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# PERSPECTIVES

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## **United States Releases Stingers to Taiwan**

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The U.S. has released a \$45.3 million sale of 171 Stinger air-to-air missiles to Taiwan. Raytheon's Missile Systems won the contract under the Foreign Military Sales program. The missiles will be outfitted on new AH-64D Apache attack helicopters released to Taiwan in October 2009. In addition to the 171 missiles, Taiwan will also receive 24 captive flight trainers, 68 air-to-air launchers, seven launcher circuit evaluators, two digital launcher test sets, 60 coolant reservoir assemblies, three launcher emulators, and spares.

The U.S. Aviation and Missile Command Contracting Center, Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, is the contracting activity. In October 2008, the U.S. released 30 AH-64D Block III Apache Longbow attack helicopters for \$2.5 billion. The package included 171 Stinger Block I air-to-air missiles and 35 Stinger Missile Captive Flight Trainers.

Other items in the October Apache package included 30 modernized target acquisition designation sight/pilot night vision sensors, 17 AN/APG-78 fire control radar and AN/APR-48 radar frequency interferometers, 69 T700-GE-701D turbine engines, 1,000 AGM-114L Longbow Hellfire missiles, and 66 M299 Hellfire Longbow missile launchers.

The Apaches will be used to interdict a Chinese amphibious invasion force attempting to cross the Taiwan Strait.