

## FORT HOOD SHOOTING

# Americans Disagree with Banning Muslims from Serving in Military

*But almost half of respondents expect an incident similar to the Fort Hood shooting to happen again at other military bases.*

[SAN FRANCISCO – Nov. 13, 2009] – While the recent shooting at Fort Hood has not resulted in a massive backlash against Muslims serving in the U.S. military, roughly half of Americans are concerned about the possibility of similar incidents happening inside other bases, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

On Nov. 5, 13 people were killed and 30 more were wounded when a gunman opened fire inside Fort Hood, the most populous United States military base in the world.

The suspected gunman has been identified as Nidal Malik Hasan, an army psychiatrist and a Muslim.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,005 American adults, more than three-in-four respondents (78%) say they have followed news stories about the recent shooting at Fort Hood very or moderately closely.

Roughly half of Americans (48%) believe a similar incident is likely to happen again at other military bases across the country, while one-third (32%) consider the Fort Hood shooting an isolated incident.

### KEY FINDINGS

- **32% say Fort Hood shooting is an isolated incident; 48% think a similar incident is likely to happen again at other military bases across the country**
- **33% would ban Muslims from serving in the U.S. military**
- **61% say the fact that Major Nidal Malik Hasan is a Muslim is relevant to the investigation into this incident**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From November 11 to November 12, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.*

### CONTACT:

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

Three-in-five Americans (61%) believe that Hasan is a Muslim is relevant to the investigation into this incident. Still, just a third of respondents (33%) express opposition to Muslims being allowed to serve in the U.S. military.

Respondents in the South are more likely to support banning Muslims from serving in the U.S. military (41%, compared to 31% in the West, and 28% in both the Northeast and the Midwest).

### **Views on Islam**

Only one-in-five Americans (19%) express a favorable opinion of Islam, while two-in-five (43%) hold unfavorable views. A third of Americans believe that mainstream Islam encourages violence against non-Muslims, while a slightly higher proportion (39%) regards mainstream Islam as a peaceful religion.

---

### **CONTACT:**

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**Forth Hood Shooting**

How closely have you followed news stories about the recent shooting at Fort Hood?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>Very closely</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Moderately closely</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Not too closely</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Not closely at all</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>10%</b>

**Forth Hood Shooting**

Do you think the Fort Hood shooting is an isolated incident, or do you think a similar incident is likely to happen again at other military bases across the country?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>The shooting is an isolated incident</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>The shooting is likely to happen again</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>25%</b>

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
 Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**Fort Hood Shooting**

The person who allegedly opened fire at Fort Hood, Major Nidal Malik Hasan, is an army psychiatrist and a Muslim. Do you think the fact that he is a Muslim is relevant to the investigation into this incident, or do you think this is irrelevant?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
It is relevant	61%	56%	58%	68%	55%
It is irrelevant	25%	29%	29%	19%	27%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%	12%	17%

**Fort Hood Shooting**

Do you agree or disagree with Muslims being allowed to serve in the U.S. military?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Agree	53%	57%	61%	46%	52%
Disagree	33%	28%	28%	41%	31%
Not sure	14%	15%	12%	14%	18%

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
 Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

**Fort Hood Shooting**

Every religion has mainstream beliefs, and also fringe elements or extremists. Thinking of mainstream Islam, do you think mainstream Islam encourages violence against non-Muslims, or is it a peaceful religion?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>Encourages violence</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Peaceful religion</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>No opinion</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Fort Hood Shooting**

Would you say you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of Islam?

Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>No opinion</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>45%</b>

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
 Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)

*Angus Reid Public Opinion is the public affairs practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.*

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:**

**<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

---

**CONTACT:**

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, [ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com](mailto:ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com)  
Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, [mario.canseco@angus-reid.com](mailto:mario.canseco@angus-reid.com)