

Inspector General: The U.S. Government Left More Than \$7 Billion in Military Equipment to the Taliban

By [Jonathan Turley](#)

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Defense Department [Inspector General has released its long-awaited report](#) on what the Biden Administration left behind in Afghanistan. It is an unbelievable list of equipment left to the Taliban.

I opposed the long war in Afghanistan, so I was not among those critical of Trump or Biden in pushing to leave the conflict. However, no one has ever explained why the Biden Administration left this equipment in Afghanistan as opposed to removing it or destroying it.

While the collapse of the Afghan government was rapid in the final days, the government had many months to prepare for the scheduled withdrawal. Yet, it took no steps to remove or destroy this equipment. Instead, it elected to leave this arsenal intact to the Taliban.

The ground vehicle inventory alone was worth about \$4.12 billion. In addition, the U.S. military lost \$923.3 million worth of military aircraft and \$294.6 million in aircraft munitions.

The Taliban was instantly made one of the best equipped militaries in the world due to this windfall gift by the Biden Administration.

While the report says that “some” of the aircraft were “demilitarized and rendered inoperable during the evacuation,” most of this equipment was left ready to use, including 316,260 small arms, including sniper rifles, machine guns and grenade launchers that were worth \$511.8 million.

I do not understand how this clear and unimaginable blunder has gone unaddressed. No one was fired. There is not even any evidence of discipline of any kind. The Biden Administration decided to give the Taliban billions in weapons rather than destroy them. Yet, there seems little more than a shrug and a yawn from Congress and the press.

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