

## As tensions with Iran escalated, Trump opted for an extreme measure

In the *chaotic* days leading to the death of Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's most powerful commander, top American military officials put the option of killing him on the menu they presented to President Donald Trump.

chaotic 混乱的

They didn't think he would take it. In the wars waged since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, *Pentagon* officials have often offered improbable options to presidents to make other possibilities appear more *palatable*.

Pentagon 五角形; 五角大楼

palatable 美味的; 愉快的

After initially rejecting the Soleimani option on Dec. 28 and authorizing airstrikes on an Iranian-backed Shiite *militia* group instead, a few days later Trump watched, *fuming*, as television reports showed Iranian-backed attacks on the U.S. Embassy in *Baghdad*, according to Defense Department and administration officials.

militia 民兵组织; 自卫队

fuming 冒烟的; 愤怒的

Baghdad 巴格达

By late Thursday, the president had gone for the extreme option. Top Pentagon officials were *stunned*.

stunned 目瞪口呆的

The fallout from Trump's targeted killing is now underway. On Saturday in Iraq, the U.S. military was on alert as tens of thousands of pro-Iranian fighters marched through the streets of Baghdad and calls accelerated to eject the U.S. from the country.