

Biden criticized for appearing to break promise on American evacuation from Afghanistan



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Biden faces new criticism on Afghanistan withdrawal

President Biden said earlier that he promised to stay in Afghanistan until every American is evacuated, but after Monday's withdrawal, critics say he did not live up his vow.

Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. announced Monday evening that the last of the U.S. troops stationed at the Kabul airport had left, completing the military's drawdown in the country, even though hundreds of Americans likely remain.

McKenzie, commander of U.S. Central Command, said some American citizens who wanted to leave Afghanistan remained in the country.

"We did not get everybody out that we wanted to get out," he said.

President Biden told ABC News' George Stephanopoulos during an interview on

Aug. 18 that the U.S. military objective in Afghanistan was to get “everyone” out, including Americans and Afghan allies and their families.

“That’s what we’re doing now, that’s the path we’re on. And I think we’ll get there,” he said. “If there’s American citizens left, we’re gonna stay to get them all out.”

A senior State Department official told Fox News on Monday that there remained a “small number” of Americans inside Afghanistan.

That official put the number of Americans at “below 250,” adding that some additional Americans have departed Afghanistan in recent hours. The official added that the State Department also was committed to evacuating “those who worked with us,” referring to Afghan “partners.” **CLICK HERE FOR MORE ON OUR TOP STORY.**

Sen. Tom Cotton, who appeared on “The Ingraham Angle” on Monday night, said Biden kept his promise to the Taliban to be out by Aug. 31, but not to the Americans still in the country.

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- Biden emphasizes ‘unanimous recommendation’ of military leaders to meet Aug. 31 Afghanistan exit deadline
- NBC’s Richard Engel: Biden’s Afghan withdrawal was ‘the worst capitulation of western values in our lifetimes’
- Veterans organization works to evacuate Afghan interpreters desperate to find safety as US troops withdraw

Marine who criticized military leaders over Afghan exit said he was ordered to undergo mental health screening

A U.S. Marine officer who was relieved of his command for breaking rank and calling out the brass over the chaotic and deadly evacuation of American troops from Afghanistan in which 13 service members were killed said Monday that he was ordered to undergo a mental health screening.

Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller was fired after posting a video on social media where he criticized military leaders over the botched exit. In the footage, the 17-year Marine, just three years shy of a full pension, said took leaders to task.

"I'm not saying we need to be in Afghanistan forever, but I am saying, did any of you throw your rank on the table and say, 'Hey, it's a bad idea to evacuate Bagram Airfield, a strategic airbase, before we evacuate everyone?'" Scheller said last Thursday. "Did anyone do that? And when you didn't think to do that, did anyone raise their hand and say, 'We completely messed this up?'"

In an online post on Monday, Scheller said his commanding officer ordered him to go to a hospital for the mental health screening. He said he was evaluated by mental health specialists and "then sent on my way." **CLICK HERE FOR MORE.**

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- Marines post photo of dignified transfer of fallen service members killed in Kabul

Taliban take control of Kabul airport, celebrate 'enjoyable moment of victory'

Taliban leaders took over control of the Kabul airport Tuesday and marked the departure of the last U.S. plane from the country by taking a symbolic walk across the airport's sole runway, according to a report.



“The world should have learned its lesson and this is the enjoyable moment of victory,” Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said in a livestream video, according to the Associated Press. He spoke to reporters at the Hamid Karzai International Airport and said Americans “could not achieve their goal through military operations,” according to Al Jazeera.

Celebratory gunfire could be heard throughout Kabul before dawn, Reuters reported. A reporter from the Los Angeles Times posted video of Taliban fighters inspecting a hanger after the U.S. departure.

The AP reported that vehicles carrying the Taliban raced back and forth along the airport’s sole runway.

Before dawn broke, heavily armed Taliban fighters walked through hangars, passing some of the seven CH-46 helicopters the State Department used in its evacuations before rendering them unflyable. **CLICK HERE FOR MORE.**

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