U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center Detachment

Sasebo, Japan

Accessible Version

History and Mission

The Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) detachment in Sasebo was originally designated as the Sasebo Office to the Ship Repair Facility in Yokosuka in 1976, and made a detachment in 1984. The SRF-JRMC detachment is responsible for supporting the maintenance for the eight surface ships based in Sasebo, and can provide technical assistance and other maintenance to ships in and visiting Japan.

Unique Issues

During fiscal year 2018, local private companies conducted nearly two-thirds of ship maintenance in Sasebo. The SRF-JRMC detachment's Japanese workforce also provides depot-level maintenance. The operational requirements for the amphibious ships based in Sasebo are aligned with the missions of the U.S. Marines based in Okinawa, Japan. The patrol schedules typically involve three ships deploying and then returning to port for maintenance at the same time. As a result, the ship maintenance workload is not stable, according to Navy officials, which presents difficulties for local companies to plan for and support the workload.

Performance

Ships in Sasebo experienced 558 days of maintenance delay in fiscal year 2018. The Navy completed 13 of the 16 maintenance periods later than planned, with more than half of these 31 or more days late based on our analysis of maintenance started in fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

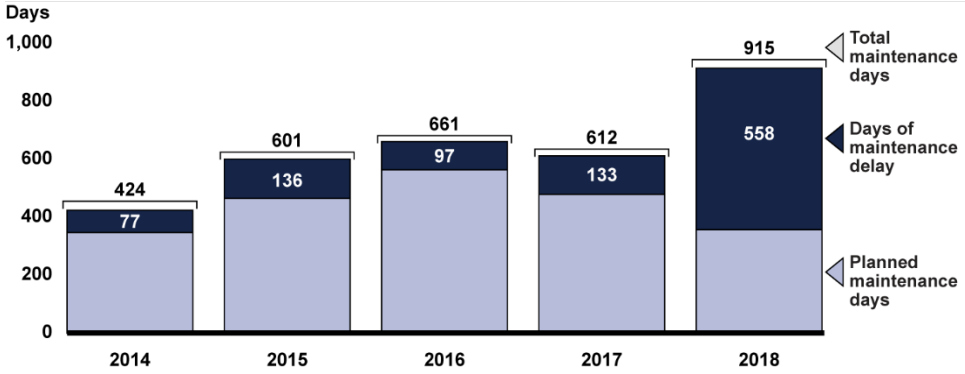
U.S. Navy Surface Ship Maintenance Snapshot

Surface Ships Maintained in Sasebo as of Fiscal Year 2018
1 Amphibious Assault Ship (LHD)
1 Amphibious Transport Dock (LPD)
2 Dock Landing Ships (LSD)
4 Mine Countermeasures Ships (MCM)

Fiscal Year 2018 Authorized SRF-JRMC Workforce
U.S. Civilians: 65
U.S. Navy: 40
Japanese nationals: 450 (paid for by the Government of Japan)

Note: These numbers represent approved full-time equivalent civilian and authorized military positions not numbers of personnel, according to Navy documentation.

Figure 11: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Sasebo, Japan, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

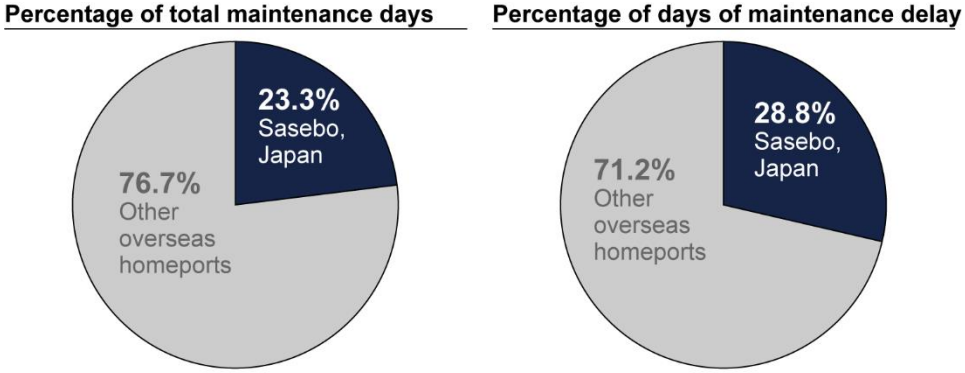


Source: GAO analysis of Navy data. | GAO-20-86

Accessible Data for Figure 11: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Sasebo, Japan, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Year	Total	Delay
2014	347	77
2015	46	136
2016	564	97
2017	479	133
2018	357	558

Figure 12: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Sasebo, Japan (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)



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Note: The other overseas homeports are Yokosuka, Japan; Rota, Spain; and Manama, Bahrain.

Accessible Data for Figure 12: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Sasebo, Japan (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Category	Percentage	Overseas homeport
Percentage of total maintenance days	23.3%	Sasebo, Japan
Percentage of total maintenance days	76.7%	Other overseas homeports
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	28.8%	Sasebo, Japan
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	71.2%	Other overseas homeports

Future Considerations

Navy officials stated that the Navy is finalizing a new maintenance approach for amphibious ships in Sasebo, which increases the number of maintenance periods but relies on deep maintenance in the United States before and after deployment. The Navy plans to add a fifth amphibious ship in fiscal year 2020, and to decommission the MCMs by fiscal year 2023, but has not finalized plans for littoral combat ships intended to replace them, according to Navy officials.