

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

We write with grave concern regarding the status of U.S. military equipment left behind in Afghanistan as a result of our poorly executed withdrawal from the country. As we watched the images coming out of Afghanistan as the Taliban retook the country, we were horrified to see U.S. equipment – including UH-60 Black Hawks – in the hands of the Taliban.

It is unconscionable that high-tech military equipment paid for by U.S. taxpayers has fallen into the hands of the Taliban and their terrorist allies. Securing U.S. assets should have been among the top priorities for the U.S. Department of Defense prior to announcing the withdrawal from Afghanistan. We therefore request detailed information on the following:

1. A full account of military equipment provided to the Afghan Armed Forces in the last year;
2. All military equipment, owned by either the U.S. or Afghan Armed Forces, that was removed or destroyed prior to the U.S. withdrawal, or is rendered inoperable without U.S. logistics personnel;
3. All U.S. military equipment that remains operational in Afghanistan;
4. A list of what military equipment has been seized by the Taliban;
5. An assessment of how long it will take the Taliban to use each of the captured equipment;
6. An assessment of the likelihood that the Taliban will seek to work with Russia, Pakistan, Iran, or the People's Republic of China for training, fuel, or infrastructure necessary to utilize the equipment they do not have the capabilities to use on their own; and
7. Any efforts by the administration, planned or underway, to recapture or destroy equipment that remains in Afghanistan and is at risk of being used by terrorist entities.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



James E. Risch  
U.S. Senator



Bill Hagerty  
U.S. Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
U.S. Senator



Thom Tillis  
U.S. Senator



Tommy Tuberville  
U.S. Senator



Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer  
U.S. Senator



Susan M Collins  
U.S. Senator



Joni K Ernst  
U.S. Senator



Ron Johnson  
U.S. Senator



Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott  
U.S. Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senator



Mike Braun  
U.S. Senator



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso  
U.S. Senator



Richard Burr  
U.S. Senator



Ben Sasse  
U.S. Senator



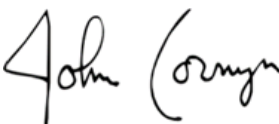
M. Michael Rounds  
U.S. Senator



John Boozman  
U.S. Senator



Deb Fischer  
U.S. Senator



John Cornyn  
U.S. Senator



Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator



Roger W. Marshall  
U.S. Senator