I have had the great honor of working with our fine and dedicated troops at Ft.
Hood. I have spent time with the clergy, behavioral staff, officers and troops. I
was deeply impressed and moved by their degree of commitment, sincerity, love
of country and service, and willingness to sacrifice.

I am also heartbroken to admit that I saw massive numbers and degrees of
visible and invisible wounds at Ft. Hood. Countless troops with every wound from
missing body parts to extreme Post-traumatic Stress Disorder. Countless
recycling of these wounded for further deployments where troops are needed.
Untold frustration and despair among our dedicated clergy and behavioral staff in
trying to treat more legions of wounded than anyone can possibly adequately
help.

I do not know the psychiatrist who committed these killings. But I do know that
we are asking our troops to perform incredibly difficult and demanding missions -
- both abroad and at home -- that exceed our human ability to digest, integrate
and respond to. Ft. Hood is a massive sanctuary of the wounded. Many
behavioral staff confided to me, sometimes numbed out and sometimes with
secret tears, that they are in despair over the degree of wounding and numbers
of wounded and are strained beyond human capacity to try to effectively treat
them.

Our hearts should go out to every one of the victims of this tragedy, including
the killer. A person must be under unbearable strain to snap as he did. He must
have already been in an inner hell created by all the stories he heard and horror
he witnessed. One does not have to be a combat veteran to be a combat victim.
Now his private hell has spread its fires to our nation.

We must hear this tragedy as a wake up call to our nation. There is a stress
point beyond which all people break, from which they cannot return. As a nation
we must stop pushing our troops and their caregivers so far and expect
performance beyond what is humanly possible. Every one, including the
psychiatrist, is a tragic victim here. We must not do more violence by demonizing
one person or his religion. Rather, let our broken hearts open and realize that all
our troops and their caregivers are carrying more pain than is tolerable, more
demand than can be answered.

Please -- let your broken hearts open to every victim. Judge not. Realize we are
asking too much from too few and giving them too little help, too little support,
to little to work with. This tragedy is all of our making. It is up to all of us to
respond and help our nation and its overwrought troops everywhere to heal.