

# U.S. Sen. Johnson: Report contradicts Biden Administration's narrative about Afghanistan evacuations

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Aug. 30, 2021

## Contact:

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## Sen. Johnson: Report Contradicts Biden Administration's Narrative about Afghanistan Evacuations

**OSHKOSH** — On Friday, U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken requesting information about an alleged incident at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul involving an U.S. military official preventing American citizens and Afghan allies from evacuating Afghanistan.

According to the allegation, “a group of over 400 individuals including U.S. citizens were turned away from the airport.” Specifically, “after buses full of potential evacuees arrived at the airport they ‘were met by the commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Brigade’ who told them to get back on their buses and turn around

because 'the rescue was over.' It is not clear what happened to the Americans and the other individuals after they left the airport.”

“It’s hard to believe that any U.S. military official would deny Americans the ability to evacuate Afghanistan,” the senator wrote. “What generalized or specific order was given to the commander that caused him to take this alleged action? Where did this order originate?”

The full text of the letter can be found [here](#) and below.

August 27, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III

Secretary of Defense

U.S. Department of Defense

1000 Defense Pentagon

Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken

Secretary of State

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20520-2204

Dear Secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken:

On August 14, 2021, the United States began mass evacuations at Hamid

Karzai International Airport in Kabul.[1] Since then, I have been receiving reports that contradict the Biden administration's narrative and are troubling to say the least. One such report, later publicized on Newsmax, is about a specific alleged incident that occurred before sunrise on August 26, 2021 at Karzai airport.

Specifically, Chad Robichaux, who has been working with non-government organizations to help evacuate American citizens and Afghan allies, stated that a group of over 400 individuals including U.S. citizens were turned away at the airport.[2] Robichaux alleged that after buses full of potential evacuees arrived at the airport they "were met by the commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Brigade" who told them to get back on their buses and turn around because "the rescue was over." [3] It is not clear what happened to the Americans and the other individuals after they left the airport.

In order to better understand what occurred during this August 26, 2021 incident, please provide the following information:

1. It's hard to believe that any U.S. military official would deny Americans the ability to evacuate Afghanistan. What generalized or specific order was given to the commander that caused him to take this alleged action? Where did this order originate?
2. Who gave the order to this commander? Provide that individual's name, title, and department.
3. Is the Department of Defense and/or State Department aware of this alleged incident? If so, is there an open investigation into this matter?
4. What actions are being taken to locate and evacuate the American citizens that were allegedly turned away?

Please provide this information as soon as possible but no later than August 30, 2021. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



Sincerely,