

## **Formosa to Get Nike Battalion**

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**The United States announces it is turning over a Nike-Hercules missile battalion to Nationalist China.  
Page A4.**

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# Formosa to Get Nike Battalion

From News Dispatches

TAIPEI, Oct. 17—A full battalion of American Nike-Hercules missiles will be turned over to the Nationalist Chinese Army as soon as it can be trained to use them—in a year to 18 months, Maj. Gen. L. L. Doan, commander of U. S. Army forces on Formosa, announced at

a news conference here.

Doan said that Nationalist officers are now training in the United States to operate the missiles, and that a U. S. Army missile battalion (500 to 700 men) now building sites on

Formosa will help train a Nationalists will not be equipped with nuclear warheads. This would require an act of Congress.

The 2d Missile Battalion of the U. S. Army's 71st Artillery Regiment is now placing the missiles in four sites—of 12 launching positions each—in the Taipei vicinity, Doan said. He would not say whether nuclear warheads for the missiles were now on Formosa under U. S. custody.

Integrated units of American and Chinese soldiers might man some positions before the Chinese are fully trained, the U. S. commander said. He said he was unaware whether any agreement would prevent the Nationalists from moving some Nike-Hercules to the offshore islands once they took control of them.

Doan said "other American allies" were being trained in the operation of Nike-Hercules missiles.

One such battalion was sufficient to defend Taipei, he said. But two would be necessary to defend the entire island from air attack.

Doan also said: "Nikes supplement the air defense of Formosa. It does not necessarily mean that the Nationalists can reduce their air force because we have a Nike battalion."

A total of 68 Nike-Hercules missiles are reported already on Formosa or about to arrive. The weapon can seek out and destroy enemy airplanes up to 100 miles away.

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**Pvt. Oliver Smith of LaCrosse, Wis., a member of a battalion of American missilemen just arrived on Formosa, guards**

**a lineup of canned Nike Hercules missiles sent to the island to bolster the Nationalist defenses against the Communist Chinese.**