

Just in from Associated Free Press

Flags Lowered to Half-Staff After Attack- Friday November 6, 2009

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama Friday ordered flags to fly at half-staff to honor the 13 people killed on a Texas army base, but urged Americans not to jump to conclusions about why the attack occurred.

"From now until Veterans Day I ordered the flags at the White House and other federal buildings to be flown at half-staff," Obama said, referring to November 11 when the nation remembers those killed in wartime.

"This is a modest tribute to those who lost their lives even as many were preparing to risk their lives for their country."

The US president said he had been briefed Friday by FBI chief Robert Mueller and other agencies after the attack at Fort Hood blamed on a Muslim army psychiatrist that left 13 dead and 30 wounded.

"We don't know all of the answers yet. I would caution against jumping to conclusions until we have all of the facts," Obama added.

"What we do know is that their families, friends, and an entire nation is grieving right now for the valued men and women that came under attack yesterday in one of the worst mass shootings ever to take place on an American military base."

Obama vowed the US administration would provide regular updates as the investigation into Thursday's attack unfolds.

He added that he honored the service of all military personnel. "We stand in awe of their sacrifice and we pray for the safety of those who fight and for the families of those who have fallen."

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