

Gunman in Fort Hood shooting, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, shouted 'Allahu Akbar' before deadly attack

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The gunman in the Fort Hood massacre hollered "Allahu Akbar!" before embarking on a bloody rampage that left more than a dozen dead, an onlooker told investigators.

"We do have a witness who reported that," Col. John Rossi said Friday morning.

"Allahu Akbar" means "God is great" in Arabic.

At the morning briefing, Rossi also praised Officer Kimberly Munley, a civilian cop who exchanged gunfire with Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan and shot him four times - even after she was hit.

"She did a remarkable job," Rossi said.

Hasan was unconscious but in stable condition, breathing with the aid of a ventilator. Munley was also in stable condition, officials said.

"She walked up and basically engaged him," Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, the base commander at Fort Hood, said on 'Good Morning America' Friday. "I think, certainly, this could've been far worse."

Witnesses described Hasan, who was wearing an Army uniform during the assault, as steely calm. He paused only to reload one of his handguns. After the Thursday shooting, Hasan lay motionless, leading officials to mistakenly assume he was dead.

Battle-hardened Sgt. Howard Appleby of the Bronx said the shooting was over when he arrived, but "it looked like a war zone."

"There was blood everywhere," said Appleby, 31. "It was unbelievable. Guys were screaming and yelling. People were rushing to help. I took my shirt off and began assisting the wounded."

The death toll from the murderous attack rose from 12 to 13 early Friday after a woman died from gunshot wounds. Rossi said 28 people were recovering from their injuries.

While security remained tight on the nation's largest military base, the emergency lockdown was lifted.

President Obama ordered that flags be flown at half staff on all federal buildings until Veteran's Day, which is next Wednesday, as "a modest tribute" to the victims.

"We don't know all the answers yet," Obama said. "What we do know there are families, friends and an entire nation grieving right now."

Hasan, an Army shrink who specialized in combat stress, was about to be deployed to Afghanistan. Sources close to him said he objected to going to battle against other Muslims.

After the shooting, soldiers on the sprawling base scurried to help the wounded. Some tore off pieces of their uniforms to make bandages to treat the injured.

Cone praised the soldiers for their quick reaction.

"God bless these soldiers," Cone said. "As horrible as this was it could have been worse."