

**Fort Hood captain: Hasan wanted patients to face war crimes charges
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By BROOKS EGERTON / The Dallas Morning News

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**Nidal Malik Hasan sought to have some of his patients prosecuted for
war crimes**

**Fort Hood massacre suspect Nidal Malik Hasan sought to have some of
his patients prosecuted for war crimes based on statements**

**they made during psychiatric sessions with him, a captain who served on
the base said Monday.**

**Other psychiatrists complained to superiors that Hasan's actions violated
doctor-patient confidentiality, Capt. Shannon Meehan told**

The Dallas Morning News.

**One day after the Nov. 5 attack that killed 13 and wounded 29, a Fort
Hood official said she had never received complaints about**

**Hasan's job performance. Col. Kimberly Kesling, deputy commander of
clinical services at the base's Darnall Army Medical Center,**

**also said he was a "hardworking, dedicated young man who gave great
care to his patients."**

**Fort Hood officials did not respond to interview requests late Monday.
They have declined in recent days to say anything about the**

major, citing the ongoing investigation.

**Meehan said he learned of Hasan's prosecution requests from another
base psychiatrist. That psychiatrist could not be reached for**

comment Monday.

**The revelations add to a portrait of Hasan as a man at odds with many
of those around him - emotionally, religiously and**

ideologically. He was, by various accounts, lonely, paranoid and increasingly zealous in his fundamentalist Islamic beliefs. He had

been writing e-mails to a radical cleric in Yemen who called the U.S. war on terror a "war against Muslims" and advocated killing soldiers.

It wasn't clear Monday what information Hasan received from patients and what became of his requests for prosecution. ABC

News, citing anonymous sources, reported that his superiors rejected the requests, and that investigators suspect this triggered the shootings.

Hasan may have been legally justified in reporting what patients disclosed, said Patrick McLain, a Dallas lawyer who specializes in

military defense work and is not involved in the Hasan case. But it's impossible to be sure without knowing exactly what they said,

he added.

"He was right on his authority to report it," said the ex-Marine, who formerly served as a court-martial judge. The Army teaches

all service members that they have a duty to report evidence of war crimes.

Hasan's civilian lawyer in Central Texas, retired Col. John P. Galligan, did not respond to interview requests Monday. His client

remains in a San Antonio military hospital, paralyzed from the waist down by police gunfire and facing premeditated murder

charges.

Pain and guilt

Meehan, the Fort Hood captain, expressed skepticism with Hasan's requests that patients be prosecuted. "They're going in there

confessing their pain and their guilt," he said, describing soldiers' postwar visits to therapists. "He's trying to turn it into a war crime."

Meehan recently wrote a book called *Beyond Duty*, depicting his traumatic experience as a tank platoon leader in Iraq. It describes a strike he ordered that accidentally killed an Iraqi family with six children - the sort of "collateral damage" that McLain said was clearly distinct from a war crime.

Later, an improvised explosive device left Meehan with a traumatic brain injury. He received therapy at Fort Hood from people

other than Hasan, which he credits with saving him from crippling depression. He is retiring from the military, effective next week.

Meehan said one of his doctors tried to give Hasan a copy of the book last month. Hasan refused. The captain said he had

previously avoided Hasan, who was one of a small crew responsible for interviewing soldiers and writing up summaries of their

condition.

"I heard he was not one you wanted to go to" because he didn't finish his work promptly, Meehan said. "Apparently the reason it

took so long is he was turning it over to legal."

Meehan said one little-known consequence of the massacre is that Hasan's colleagues must re-evaluate every case he handled.

Another challenge, he said, is persuading patients to keep opening up to therapists.

"I really hope Nidal's horrific actions do not give soldiers pause when considering [whether] to tell their given stories," Meehan said.

Briefing canceled

President Barack Obama vowed Saturday to examine all the events leading up to the Fort Hood attack, including reports that the

Army and FBI missed warning signs about Hasan's extremist sympathies. Several congressional leaders have promised their own

inquiries.

A closed-door briefing Monday for the Senate Armed Services Committee was postponed at the administration's request, said

committee spokesman Bryan Thomas.

Senate leaders and several committee chairmen are scheduled to receive a classified briefing this morning, said Sen. Patrick Leahy

of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

On Wednesday, Attorney General Eric Holder is expected to testify publicly before Leahy's committee. His appearance had been

previously scheduled and wasn't directly prompted by the Fort Hood tragedy.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the panel, said he would ask whether there was evidence Hasan was disloyal and should

have been removed from the Army.

"Nobody should be advanced in rank and no one should be kept in the military if their loyalty is to anything other than the United

States," the Alabama senator said.

Staff writers Dave Michaels and Lee Hancock contributed to this report