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Afghanistan One Year Later

A year down the road from the administration's disastrous pullout from the equally disastrous — and costly — 20-year war in Afghanistan, we now have a more complete picture of just how President Joe Biden and his top policymakers knowingly and purposely arranged a major failure.

That truth is in an interim report on the withdrawal from the GOP side of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. It is unsparing. It is eye-opening. It isn't surprising.

It is an indictment not just of a mentally deteriorating president, but of his Deep State subalterns whose main claim to governance and justification to unseat POTUS 45 Donald Trump was that "the adults are back in charge."

Released in mid-August, the report shows that Biden's "adults" blew it just like the "best and brightest" who took us into Vietnam, the final scene of which — helicopters lifting off the U.S. embassy in Saigon — prefigured what the adults showed us in Kabul.

Indeed, the "adults" didn't just blow it, since what occurred was not innocent incompetence. The adults lied about why an immediate, unconditional versus staged, conditional withdrawal was necessary, which ended in chaos at the airport in Kabul as Taliban forces closed in on the collapsing Afghan army and government. The "adults" lied about allied support for the immediate withdrawal. The "adults" lied about what top military officials recommended — a staged withdrawal backed by a force of 2,500 military personnel — and ignored that advice.

The result was global embarrassment, the loss of more than \$7 billion of U.S. military equipment to the Taliban, and, most importantly, the loss of American lives.

The only appropriate remedy: impeachment.

Two Big Lies

The 115-page report opens with the lies Biden himself told in August last year when he announced the withdrawal.

"First, the president claimed the decision to completely withdraw was made 'after consulting closely with our allies and partners, with our military leaders and intelligence personnel, with our diplomats and our development experts, with Congress and the Vice President,'" the report observes:

He later reiterated this point saying the withdrawal would be done "in full coordination with our allies and partners." The implication was that our allies and the president's national



AP Images

One year after the disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal, more information sheds light on the Biden administration's utter incompetence and refusal to follow the advice of top military officials.



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security advisors had all agreed an unconditional withdrawal was the best course of action.

That claim was false. Our allies did not support an immediate withdrawal. “It is not a decision that we hoped for,” said General Nick Carter, Great Britain’s defense chief:

Withdrawal under these circumstances would be perceived as a strategic victory for the Taliban, which would weaken the Alliance and embolden extremists the world over.

Said Norbert Rottgen, chairman of the German Parliament’s Foreign Relations Committee, “early withdrawal was a serious and far-reaching miscalculation by the current administration. This does fundamental damage to the political and moral credibility of the West.”

Yet even more disturbing than Biden’s bold lie that U.S. allies supported skedaddling was his claim that U.S. military advisors supported it, and that a small force of 2,500, as defense officials recommended, was not enough to protect the failing Afghan government. Thus, Biden argued, the only alternative was immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

In April 2021, *Politico* cited multiple sources who challenged the claim. Even worse, Biden continued the lie after that story appeared, and did so on August 19, “as American citizens and America’s Afghan allies desperately tried to escape the country now controlled by the Taliban.” The report continues:

President Biden once again told [ABC’s] George Stephanopoulos that senior military commanders had not recommended keeping some 2,500 U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan. He and other members of his administration followed this up by claiming that leaving [this] level of U.S. forces, in any event, was not feasible.

Biden insisted that the 2,500 troops, with the help of thousands of allied troops, “could not maintain our military presence. He claimed the U.S. would need tens of thousands of additional U.S. troops in the country to rebuff a hypothetical Taliban assault on U.S. and international forces.”



Déjà vu: President Biden promised Americans that they would not see people being airlifted by helicopters from the top of the U.S. embassy in Kabul in a repeat of the 1975 fall of Saigon. Predictably, the nation watched in horror as that very thing took place before their eyes. (AP Images)



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U.S. military leaders told Biden the exact opposite. They recommended keeping 2,500 troops there to help the Afghan military and stage counterterrorism operations, and to bolster the 7,000 allied troops from NATO and private contractors. Once Biden ordered the withdrawal, those allied troops had to pull out, too, because of “the unique enabling capabilities possessed by the U.S. military.” Thus did the operation become a chaotic fiasco, a classic case of FUBAR (fouled up beyond all recognition is the polite way to put it).

“The Afghan military and government would collapse” if troop strength dropped below 2,500, said General Frank McKenzie, then commander of U.S. Central Command. General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said likewise to the Senate Armed Services Committee in September; i.e., that “we should keep a steady state of 2,500.”

Indeed, flag officers spoke directly with the president, so “he was very aware of their recommendations when he falsely claimed they favored the unconditional withdrawal and did not recommend a small, advisory and counterterrorism force remain,” the report says:

Gen. McKenzie told the Senate Armed Services Committee in September 2021, “I recommended that we maintain 2,500 troops in Afghanistan.... I am confident that the President heard all the Recommendations.”

“The assessment by General Mc-Kenzie and General Miller at the time was that 2,500 was sufficient to be able to deal with that,” Lieutenant General James Mingus, the Director for Operations for the Joint Staff, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in October 2021 when asked if the U.S. would have to surge thousands of new troops in to repel Taliban attacks.

Despite this clear statement from Lt. Gen. Mingus and similar statements from other senior military officials, President Biden continues to mischaracterize the advice he received. In February 2022, he told NBC News “there’s no good time to get out, but if we had not gotten out, they acknowledge that we would have had to put a hell of a lot more troops back in.”

“It wasn’t just 2,000, 4,000,” Biden said of the troops required. “We would have had to significantly increase the number of troops, and then you’re back in this war of attrition.”

Reducing troop strength to 650 precipitated another disaster: the loss of Bagram Airfield, which at one time housed 10,000 personnel and was a major flight and strategic operations center. But Biden’s people tried to cover that loss with a tissue of lies, too.

“I recommended a [U.S. troop] level of 2,500,” McKenzie testified in September last year. That “would have allowed us to hold Bagram and other airfields as well. Once you go below that level and make a decision to go to zero, it is no longer feasible to hold Bagram.”

Bagram could have been a staging area for conditional withdrawal, and “despite its value as an intelligence collection and counterterrorism installation,” the report says, “President Biden made the decision to abandon Bagram when he ordered the U.S. military to unconditionally withdraw from Afghanistan.”

Top Biden subalterns said that the military advised closing Bagram, but that, too, was untrue. “U.S. military officials testified [that] the president’s insistence on reducing U.S. troops to the 650 figure



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necessitated the departure because the base could not be secured with so few forces.”

Weapons and Materiel Lost

Another result of the hasty withdrawal was the loss of billions of dollars of weapons and equipment. Biden’s “transgendered” administration had no plan for removing or recovering that equipment, and have turned the Taliban into a well-equipped force, at least until the equipment breaks down.

In April, the Pentagon told Congress that about \$7.12 billion in U.S. military equipment was left behind. “More than 180,000 ‘air to ground munitions’ remained in Taliban controlled Afghanistan, constituting some 18,000 precision and non-precision ‘gravity’ bombs and 160,000 precision and non-precision aviation rockets,” the report continued, citing a report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). Also left behind:

- More than 258,000 rifles, to include M-16/M-4 and AK-47 variants, along with 56,000 machine guns;
- 31,000 rocket-propelled and hand-held grenade launchers;
- 1,845 D-30 60-82mm mortar systems and one million mortar rounds;
- 224 D-130 122mm howitzer artillery guns;
- 17,400 night vision devices; and
- 95 small drones, along with other surveillance and communication gear.

Plus, SIGAR reported, images depict “Taliban fighters with captured U.S.-supplied weapons such as M4 carbines, machine guns, night-vision devices, body armor, Toyota trucks, and Humvees” as well as “MRAPs, and even some aircraft such as UH-60 Blackhawks, Mi-17 helicopters, and ScanEagle unmanned aerial systems.”



Dangerous cargo? The Biden administration assured Americans that the Afghan “refugees” being packed into military cargo planes were fully vetted. The truth soon came out that this was not the case, and it’s likely some Taliban and other extremists caught a free ride to America. (AP Images)

Nor is the Taliban keeping all these weapons. They are for sale in the markets and bazaars of the backward nation “at a time when we are also seeing a growth in the number of militants and terrorist groups in the country,” the report says.



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Unvetted Afghans Imported

Another potentially dangerous consequence of the hasty withdrawal might well be a bomb going off in New York's subway, or perhaps at a public school in Montana. Biden ordered departing planes be packed with unvetted Afghans, and instead left behind in Afghanistan vetted Afghans with Special Immigrant Visas (SIV).

"Due to the chaos brought about by the withdrawal and subsequent NEO [Noncombatant Evacuation Operation], the Biden administration was unable to evacuate many high priority Afghans such as vetted SIV holders and applicants," the report says. Instead, as *The New American's* website reported in October last year, Biden ordered departing "flights ... to be filled out" with as many Afghans as possible, vetting regardless, and that U.S. officials managing the withdrawal should "err on the side of excess."

"Due to this lack of preparedness on the part of the Biden administration, a robust system of vetting was not able to be put into place that would draw on all the databases of information in the possession of the U.S. government, failing to use several Defense Department systems." The report continues:

This failure allowed Afghans who had derogatory information about them in the U.S. government's own files to be able to slip by the initial screening and reach the continental United States.

A Pentagon Inspector General report from February 2022 found that 50 Afghans who had arrived in the U.S. during the evacuation had information about them in the Defense Department's databases that indicated they would present "potentially significant security concerns."

The report added that the U.S. government could only locate three of [the] Afghans who had derogatory information in their files and had arrived in the continental United States, and that some 28 other Afghans with similar such information in the databases could not be located.

Thus far, Biden has imported almost 100,000 Afghans. In addition to the terrorists he undoubtedly imported, a number of them are rapists and child molesters. A Defense Department whistleblower recently disclosed that Biden permitted 324 Afghans on the Biometrically Enabled Watch List to enter the country, any one of whom might be a terrorist.

And those potential terrorists roaming free in the United States don't include the thousands of al-Qaeda, ISIS, and other Islamic terrorists the Taliban freed from prison when it took control of the country. No one can know how many of those devout Muslims will arrive as "refugees" to "culturally enrich" a small town by blowing its public library to smithereens.

Conclusion

Along with Biden's aiding and abetting an illegal-alien invasion of the United States across the southwest border with Mexico, the House report suggests myriad other impeachable offenses, including illegal obstruction of U.S. investigators, that should end Biden's presidency should Republicans take control of Capitol Hill in January after November's midterm elections.



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“The administration repeatedly, and at times potentially intentionally, misled the American public about the likely consequences of its decision to withdraw unilaterally, irrespective of conditions,” the report concludes:

The administration also misled the American public about the military advice President Biden had received regarding Afghanistan. In truth, the president chose to ignore the advice of his top military and diplomatic officials, as well as that of America’s closest allies who sought to make the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan contingent on the Taliban taking real steps towards peace.

Despite this egregious “strategic failure,” as Biden’s own top people call it, the administration has held no one accountable. “Almost every official who participated in the decision to withdraw U.S. troops, oversaw the collapse of the U.S.-backed Afghanistan government and the ascendancy of the Taliban and its terrorist allies, and led the evacuation are still in positions of major authority, weighing in on life and death decisions every day,” the report’s conclusion continues.

The person most accountable, of course, is Biden, but no one, except a Congress and Senate willing to impeach, convict, and remove him from office, can hold him accountable.

No wonder the administration refuses to cooperate with inquiries from Congress about the disaster, as the report alleges.

Accountability, of course, is the report’s point. The administration’s refusal to answer questions hides who knows what facts that would surely prove even more damning than what the report has revealed. Recall, it is an *interim* report. Another must surely be on the way.

Almost 2,000 Americans were killed in action in Afghanistan. Also killed were 4,000 American civilian contractors. More than 20,000 were wounded, costing \$300 billion for medical treatment and other care, *Forbes* reported, a medical bill that will grow another \$500 billion. The cost of the war, \$300 million per day for 20 years, as of now is about \$2.3 trillion. It will surpass \$6.5 trillion by 2050.

Last year, *The New American* called the pullout a planned disaster. The GOP report on Biden’s repeated lies about what his own generals recommended, his mulish insistence on a rushed withdrawal, and now *new* lies to back up the old, prove that.

After all, if the Biden Mafia hadn’t planned it — if what occurred were a simple matter of incompetence — surely a few things would have gone right. Outgoing aircraft would not have been packed with unvetted Afghans in a mad rush to escape. Biden would have listened to his top flag officers, and left an appropriate contingent of troops to stage the withdrawal carefully. Bagram Airfield would not have been surrendered so easily. The military would have removed or destroyed equipment and weapons.

But *none* of that happened. The utter chaos of the withdrawal — not least equipping the Taliban with more than \$7 billion in weapons and materiel — was no accident. Republicans can add this report to their articles of impeachment.



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