



**Legislative Alert #113-39: SUPPORT H.R. 3470 & S. 1683, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act**  
MILITARY

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**Issue Background:** The Naval Vessel Transfer Act, which has been introduced in numerous forms over the years, seeks to eliminate the maintenance costs of excess vessels no longer necessary for our maritime forces by both grants and sales, thereby saving money, generating funds and helping to alleviate some of the pressures from sequestration during these difficult economic times for our military. In addition, the bill will provide our allies with augmented maritime posture to confront maritime threats to their national security.

The bill outlines a plan to transfer through grants the USS *Curtis* (FFG-38) and USS *McClusky* (FFG-41), both *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates, to Mexico as well as the USS *Rentz* (FFG-46) and USS *Vandegrift* (FFG-48) to Thailand. Furthermore, the bills will also help generate funds through the sale of the USS *Taylor* (FFG-50), USS *Gary* (FFG-51), USS *Carr* (FFG-52), and USS *Elrod* (FFG-55), *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO). It is important to note that in 2012 alone, two FFGs were sold for **\$240 million** to Taipei. The sale of these vessels, in particular, not only helps with cost savings and generates funds, but provides for Taiwan's growing defense needs.

**Action Required:** Contact your Representatives and Senators and urge them to support and cosponsor H.R. 3470, introduced by Representative Ed Royce (R-CA-39) and S. 1683, introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), the Naval Vessel Transfer Act. These bills would allow the United States to transfer and sell excess maritime vessels in order to eliminate unnecessary maintenance costs, generate funds, and augment the maritime postures of our allies.

**Details (To Be Put Into Letter):**

Our military faces tough economic times due to budget constraints and sequestration. The need to address this financial pressure has forced the Department of Defense (DOD) to try to find ways of operating as efficiently as possible. Looking at the older platform, *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigate (FFG) could be an answer to budget problems. In 2012, two FFGs were sold for **\$240 million** to Taipei, generating funds for the U.S. These older class of vessels have been deemed no longer necessary for our maritime force to achieve its goals, and removing these excess FFGs from the force, whether by grant or sale, will save money in the form of maintenance costs and will also generate additional funds. Furthermore, the United States has the opportunity to

selectively grant or sell these vessels to our allies, through Congressional authorization, whose national defense capabilities will benefit from augmented naval forces.

The Naval Vessel Transfer Act, H.R. 3470 and S. 1683, would allow the United States to transfer the *Oliver Hazard Perry* Class guided missile frigates (FFGs), by both grant and sale vessels, to a number of our allies under Section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. Eliminating the maintenance costs associated with these excess vessels, cutting costs as well as generating funds, would greatly help alleviate some of the pressure from sequestration and additional budget constraints. On top of this, the U.S. could greatly benefit from the bills, such that our allies would be provided with improved maritime postures to address threats to their national and global security.

**Take Action:** Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Senators and Representatives. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication . Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislation, Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800 or at [Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org](mailto:Anthony.Wallis@ausn.org).