

# 800 Americans evacuated from Afghanistan since Taliban takeover

A new House Republican investigation sheds light and issues blame on the continued evacuation efforts since America's withdrawal.

The panel's Republican staff compiled the data as part of a 118-page report that examines the actions by administrations of both parties that led to the collapse of Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government, as well as the failure to adequately plan for what became a chaotic and deadly withdrawal from the country. That included a [suicide bombing outside Kabul's main airport](#) that killed 13 U.S. troops and 160 Afghans.

"The choices made in the corridors of power in D.C. led to tragic yet avoidable outcomes: 13 dead service members, American lives still at great risk, increased threats to our homeland security, tarnished standing abroad for years to come, and emboldened enemies across the globe," the report states.

POLITICO [previously reported](#) that the committee's GOP leader, Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, had hired former CNN Pentagon reporter Ryan Browne, a former embedded contract adviser to the Afghan National Army, to be the lead investigator.

While the Biden administration was forthcoming with the panel about the ongoing evacuation efforts, committee aides said they ran into a wall of resistance from the State Department and the Pentagon on a variety of other inquiries about the U.S. withdrawal. The report relied on whistleblower testimony as well as interviews with former officials involved in the overall effort.

The investigation also uncovered evidence that a “significant” number of elite, U.S.-trained Afghan commandos fled the country into Iran after the Taliban took control of the country, taking with them military equipment and vehicles.

If captured or turned, these commandos could prove to be a “serious national security threat,” according to the report, which states that the soldiers were trained by U.S. special operators and “know not only our tactics but who these elite military officials are.”

The fear is that these commandos may join terrorist groups, whether voluntarily or out of desperation. There is evidence that some of these fighters joined the Islamic State, according to the committee staffer.

“The potential exploitation concern is big, because these commandos are in a desperate situation,” the aide said. “They are being hunted down often by Taliban authorities. The economic situation is so catastrophic. When people are desperate, they’re much easier to be co-opted.”