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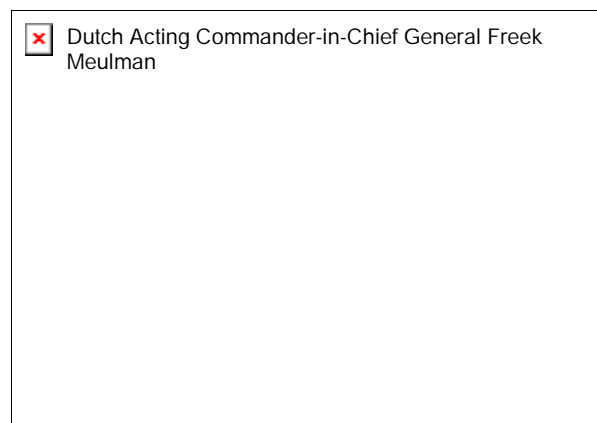
18-04-2008

Son of Dutch military chief killed in Afghanistan

Uruzgan roadside bomb kills two ISAF soldiers; two hurt

Another two Dutch soldiers have been killed in the Afghan province of Uruzgan. The soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb went off while they were on patrol close to Camp Holland. Two others were injured, one of them seriously.

The dead soldiers have been named as 22-year-old Corporal Schouwink and 23-year-old Lieutenant Dennis van Uhm. He is the son of General Peter van Uhm, who took over as commander-in-chief of the Dutch Armed Forces on Thursday.



Dutch Acting Commander-in-Chief
General Freek Meulman making a statement
about the bombing incident

In a statement, Acting Commander-In-Chief of the Dutch Armed Forces General Freek Meulman said that the patrol was part of a larger operation currently underway in the area around Camp Holland. General Meulman emphasised that there is absolutely no evidence that General van Uhm's son was specifically targeted.

The latest deaths bring the total number of Dutch soldiers killed since the start of the Uruzgan mission in August 2006 to 16.

Cabinet devastated

Dutch Minister of Defence Eimert van Middelkoop said the cabinet is devastated by the news. He expressed his condolences with the victims' relatives. According to the minister, the contrast between today's incident and yesterday's transfer of the army command to Chief of Defence Van Uhm could not have been sharper.

Minister Van Middelkoop has asked General Van Uhm to turn his attention first and for all to his private situation.

Tags: Afghanistan, casualties, ISAF, roadside bomb, Van Uhm



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