

### **Dutch officers say shortages endanger soldiers**

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The commanders of two Dutch platoons in the Afghan province of Uruzgan have written to the union for defence personnel VBM/NOV claiming that Dutch lives are at risk due to a shortage of equipment, such as armoured vehicles and ambulances. Existing equipment is poorly maintained.

It is not the first time that members of the Dutch Task Force in Uruzgan have complained about a lack of equipment. According to VBM/NOV chairman Jean Debie measures are urgently needed to tackle the problem.

Defence Minister Eimert van Middelkoop says although he thinks it is inappropriate that the commanders should have sought publicity in this way, he will investigate their complaints.