

13 US service members killed in Kabul airport explosion, officials say

A suicide bombing outside of Kabul, Afghanistan's airport Thursday has killed 12 U.S. service members, officials tell Fox News. A second explosion later took place outside the Baron Hotel, sources say.

FAST FACTS

- A suicide bombing outside the Abbey Gate at Kabul's airport in Afghanistan Thursday has killed at least 10 U.S. Marines and soldiers, U.S. officials tell Fox News.
- A U.S. official indicated that the attack set off a firefight at Abbey Gate, where last night, there were 5,000 Afghans and potentially some Americans seeking access to the airport.
- A second explosion happened outside the Baron Hotel, sources say.

Psaki replies to calls of Biden's resignation

"This is a day where U.S. service members, 12 of them, lost their lives at the hands of terrorists. It's not a day for politics." — White House press secretary Jen Psaki said after some GOP lawmakers called for Biden to resign.

Pelosi orders Capitol flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of dead service members

"Speaker Pelosi has ordered the flags at the U.S. Capitol to be flown at half-staff

in honor of the U.S. Servicemembers and others killed in the bombings outside the Kabul airport in Afghanistan today,” a spokesperson for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday.

Biden doesn't deny report of U.S. handing over names of Americans to Taliban: 'There may have been'

President Biden did not deny a report circulating Thursday that officials in his administration had provided names of Americans in Afghanistan to the Taliban in order to help usher them safely to the airport.

“There have been occasions where our military has contacted their military counterparts in the Taliban and said this bus is coming through...made up of the following group...let it through,” the president said. “Yes, there have been occasions like that.”

Biden added that to his knowledge, the “bulk of that group” has been let through but can't say with “certitude” that there was a list of names passed to the Taliban.



Lucas Tomlinson@LucasFoxNews

UPDATE: At least 13 U.S. service members now killed in suicide attack at Kabul airport: U.S. officials

3:16 PM · Aug 26, 2021



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Biden: “No evidence of collusion” between Taliban and ISIS in carrying out deadly suicide bombing in Kabul.

2:40 PM · Aug 26, 2021

Biden reaffirms August 31 deadline for U.S. troop exit from Afghanistan

President Biden reiterated his attempt to have U.S. forces out of Afghanistan by the August 31 deadline, even after the deadly terrorist attack claimed the lives of 12 U.S. service members.

But the president also said the effort to get Americans and Afghan allies out of the country would go on.

“We’re going to try to continue to get you out. It matters,” Biden said.

President Biden to ISIS-K terrorists: “We will hunt you down and make you pay.”

Pelosi issues statement on Kabul bombing, warns members against travel to Afghanistan



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi issued a statement about the bombing that claimed the lives of 12 U.S. service members in Kabul while issuing a warning to lawmakers not to travel to Afghanistan.

“Today, we suffered the loss of life of at least twelve U.S. servicemembers and dozens of civilians from the terrorist attack outside of the Kabul airport,” Pelosi said. “We mourn the loss of every innocent life taken, and we join every American in heartbreak over the deaths of the Americans and all killed.”

“Sadly, the gravity of the situation in Afghanistan necessitates reiterating that Members must not request or plan visits to the region,” the statement continued. “The Departments of Defense and State have explicitly stated that Member travel to Afghanistan and surrounding countries would unnecessarily divert needed resources from the priority mission of safely and expeditiously evacuating Americans and Afghans at risk. It should be clear that any Member presence presents a danger and an opportunity cost of resources, regardless of whatever value that Members consider they may add by such trips.”

Pelosi’s statement comes after Democratic Rep. Seth Moulton and GOP Rep. Peter Meijer, both veterans, made an unannounced trip to Kabul in a move that

angered some lawmakers and Biden administrations officials.

Mike Pence@Mike_Pence

Karen and I are shocked and saddened by the loss of 11 Marines and a Navy corpsman in the terrorist attack at Kabul Airport. Our prayers are with the families of the fallen and also with the service members injured in the attack. God Bless Our Troops.

ISIS-K: What to know about Taliban rival seen as threat to Afghanistan evacuation

The United States has fought against the Taliban, al Qaeda and the Haqqani insurgent groups in Afghanistan for the last two decades, but counter-terrorism experts warn that the imminent threat ISIS-K poses could prove catastrophic. Following multiple attacks near the Kabul airport Thursday, Pentagon officials blamed ISIS, and the terror network claimed responsibility.

The group referred to as ISIS-K is the “Khorasan” branch of the Islamic State, located in Afghanistan. Khorasan is a historic name for the broader region.

The insurgent group formed after a faction within the Taliban splintered and pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi – the leader of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria – in October 2014.

Read more.

Americans likely to be left behind in Afghanistan after Kabul bombings: source

FIRST ON FOX: A source briefed on the situation in Kabul told Fox News that some Americans stranded in Afghanistan will likely be left behind after Thursday’s bombings.

The source told Fox News that “hundreds” of ISIS-K fighters remain in the vicinity of the Kabul airport and that the attacks are “likely to continue.”

“Military continues to retrograde and depart [the] airport,” the source told Fox

News. “Almost a certainty that Americans will be left behind.”

Read more.

Leader McConnell@LeaderMcConnell

It is sickening and enraging to hear that at least 12 U.S. servicemembers have been killed at the hands of terrorists in Kabul. We need to redouble our global efforts to confront these barbarian enemies who want to kill Americans and attack our homeland. My full statement:

LOUISVILLE, KY – *U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) issued the following statement on the bombings in Kabul:*

“It is sickening and enraging to hear that at least 12 United States servicemembers have been killed and more have been injured at the hands of terrorists in Kabul.

“Americans’ hearts are breaking for our servicemembers and diplomats. They are doing heroic work to rescue American citizens and Afghan partners in the predictably chaotic wake of the President’s decision to withdraw. I am praying for the families of these fallen Americans, for their injured comrades, and for all our personnel in harm’s way.

“Our sympathies are also with the families of the innocent Afghans whom the terrorists killed today, and all the vulnerable Afghans who are risking everything in desperate efforts to escape the Taliban’s impending rule. Our partners in a long fight against terror deserve better than the dark fate that will await them after the last military aircraft has departed.

“Terrible things happen when terrorists are allowed to operate freely. This murderous attack offers the clearest possible reminder that terrorists will not stop fighting the United States just because our politicians grow tired of fighting them. I remain concerned that terrorists worldwide will be emboldened by our retreat, by this attack, and by the establishment of a radical Islamic terror state in Afghanistan. We need to redouble our global efforts to confront these barbarian enemies who want to kill Americans and attack our homeland.”

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Trump issues statement on death of U.S. service members in Kabul

Former President Donald Trump issued a statement Thursday offering condolences to the families of U.S. service members who died in an explosion at Kabul’s airport.

“Melania and I send our deepest condolences to the families of our brilliant Service Members whose duty to the U.S.A. meant so much to them,” Trump said. “Our thoughts are also with the families of the innocent civilians who died today in the savage Kabul attack.”

“This tragedy should have never been allowed to happen, which makes our grief even deeper and more difficult to understand,” Trump continued.

“May God bless the U.S.A.”

Ben Shapiro@benshapiro

Hillary Clinton once wondered who Americans would want picking up the phone in a national crisis at 3 AM. With Joe Biden, nobody is picking up at 3 PM.

State confirms 500 Americans have been evacuated since yesterday, most that remain want to leave

“We have received confirmation that roughly 500 of the 1,500 Americans that we were tracking as potentially being in Afghanistan have been evacuated,” a State Department spokesperson said.

“Over the past 24 hours, we heard from an additional roughly 500 people purporting to be Americans in Afghanistan who want to leave,” the statement continued. “We immediately began attempting to reach these individuals by phone, text, and email. Based on our experience, many of these will not turn out to be U.S. citizens in need of our assistance.”

Gen. McKenzie: U.S. aircraft flying in and out of Kabul are getting shot at ‘on occasion’

McKenzie says evacuation flights will continue.

While acknowledging a “tough day,” Gen. McKenzie says the plans he has to evacuate Afghans and Americans is “designed to operate under stress.”

Gen. McKenzie just said since Aug. 14 the U.S. military has been sharing “information with the Taliban,” to prevent attacks since Aug. 14.

Gen. McKenzie: U.S. aircraft flying in and out of Kabul are getting shot at “on

occasion.”



Lucas Tomlinson@LucasFoxNews

U.S. general says the threat of suicide car bomb attacks right now at Kabul airport is “high.” Gen. McKenzie says the pattern of attacks like this is for “multiple attacks.”



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U.S. general: 2 ISIS suicide bombers carried out attack today outside Kabul airport. One struck Abbey Gate, another detonated outside Baron Hotel near gate. 12 U.S. military KIA, 15 wounded, but no American civilians or diplomats killed or hurt.

Harris cancels plans to campaign with Newsom, will return to D.C.

Vice President Kamala Harris has cancelled her scheduled campaign event with California Gov. Gavin Newsom and will instead return to Washington, Fox News has confirmed.

Harris was schedule to appear at a car rally with Newsom on Friday, but will instead return to the nation’s capital after her visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Thursday afternoon.

Top U.S. general: 12 U.S. KIA, 15 wounded in suicide attack at Kabul airport

The head of U.S. forces in the Middle East and Afghanistan says 12 U.S. service members were killed in the suicide attack outside the Kabul airport. 15 others were

wounded.

Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command says two suicide bombers carried out the complex attack, which he attributed to ISIS.

McKenzie said ISIS gunmen also opened fire.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III@SecDef

On behalf of the men and women of the @deptofdefense, I express my deepest condolences to the loved ones and teammates of all those killed and wounded in Kabul today. Full statement below:

Statement by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III On the attack at Hamid Karzai International Airport

AUG. 26, 2021



On behalf of the men and women of the Department of Defense, I express my deepest condolences to the loved ones and teammates of all those killed and wounded in Kabul today.

Terrorists took their lives at the very moment these troops were trying to save the lives of others.

We mourn their loss. We will treat their wounds. And we will support their families in what will most assuredly be devastating grief.

But we will not be dissuaded from the task at hand.

To do anything less -- especially now -- would dishonor the purpose and sacrifice these men and women have rendered our country and the people of Afghanistan.

Doug Collins@RepDougCollins

"We made clear to the Taliban that any attack, any attack on our forces or

disruption of our operations at the airport will be met with a swift and forceful response,” – Joe Biden, one week ago We are waiting...Mr. President, your move.

Number of US service members killed in Afghanistan rises to 12; most are Marines

Twelve U.S. service members were killed in action in the suicide attack, officials tell Fox News' Lucas Tomlinson. Eleven were Marines and one was a Navy medic, they said.

Note: Many more updates at the source: [Click here](#)

Source:

<https://www.foxnews.com/live-news/live-updates-taliban-gain-more-ground-in-afghanistan-as-they-close-in-on-kabul?test=38861ea43380e1402f1c90f21546ad4b>

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