

weapons now in use are rockets that each disperse 960 little anti-personnel bombs. Five Iraqis were killed Monday night in a 4th Infantry Division attack, Tate said.

Tate said that sympathizers of deposed Iraqi president Saddam Hussein pay mercenaries to harass U.S. troops. "We want them to think twice," he said. "They should leave out of fear or face death."

To curb the use of roadside bombs that are among the deadliest weapons employed by Iraqi resistance fighters, soldiers have orders to shoot and kill anyone seen digging a hole alongside thoroughfares, Tate said. The same goes for anyone seen carrying a weapon, he said.

Emphasizing the new get-tough approach, U.S. troops in dozens of armored vehicles patrolled in convoys throughout Tikrit Monday. "They are saying, 'I dare you,'" said Ashraf Skarki, a farmer. "The noise and dust, it is all part of their letter to Tikrit."

The activity is not limited to this town, which is notoriously hostile to the U.S. occupation. In Baqubah, several miles east of Tikrit, a pair of F-15 fighter jets, launched from Qatar on the Persian Gulf, dropped four 500-pound bombs Tuesday on some abandoned farmhouses, military officials said. Apache helicopter gunships and artillery poured fire on targets on Baqubah's outskirts and then ground troops pounded the area with 155mm howitzers and 120mm mortars.

"We have taken action on these targets before, but this is to demonstrate one more time that we have significant firepower and we can use it at our discretion," said Lt. Col. Mark Young, commander of the 67th Armor Regiment's 3rd Battalion, part of the 4th Infantry Division. "This is the biggest operation we've had in the Baqubah area in terms of tonnage and volume" of munitions, he said.

On Monday, two U.S. soldiers were killed near Balad, about 35 miles from Baqubah, one in a rocket-propelled grenade attack, the other by a roadside bomb.

"We will not let these insurgents dance on our territory. We need to maintain an offensive stance and let the enemy know that we will come down with a heavy hand," said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, a battalion commander with the 4th Infantry Division.

In Baghdad at mid-evening, U.S. forces fired heavy weapons at suspected guerrilla positions in the far western part of the city. A series of blasts reverberated across the capital. For a second consecutive night, the city was largely blacked out. U.S. officials blamed the electrical outage on a storm that they said toppled high-tension wires, although the weather has been calm for several days all across Iraq.

Exactly who the guerrillas are remains a mystery, even to commanders on the ground. At a briefing in Baghdad on Tuesday, Swannack said that 90 percent of the fighters that U.S. forces have captured or killed were loyalists of Hussein or Iraqi religious militants. While the Bush administration has described foreign fighters as posing a mounting threat, Swannack estimated that only 10 percent of the guerrillas had come from abroad.

"We are not finding foreign fighters coming across the borders in significant numbers to do the fighting," said Swannack, whose soldiers patrol a vast swath of Iraq that borders Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Resident of Hawijat al-Ali doubted the offensive in the Tikrit area would be successful. "Do they really think making this kind of ruin will stop the resistance?" said Jamal Shahib, who described himself as a shepherd.

Shahib and other residents said U.S. soldiers arrived Monday night searching for Ali Ahmed Hamid and Hussein Ali, two teen-

agers suspected of being members of Saddam's Fedayeen, a militia created in the 1990s as an irregular adjunct to Iraq's army and secret police. They did not find the young men. The soldiers arrested Omar Khalil Ibrahim, 55, and told the residents to leave their houses. They then unleashed the barrages of firepower to destroy the structures.

Everyone denied that anyone had a connection to Saddam's Fedayeen. One woman, in a fit of emotion, began to chant, "With our blood and our souls, we will defend you, O Saddam."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FLORIDA'S CITRUS INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues from Florida, Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. SHAW, for arranging this special order this evening.

Trade is a crucially important issue in Florida. With our great seaports and airports and our global position as the crossroads between North America and Central and South America and the Caribbean, Florida is well positioned to benefit from trade with our neighbors. However, in order for that trade to benefit Floridians, to create new jobs and new businesses and to promote the growth of existing enterprises, it must be conducted fairly.

One of Florida's signature industries is citrus. Citrus is Florida's second largest industry, responsible for generating over \$9 billion for the economy and providing nearly 90,000 people with jobs. The industry also accounts for roughly \$1 billion in revenue for the State and local governments. Not only is this industry responsible for giving jobs to tens of thousands of Floridians, it also helps to fund our public hospitals and schools, and our fire and police services.

But all is not well with Florida's citrus industry—primarily because of the impact of imports—and I urge the Bush administration to remember this fact when it considers requests to reduce or eliminate the current tariff on imported citrus juices during the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations this week-end or any other negotiations.

There are only two regions in the world that produce a substantial quantity of orange juice: Brazil and the United States. There are also only two regions of the world that consume substantial amounts of orange juice: the United States and the European Union. Brazil already has a virtual monopoly on the EU orange juice market, while Florida's growers sell their product almost entirely in the United States.

There is considerable evidence that the current tariff on imported juices encourages competition among producers and allows Florida's growers to compete on a level playing field. Florida's 12,000 growers, most of whom operate small family-owned operations, are the

most efficient and environmentally responsible in the world. Without the tariff, however, Florida's growers cannot compete against the four dominant processors in Brazil, who take advantage of cheap labor and weak environmental laws at the expense of Florida's growers.

The industry also provides many environmental benefits to the State of Florida and its citizens. A collapse of the industry would lead, perhaps inevitably, to more development and more congestion—and also to more air and water pollution and toxins in the environment. I understand that a collapse of the citrus industry would also threaten over 150 different species with extinction.

Today, Florida's citrus industry is already suffering tremendously because of uncertainty over the future of the tariff. The price of citrus is declining. Growers are selling land because they know they will have no future if the tariff is reduced or eliminated. In addition, the huge processors in Brazil are taking steps to exploit any reduction in the tariff by acquiring more groves in Brazil to enable them to dramatically increase production and overwhelm the U.S. market. It would be hard for any industry to survive, and impossible to prosper, in this environment.

The industry cannot afford to wait 6 more months or a year for the Bush administration to make a decision. This is why I urge the Bush administration to state clearly this week its final decision on this matter—to put an end to this uncertainty that is so seriously harming Florida's citrus industry.

Mr. Speaker, Florida's citrus industry—unlike almost all other agricultural commodities—receives no U.S. subsidies. American taxpayer money does not subsidize this industry. The tariff is the industry's only lifeline.

Again, I urge the administration to consider the ramifications of reducing or eliminating the tariff, which would discourage greater competition and would enable Brazil to secure a global monopoly over the orange juice market.

#### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues on this side of the aisle for joining with me tonight in discussing over the next hour one of the most important issues to come before this great body, this United States House of Representatives, probably in the history of the Congress, and I am talking about, Mr. Speaker, the impending passage of the bipartisan Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a good program. Medicare had done a lot of things since its inception, of course, when it was first put into place almost 40 years ago, but it is not perfect. Medicare, although it is a good program, is not perfect. Two of the main problems, Mr. Speaker, with Medicare are these: number 1, it has never had a prescription drug benefit. Yes, it covers