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# MailOnline

## 'We are heartbroken this could happen again': Obama says Fort Hood shooting has brought back painful memories of 2009 attack at Army base

- President vows that investigators will get to bottom of shooting
- Death toll from lone gunman's attack rises to 4

By [Jessica Jerreat](#)

Published: 19:53 EST, 2 April 2014 | Updated: 08:15 EST, 3 April 2014

President Obama vowed that investigators will get to the bottom of the shooting at Fort Hood, Texas, as he tried to reassure the nation after the attack that has left at least four dead.

Obama said he and his team were closely monitoring the situation, and said details about the attack on the large Army base were still not clear.

He added that the shooting had brought back painful memories of the attack in 2009, when 13 people were killed in what was the deadliest attack on a domestic military base in U.S. history.

**Scroll down for video**



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**'Painful memories': Barack Obama vowed that investigators will get to the bottom of the shooting**

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'We're heartbroken that something like this might have happened again,' Obama said.

As he offered thoughts and prayers to the Texas community, the President pledged to do everything possible to ensure Fort Hood had everything it needed to deal with the investigation.

Standing in front of a black curtain, with an American flag nearby, Obama reflected on the sacrifices that troops stationed at Fort Hood have made, including multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

'They serve with valor, they serve with distinction and when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe,' Obama said.

[Obama 'heartbroken' over Fort Hood shooting](#)



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**Concern: Military wives try to contact their husbands during the lock down at Fort Hood**

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**Anxious wait: Lucy Hamlin and her husband Timothy, wait to be allowed back on the base where they live**



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**Lock down: Military police stop traffic on the way into the Texas base**

'We don't yet know what happened tonight, but obviously that sense of safety has been broken once again.'

## Fort Hood: Scene of deadliest attack on domestic base in U.S. history



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Death penalty: Major Nidal Hasan

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On November 5, 2009, Major Nidal Hasan opened fire in a processing center for soldiers returning from or leaving for active duty.

His attack killed 13 people, including a pregnant soldier, and injured more than 30.

Hasan's deadly rampage ended when military police shot him, paralyzing the Army Major, who is Muslim, from the waist down.

Hasan, who was 40 at the time of his attack, had been raised in Virginia and joined the Army after high school.

He regularly treated soldiers returning from war zones and was believed to have been unhappy about an upcoming deployment.

Hasan used two handguns in the 10-minute attack and fired 146 bullets.

He told a military court he carried out the shootings to protect Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan.

Last August he was sentenced to death after being found guilty of 13 counts of premeditated murder, and 32 counts of attempted murder.

He added: 'Obviously this reopens the pain of what happened at Fort Hood five years ago.'

Obama's comments came as officials said four people were dead and 14 had been wounded at the Army base.

A military official confirmed the shooter, a soldier identified by local representative Michael McCaul as 34-year-old Ivan Lopez, shot himself dead at the base.

The shooter is one of the four reported deaths and was being diagnosed with PTSD.

A Fort Hood Official said the attack was not related to terrorism.

The shooter is believed to have been armed with a .45 pistol and the shooting reportedly took place around the medical barracks.

The injured were taken to Darnall Army Community Hospital at Fort Hood and other local hospitals.

Dr Glen Couchman, chief medical officer at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, said the first four people admitted there had gunshots to chest, abdomen, neck and extremities and that their conditions range from stable to 'quite critical'.

A witness told [News 10](#) that about 20 shots were fired in a post motor pool in the area of Motor Pool Road and Tank Destroyer Boulevard.

The witness said he saw at least three people struck by bullets, and all three were taken to hospital.

The base was put on lock down, with those on it ordered to stay away from windows and doors.

Family members of soldiers based at Fort Hood were seen trying to reach their loved ones by cell phones as they waited for news.

The President was informed of the incident while he was at a steakhouse for a Democratic National Committee fundraiser.

He addressed the nation without notes or prepared remarks in the same room of the Chicago restaurant where he had just met with about 25 donors.

White House officials quickly pushed tables to the side of the room to make room for Obama to speak to the nation.

The President, who said 'any shooting is trouble,' is due to return to the White House on Wednesday evening.

Fort Hood had been the scene of another deadly shooting on November 5, 2009 when Army psychiatrist Major Nidal Hasan killed 13 people and injured dozens more.

Hasan, who became a radical Muslim while serving in the U.S. forces, is currently on military death row. He claimed his attack was revenge for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Message of support: The President addressed the nation from a restaurant where he had

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[DA](#), USA, United Kingdom, 2 hours ago

This is the result of Military budget cuts by the current administration. Not all money for the defense dept. is allocated to the construction of bombs, missiles, and bullets.

[4](#)  
[16](#)

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[wynnosu](#), Dublin, United States, 2 hours ago

Good God, is there anything this clown won't do to get his face on camera? Pretending to be concerned about people who actually serve this country with honor. What he has EVER done that is honorable? The fake ass punk was at a political fundraiser when he gave this latest heart-felt speech. I wonder who wrote it for him and if he needed a teleprompter to read the words. Such a complete phony.

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[B4everfree](#), Oklahoma city, United States, 2 hours ago

this guy couldn't careless for anyone but himself.

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[dtb](#), Washington, DC, 3 hours ago

"Canada has gun control laws and hasn't seen a mass shooting in ages. The US has no gun control laws and there are shootings all the time. Do the math. - MrsL, Vancouver Canada, 4/3/14, 1:16 PM" Common sense statement and red Arrows. Crazy right wingers!

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[The UiNeill](#), Arlington Texas USA, United States, 2 hours ago

the United States has a lot of "gun laws". The reason we have a 2nd amendment giving all citizens to bare arms is because of King George's oppression and tax. He was a dictator and we will not live under a dictator.

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[ed0315](#), patchogue, United States, 3 hours ago

This lying POS "President" really needs to go to hell.

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[dtb](#), Washington, DC, 3 hours ago

"How many base shootings have their been under your watch Obama, how many before your watch? - rad666, Boston MA., United States, 4/3/14, 2:13 PM" You're seeing the results of soldiers coming home from war. Who sent them there?

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[dtb](#), Washington, DC, 3 hours ago

"If obama really did care for our troops, he would have labeled the nut job Husan's attempt to kill our troops at ft hood a few years back terrorism and given the victims and their families considerable compensation. Obama doesn't have a heart or care for our troops at all. :( - Dragonslayer, Stevensville, 4/3/14, 4:04 PM" Surely, you're smart enough to know that the President doesn't make those decisions. The military has its own rules.

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[JimB](#), Carmel, 3 hours ago

No, it was the Obama administration which ruled it an act of workplace violence as opposed to terrorism. The military takes its cue from Obama and did not consider these people's injuries to be a result of the Global War on Terrorism. No Purple Hearts, no immediate compensation. One Executive Order would have changed all of that overnight.

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[Dragonslayer](#), Stevensville, 4 hours ago

If obama really did care for our troops, he would have labeled the nut job Husan's attempt to kill our troops at ft hood a few years back terrorism and given the victims and their families considerable compensation. Obama doesn't have a heart or care for our troops at all. :(

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[amt](#), usa, 4 hours ago

Obama isn't heartbroken one bit.

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[amt](#), usa, 4 hours ago

Obama isn't heartbroken one bit.

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