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# The Silence is Deafening: The Urgent Need to Talk About Afghanistan

Lt Col Will Selber

*The Views Expressed in this Briefing Are My Own and Do Not Reflect the Official  
Positions of the United States Air Force or the Department of Defense*

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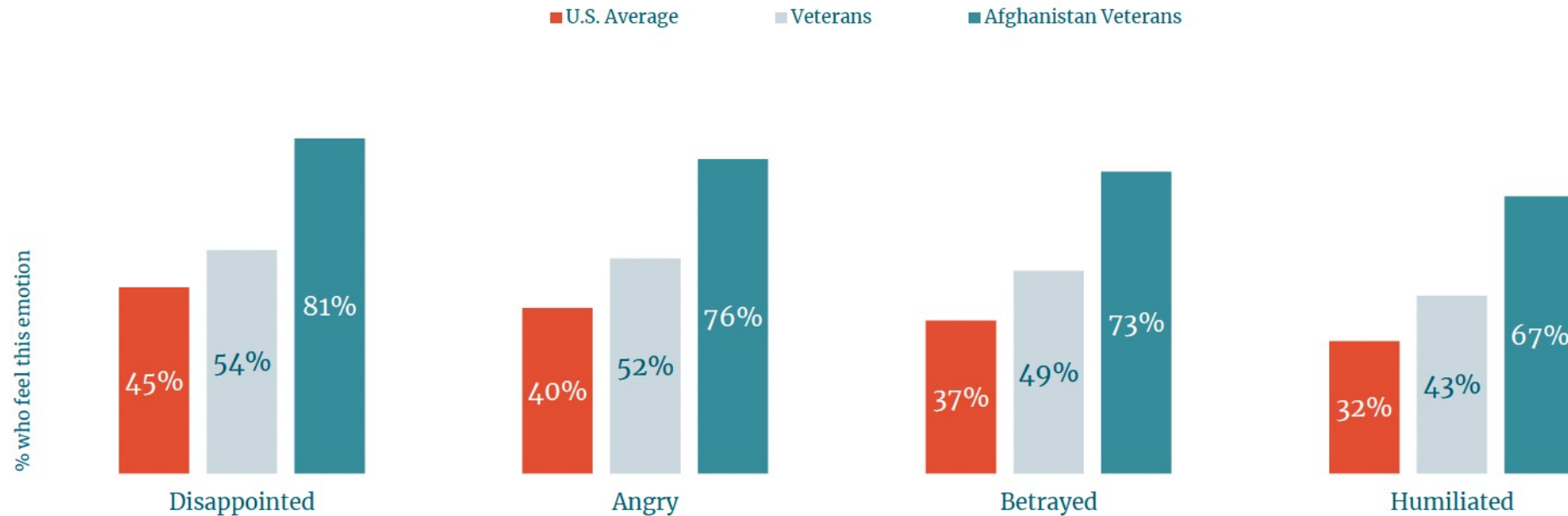
# The Silence is Deafening

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- The Urgent Need to Talk Now
  - Two Truths
  - Way Forward
  - Status Quo?
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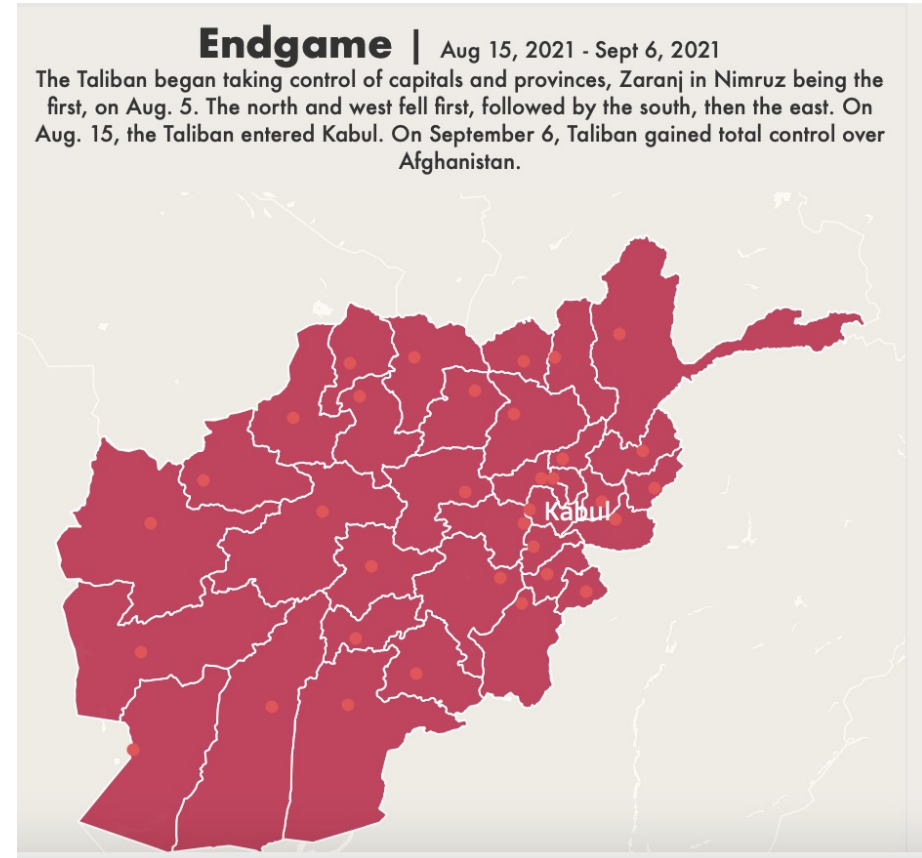
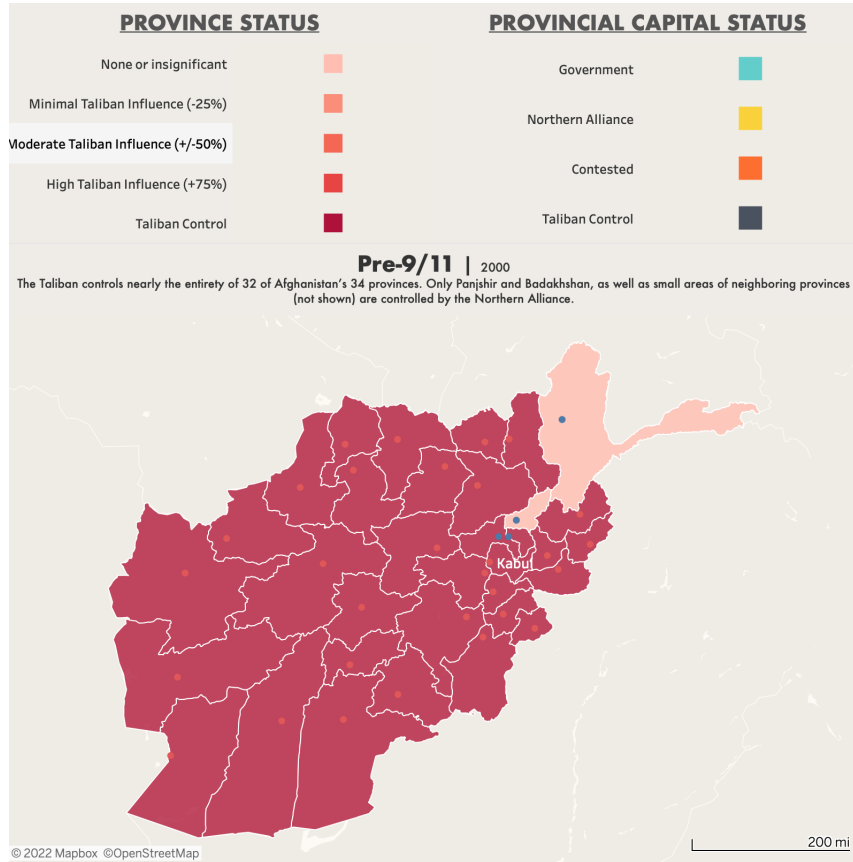
# Why Now? Validate our Veterans' Moral Injuries

On a scale of 1-5 (“Not feeling at all” to “Feeling very much”), to what extent are you currently feeling the following emotions about the withdrawal of the American military from Afghanistan? (*Disappointed, Angry, Betrayed, Humiliated*)<sup>4 5</sup>



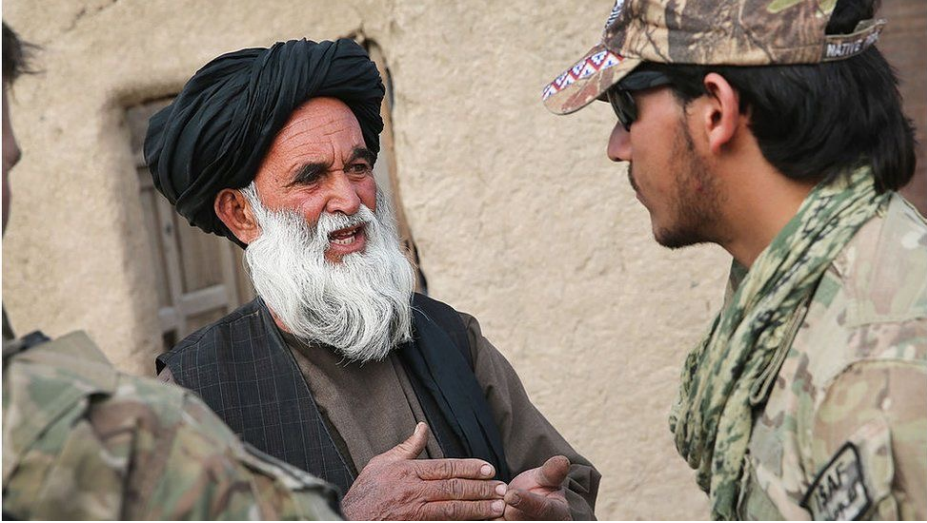
# First Truth

## The Taliban, Al Qaeda, and Pakistan defeated the United States, NATO, and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



# Second Truth

## The United States and NATO Abandoned their Afghan Allies on the Battlefield



# Way Forward

## Full Accountability



## Create Structured Space For Frank Discussions



# Status Quo?

AMERICAN TRAGEDY

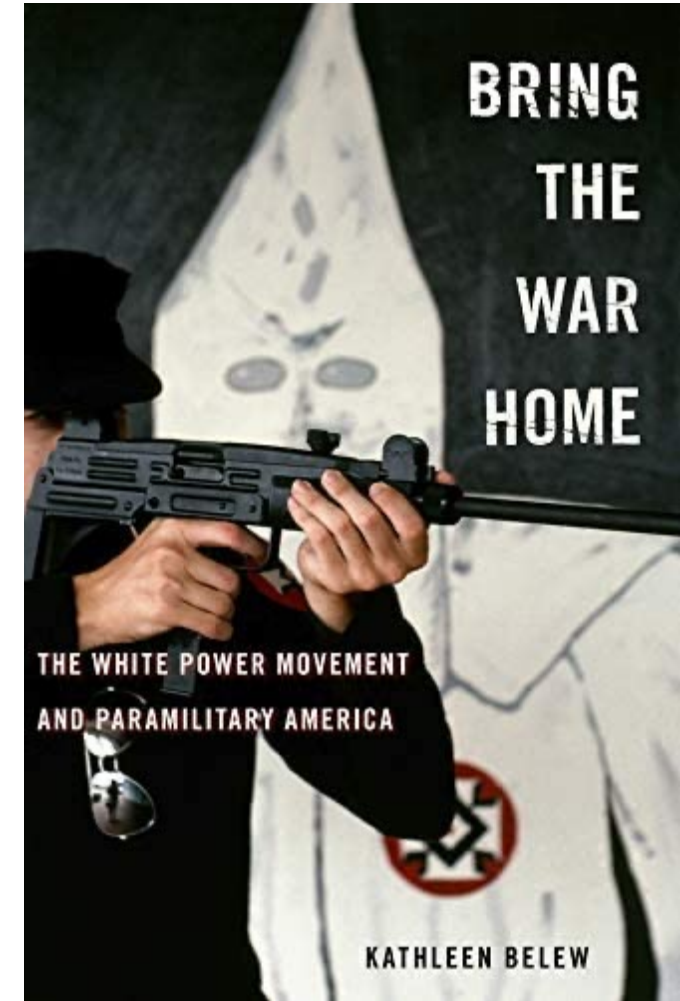
## 'These Kids Are Dying' – Inside the Overdose Crisis Sweeping Fort Bragg

A staggering total of 109 soldiers assigned to Fort Bragg died in 2020 and 2021. Dozens have lost their lives there to drug overdoses. Now, their families are demanding answers – and accountability

BY SETH HARP

Illustration by Joan Wong

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# Questions?

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