



June 24, 2021

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
Rayburn House Office Building Room 2216
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
Rayburn House Office Building Room 2216
United States House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Rogers:

Our military service associations appeal to you for the House Armed Services Committee's support to help the Afghan people who have provided interpreter services and other important support to the United States, for our diplomats and armed forces.

As pointed out in a recent bi-partisan [letter](#) led by Senators Shaheen and Ernst, joined by Chairman Reed, and signed by twenty senators, the Department of Defense and the Department of State must expeditiously process Special Immigration Visa (SIV) applications and/or transport to a safe location the Afghan people who have provided interpreter services and other important support to the United States. These patriotic people who have courageously helped our country will be in great danger of life-threatening retribution by the Taliban once the United States armed forces have withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Thus, we ask for your support for the Department of Defense to work with the Department of State and begin "at scale" to expeditiously process visa applications and/or transport the Afghan people who have provided interpreter and other important support to the United States. The world is watching to see how we handle this situation, and the credibility of the United States Government is at stake.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with your staffs to further explain our concerns. We can be reached through Stuart Bradin, GSOF, sbradin@gsf.org, Daniel Elkins, SOAA, daniel@soaa.org or Mark Haaland, AUSA, mhaaland@ausa.org.

Sincerely,

Carter F. Ham
General, U.S. Army, Retired
President & Chief Executive Officer
Association of the United States Army

Jason Beardsley
Executive Director,
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MATTHEW G. KRENZ
SGM, USA, Retired
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Global Special Operations Forces Foundation



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ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY



NGAUS



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION



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