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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

August 20, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Austin,

I write to express my concern about American-made weapons and equipment that have fallen into the hands of the Taliban in Afghanistan in recent days. While the images of captured American equipment and weapons are humiliating, more pressing is the likelihood that this military equipment will be used by the Taliban or sold to other terrorist entities represents a significant threat to national and international security.

In the past few days, I have seen images of Taliban fighters in possession of American small arms, Humvees and other ground vehicles, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and aerial drones. I am requesting that the Department of Defense provide Congress with a detailed summary of all weapons that were abandoned in the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal and have potentially fallen into enemy hands. The Taliban having control of these weapons is significant, and the American people and our allies need to be informed of what dangerous capabilities the Taliban has acquired.

Please provide a detailed overview of what equipment and weapons were captured, what sensitive technologies were included in the captured equipment, how will this equipment enhance the Taliban's military capabilities, and what contingency plans are in place to neutralize the captured equipment and weapons.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress