



POLICY

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2000

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Identifying Immediate Family Members of U.S. Military Personnel and Department of Defense Civilian Employees Seeking Departure from Afghanistan

The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to support the Department of State's efforts to facilitate departures of U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (LPR), and eligible Afghan partners who wish to leave Afghanistan and resettle in or immigrate to the United States. The Department of State remains the lead federal agency for this effort.

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Policy (OUSD(P)) and the Joint Staff J37 Deputy Director for Special Operations are working with the Department of State Coordinator for Afghanistan Relocation Efforts (CARE) to facilitate departures for Afghan nationals who have a unique connection to the DoD and qualify for departure to the United States.

DoD places a high priority on facilitating the departure of Afghan nationals who are immediate family members of U.S. citizen or LPR military personnel (active duty, reservists, and members of the National Guard) and DoD civilian employees. Immediate family members eligible for facilitated departure from Afghanistan are defined by U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services as the spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21 of U.S. citizens and LPR military personnel and DoD civilian employees.

We understand that many U.S. military personnel and DoD civilian employees may also have extended family remaining in Afghanistan. DoD recognizes that these extended family members also have a connection to the United States; we will continue to assist State/CARE as they develop mechanisms that may facilitate the safe departures for such individuals from Afghanistan in the future.

Any U.S. military personnel or DoD civilian employees with immediate family members still in Afghanistan who desire assistance departing should contact the OUSD(P) Afghan Referrals mailbox directly at [osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.afgreferrals@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.mbx.afgreferrals@mail.mil) and include "DoD Immediate Family Member" in the subject line. Please be prepared to provide immediate family member names, contact information, their location, passport information, and national identification card (*tazkera*) information to the above mailbox.



Given the current situation in Afghanistan and the absence of an in-country U.S. embassy presence, there are a number of challenges related to departures of Afghan nationals, including those of unique interest to DoD. However, DoD will continue to provide support in this relocation effort to the greatest possible extent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Kahl", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Colin H. Kahl, PhD