

The New York Times and Dutch Handimen

Description

Today, above the fold, main section, New York Times:



Photo: Tyler Hicks/New York Times

Caption: “Dutch soldiers, who stress reconstruction over combat, with a member of the Afghan National Police recently in Qala-e-Surkh, Afghanistan.”

Could the parenthetical statement “who stress reconstruction over combat” have been left out and still conveyed a message? I think so, but I guess any set of words can be used to convey a bias when you really want to get the point across.

US Navy SEABEES Insignia

In the meantime, why are there no pictures like this of the [SEABEES](#)? They have been stressing not only reconstruction, but also construction over combat for their entire existence. Prominently displayed on their home page the words: “With compassion for others, we build” we fight for peace and freedom. Not only do they build and fight, they have been known [to build while they fight!](#)

I guess the Dutch have issued camo and M-16s to carpenters. I suggest they outsource their work to the Navy.

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