



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

1 February 2008

General D.L. Berlijn
Chief of Defence
Defence Staff, P.O. Box 20701
2500 ES The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear General *Berlijn* Berlijn,

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2007 regarding Dutch military participation in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) during 2001 and 2002.

After review by my staff and subordinate commands, I can state that the TF 58 report is the official unit history of that organization but cannot comment on any classified reports. U.S. Central Command's records show the only Dutch OEF participation in 2001 and 2002 as: Dutch Naval support for the OEF/Combined Forces Maritime Component Command, with several ships (frigates, auxiliary ships and submarines) from December 2001 to April 2006; and support to ISAF in December 2001 at Kabul, with an infantry company, a Special Forces task-group, and officers assigned to Headquarters ISAF.

Our records do not show any Dutch presence in Kandahar in 2001 or 2002; or Dutch participation in Operation Anaconda in 2002, or with Task Force K-Bar in 2001 or 2002. I concur in your assessment that the Dutch public radio incorrectly concluded that the Dutch Special Forces participated in OEF operations in 2001 or 2002 and cannot account for the erroneous information found in the two documents you cited.

I hope this clarifies matters and I appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mullen".

M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy