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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/497/2021_2022__E8_AF_8D_E6_B1_87_E8_BE_85_E5_c84_497888.htm UNIT SIXTEEN
The Eco-War The military lexicon needs a new term:"eco-war". What better way to describe the acts of environmental slaughter committed last week in the Persian Gulf, where the air is thick with the smoke from burning oil wells and a wide stripe of crude petroleum is fouling the water and devastating wildlife? What is certain is that the oil spill has delivered a devastating blow to the ecology of the Persian Gulf. "Massive oil spills could turn this body of water into a virtual dead sea." says Brent Blackwelder, vice president of Friends of the Earth. But last weeks fires and oil spills could be just a prelude of future environmental disasters wrought by the war with Iraq. Among the areas of greatest concern: THE GULF. Because it is virtually an enclosed basin, with an outlet to the sea only 55 km wide at the Strait of Hormuz, the gulf is especially vulnerable to oil spills. In a body of water badly contaminated by tankers and garbage, a disastrous spill of the kind that Iraq caused last week could destroy nesting areas for endangered sea turtles while poisoning fish which are vital to local fishermen. BURNING OIL FIELDS. Saddam is assumed to have mined all or most of Kuwaits 360 operating oil wells. If he throws the switch, the resulting fires could send forth a vast cloud of dense black smoke that would foul the air and darken skies as far east as Afghanistan and northern India. After 30 days, smoke could cover an area half the size of Europe. But because oil gushes naturally to the

surface in most Kuwaiti wells, with no need of pumping, it will go on feeding a blaze until someone puts it out -- months or years later, depending on how long the war lasts. The worst possibility is that the immense smoke could lower temperatures in the Indian subcontinent a few degrees, disrupting the monsoon rains that are essential to crops for the nations of that area.

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS.

Chemical weapons work fast, then disappear. They were used during the Iran-Iraq war, sometimes with devastating consequences for combatants, but with almost none for the environment. Since the gulf war began, allied planes and missiles have pounded Iraqi chemical-weapons plants that manufacture mustard gas and nerve agents. Because the plants are surrounded by a 25 sq.km "exclusion zone", the likelihood of a deadly plume invading populated areas is small. Explosives would also tend to break the gases down into less deadly substances. Harmful chemicals that penetrated the soil would disappear without a trace within a few weeks at most. Biological agents could be a different problem. Iraq is believed to possess some of them. In open air, most of those die within hours. But if they penetrate the ground, they can survive in a dormant state for decades, waiting for new victims.

military a.军事的, 军用的 n.[the ~]军队,武装力量
militant a.激进的,好斗的 n.激进分子,斗士[联想词]
cannon n.大炮,火炮
artillery n.火炮,大炮
armor n.盔甲,装甲,保护物
pistol n.手枪
trigger n.1.扳机 2.引起反应的行动 vt.触发,引起
ammunition n.军火,弹药
lexicon n.1.词典,字典 2.特殊词汇,专门词汇[联想词]
appendix n.1.阑尾 2.附录
slaughter vt. n. 1.屠杀,杀戮 2.屠宰 [联想词]
massacre vt.1. 大规

模屠杀,残杀2.彻底击败 n.1.大屠杀 2.惨败 assassination n.刺杀,暗杀foul a.1.难闻的 2.令人不愉快的,糟透了的 3.污浊的 vt.1.对...犯规 2.弄脏,污染 n.犯规devastate vt.1.破坏,蹂躏,使荒芜 2.压倒,使垮掉devastating a. 1.毁灭性的,破坏力极强的 2.令人震惊的 3.强有力的ecology n. 1.生态 2.生态学prelude n.前奏,序幕,先声strait n. 1.海峡 2.[-s]困境,危难[联想词] cape n. 1.海角,山甲 2.斗篷,披肩isle n.小岛vulnerable a.1.易受伤的,脆弱的 2.易受攻击的,难防御的[联想词] susceptible a.1.易受影响的 2.过敏的 3.能接受的,容许的contaminate vt.弄脏,污染disastrous a. 1.灾难性的 2.极坏的,很糟的[联想词] misfortune n. 1.不幸,厄运 2.灾难,灾祸gush v. 1.喷,涌 2.滔滔不绝地说 n.1.喷,涌流 2.迸发,发作blaze vi.1.熊熊燃烧,着火 2.发光,放光 3.迸发,爆发 [联想词] glare vi.1.怒目而视 2.发射强光 n.炫耀,张扬disrupt vt.使中断,扰乱monsoon n.季风,季节风mustard n.芥菜likelihood n.可能,可能性plume n.1.(升上空中的)一缕(烟,尘土等) 2.羽毛

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