

[Home](#) • [Briefing Room](#) • [Statements & Releases](#)

Search WhiteHouse.gov

Search

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 15, 2010

Public Summary of the Inventory of Files Related to Fort Hood Shooting**BACKGROUND**

On November 5, 2009, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, U.S. Army, entered the Army Base at Fort Hood, TX, and opened fire on a group of fellow soldiers. Before he could be stopped by law enforcement officers, Hasan fatally shot 13 members of the U.S. Army and injured 32 others, most of them military personnel. Hasan has been charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) with 13 specifications of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. He is currently awaiting trial.

Following the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, on November 6, 2009, the President convened a meeting of his national security team to discuss what was known to the Government about this incident. During that meeting, upon learning what was known at the time about the shooting and the individual believed to be responsible, the President immediately directed an immediate inventory be conducted of all information in United States Government files that existed prior to November 5, 2009, relevant to the shooting and the alleged shooter, Major Nidal Malik Hasan. In addition, the President directed that a review be initiated to determine how any such information was handled, shared, and acted upon within and across departments and agencies. The relevant agencies and departments were directed to report their findings to the President by November 30. Following is a summary of what was learned as a result of this inquiry, as well as the recommendations for improvements going forward.

It is important to point out that this review is just one part of this story. Two additional reviews are being conducted to determine whether additional lessons can be learned as to how the U.S. Government can better protect the American people, including our brave men and women in uniform. First, the Secretary of Defense ordered an independent review of Department of Defense (DOD) policies and procedures to identify potential security threats within the military. The initial findings of that review, which was conducted by former Admiral Vernon Clark and former Army Secretary Togo West, were made public today, January 15, 2010. Second, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asked Judge William Webster to conduct a broad review of the FBI's handling of information relative to Major Hasan, including looking at laws and policies that govern the FBI's actions.

In the days and weeks following the shooting, all agencies and departments of the United States Government conducted a thorough search of their files to determine whether they were in possession of information about the shooting by Major Hasan. The results of those searches were reported to the President on December 1 and have already been briefed to appropriate Members and Committees of Congress. Because of the sensitivity of the information, and the concern that disclosure could jeopardize the ongoing criminal investigation and prosecution by the military, some of the information uncovered during those searches cannot be shared publicly at this time.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to gathering the facts, the President ordered this review to determine whether there are ways in which the U.S. Government could enhance its ability to protect the American people. We must always look critically at the events leading up to any tragic event like this in order to determine whether things should be done differently in the future. To that end, the departments and agencies involved in this review took a careful look to see whether systemic changes could enhance their ability to keep Americans safe from violent attacks. They have made several recommendations that have been endorsed by the President.

- **Processes and Protocols:** Though information sharing between agencies and departments has improved dramatically since September 2001, there is still room for improvement in certain areas. Communication protocols between DOD and the Department of Justice regarding disaffected individuals, in particular, need to be improved, and the policies governing information sharing and cooperation between the two departments on investigative matters require additional clarification and re-calibration.
- **Intelligence and Law Enforcement Analysis:** A more thorough and layered analysis of certain information available to intelligence and law enforcement personnel must be conducted, along with ensuring the appropriate allocation of resources to accomplish that goal.

[Facebook](#)[YouTube](#)[Twitter](#)[Vimeo](#)[Flickr](#)[iTunes](#)[MySpace](#)[LinkedIn](#)**HELP** *for* **HAITI**[Learn What You Can Do](#)

- **Information Technology:** The United States Government must continue to enhance its information technology in order to better and more readily identify relevant data.
- **Training:** The Joint Terrorism Task Forces should improve their personnel training, including of detailees from other departments and agencies, to ensure that those assigned are both adequately equipped and fully aware of all available tools to perform the critical tasks they are called upon to complete.

This review was conducted on an accelerated timeline to identify issues of concern or potential vulnerabilities in our systems and to immediately take appropriate corrective measures. The preliminary report was provided to the President weeks ago, and several steps have already been taken to implement the specific recommendations. It is critical that we act quickly to put them into place to strengthen our ability to ensure the safety and security of the American people going forward, particularly those who serve in our Armed Forces. However, as we have no doubt learned through our experience, taking these steps does not allow us to claim that the work is done. This inventory and review, as well as the reviews taking place within DOD and the Intelligence Community, is part of an ongoing process to constantly evaluate and improve upon the tools and defenses we have in place to protect the American people against all forms of violence.

###

Note: This summary reflects preliminary findings to facilitate immediate corrective action. Neither the report nor its findings obviate the need for continued review and analysis to ensure that we have the fullest possible understanding of any systemic problems that need to be addressed to ensure that we do everything we can to prevent the sort of senseless violence that took place on November 5, 2009, from occurring again. Note further that sensitive intelligence data was removed from this public report to protect sources and methods.

Our Government

The Executive Branch
 The Legislative Branch
 The Judicial Branch
 The Constitution
 Federal Agencies & Commissions
 Elections & Voting
 State & Local Government
 Resources

Home

The White House Blog

Photos & Videos

Photo Galleries
 Video
 Live Streams
 Podcasts

Issues

Civil Rights
 Defense
 Disabilities
 Economy
 Education
 Energy & Environment
 Ethics
 Family
 Fiscal Responsibility
 Foreign Policy
 Health Care
 Homeland Security
 Immigration
 Poverty
 Rural
 Seniors & Social Security
 Service
 Taxes
 Technology
 Urban Policy
 Veterans
 Women
 Additional Issues

Briefing Room

Your Weekly Address
 Speeches & Remarks
 Press Briefings
 Statements & Releases
 Presidential Actions
 Featured Legislation
 Nominations & Appointments
 Disclosures

The Administration

President Barack Obama
 Vice President Joe Biden
 First Lady Michelle Obama
 Dr. Jill Biden
 The Cabinet
 White House Staff
 Executive Office of the President

About the White House

History
 Presidents
 First Ladies
 The Oval Office
 The Vice President's Residence & Office
 Eisenhower Executive Office Building
 Camp David
 Air Force One
 White House Fellows
 White House Internships
 White House 101
 Tours & Events

WWW.WHITEHOUSE.GOV

En español | Accessibility | Copyright Information | Privacy Policy | Contact
 USA.gov | Subscribe to RSS Feeds | Apply for a Job