K: Yeah, I mean there was people that came to me... pretending to be something that they weren't. They were workin- they were workin' the government- the- I- I personally believe that they were workin wit the FBI and the FBI wasn't really 100% sure on me yet. Y'know, how I was gonna turn out, 'n, y'know even though I was a cop and I swore to them I was like "this is what I'm doin' " I'm wit dem like even though I work day in and day out and like.. they havin' to make sure everything is gonna be OK y'know, so...

A: Yeah.

K: I-it's people- there's people- there's people out there that have all kinds of agendas. That's just the way it is.

A: Right.

K: Y'know?

A: And I just have one last question. Because it's, um, just about Gilberton. Is there any law enforcement there now? Or was it sort of like, after you left.. is there anybody..

K: Well..

A: ..is there (laughs) Is there a police force in Gilberton, Pennsylvania?

K: No, there's not. The state police cover it now. I don't- I mean they don't have a police force now, no.

A: So where would they be get- is that like Pottsville? Where would they- where is the state- like if- say something happened in Gilberton and there was an emergency, like who would respond to that? How long would it take?

K: State police.

A: State police.

K: Uh, depending on if there was a trooper available, depending on where they were.. y'know, just hangin' out.. ten minutes.

A: Yeah.

K: Y'know if they're out of patrol outside.. up by.. Hazleton? Y'know yer thinking about thirty minutes.

A: Yeah.

K: So, it just depends. The time'a day, (the time'a week?) Up here in the Frackville barracks...

A: Yeah.

K: But no yeah. They don't have a police force. I mean there's a lot that went on in Gilberton that I didn't agree with as far as.. uh, the politics and the mayor.. there was a whole lot, I mean I- I can't (discuss?) it because I signed a piece'a paper and I said I wouldn't talk about it, but, y'know, (something?) \$30,000, so (laughs) so, y'know ..

A: Yeah.

K: ..and that was all because of the mayor because I know too much about the mayor 'n.. y'know, uh, that was another reason why I was lookin' to get outta the local politics because I knew too much what was goin' on and that's just- that's just where I was an' I didn't wanna be involved wit that. There was a lot that was goin' on an' I- I had the information on the people, some pretty high people.. um, politicians, DA's, state- state heads.. for some reason it was not- nothin' was taken care of er nothin' was looked into so, uh, y'know..

A: SO you moved onto bigger and more challenging jobs (laughter)

K: Yeah, it was challenging I'll tell ya that (whistles)

A: Well, it's amazing.. yeah.

K: I had a good time. I had a good time, y'know I wouldn't trade it for the world. Just the experience, all the workin wit the FBI on such a level like that was unbelievable, uh, it was just unbelievable the amount of professionalism those agents have was probably one of the most important parts of my law enforcement career, was to see that. Cuz I'd- actually didn't believe that there was much professionalism in the local police departments. Some in the state, uh, but as far as the local police office was concerned there was no professionalism. There's a lotta stuff that goes on behind closed doors... at the local police departments, that you see on TV and it's absolutely right, I mean you see it- you see 'em doin crazy stuff. I mean they're shootin' people dead. I mean they're droppin' guns by their bodies y'know, uh, what that guy did in South Carolina or North Carolina wherever it was. That black guy had- he dropped- I guess

he dropped his gun he had a hand gun he turned around the gun the guy took it shot him in the back, the trooper shot him in the back, whatever it was, three or four times. Went over, picked up the guy's gun and threw it by his body, y'know. Like that shit goes on all the time. Uh, y'know, just look at- look at Shenandoah ("Shen'doh") borough it's right next to Gilberton, what they did. Their whole- half their police force is arrested by the FBI, y'know.. fer doin' all kinds crazy shit. There's more bodies in the Shenandoah police station holding cell than there is over a hundret' year period in Schuylkill county prison. I mean, it's just- the shit that goes on.. at the local level.

A: A lot of corruption.

K: A *whole* lotta corruption. And, uh, it was time for me to go because I just could not deal with the local politicians anymore I just couldn't take it.

A: Yeah.

K: I just couldn't take it and the things they wanted me to do and that was it, so.. workin'- me movin' on wit the feds and the state was absolutely fantastic. It showed me a side'a law enforcement that I always wanted to be with, I always wanted to work wit, the professionals, the ones that truly believe in the cause. Their- their- ther whole (cause? law?) is the Constitution, so, just what it's really like to be a true law enforcement officer and I loved it. Absolutely loved it.

A: Yeah to sounds like you got to live your dream.

K: Yeah it was good I mean, I- I absolutely loved it. I absolutely loved- I would do it again in a heartbeat.

A: Yeah.

K: A little different, a little different this time (laughs) y'know just a little different. But I would definitely- uh, given the opportunity, I would definitely work with those guys again. Uh, and do that kind of infiltration work, intelligence work, undercover work like that.. It was absolutely unbelievable. Unbelievable.

A: Yeah. Well thank you so much for updating me and sharing your story. I mean, I feel honored that you were able to tell me everything and, um, yeah. It's.. it's really compelling.

K: Well if there's a time you ever wanna, y'know, if you ever feel like writin' a book sometime, you could be my... biographer (laughs).. y'know?

A: (gasp) Doesn't!- I mean- to be honest.. it's a really.. interesting idea, you writing a book. I mean, its a (laugh) really, really, compelling story. Yeah.

K: Yeah, I think of, like I- I was gonna do it a few years ago, y'know, uh, I was gonna start writin' one 'n I was goin' through everything 'n...

A: ..Yeah. Well, yeah, I mean it's good to be, y'know, back in touch, so I- you- yeah- you have my e-mail 'n, um..

K: Absolutely. Well, hey if you have any questions or anything like that, er-'know, hit me up.

A: OK! Yeah, that sounds great. Thank you so much. Have a great night,

K: You too. Take care.

A: OK. Bye bye.

K: Bye bye.