Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center Detachment

Manama, Bahrain

Accessible Version

History and Mission

The Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center detachment in Bahrain (FDRMC Detachment Bahrain) was established in June 2014. FDRMC Detachment Bahrain manages the maintenance of ships based there, and can provide fleet technical assistance and coordinate voyage repairs for other ships in the U.S. Fifth Fleet area of operations including Military Sealift Command ships and visiting U.S. Navy ships. FDRMC Detachment Bahrain manages the maintenance for the most homeported ships of all overseas locations.

Unique Issues

The U.S. Navy faces staffing challenges in Bahrain that may contribute to maintenance delays, according to Navy officials. For example, officials from both FDRMC Detachment Bahrain and the Navy's Fleet Logistics Center, which manages the contracting process for ship maintenance there, face staffing shortfalls. Navy officials attributed staffing challenges to a number of factors, including Department of Defense limitations on the length of time U.S. civilians may be employed outside of the United States.

Performance

Ships based in Bahrain experienced 678 days of maintenance delay in fiscal year 2018. The Navy completed 19 of 22 maintenance periods later than planned. This included 13 periods completed 31 or more days late based on our analysis of Navy maintenance periods started during fiscal years 2014 through 2018.

U.S. Navy Surface Ship Maintenance Snapshot

Surface Ships Maintained in Manama as of Fiscal Year 2018

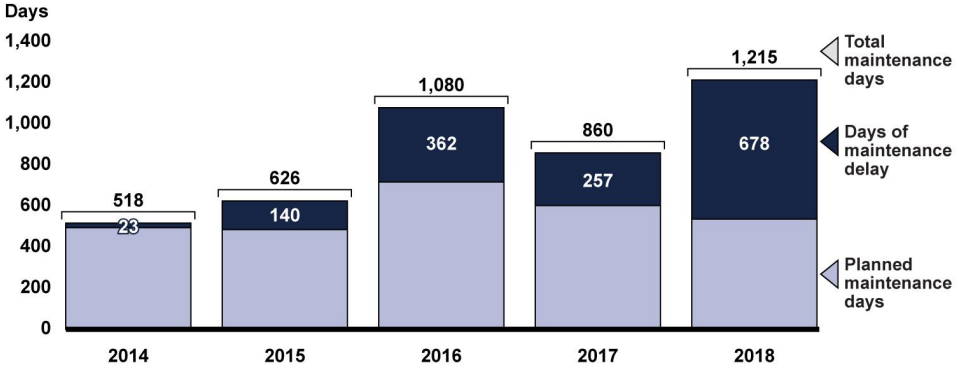
10 Patrol Coastal Ships (PC)
4 Mine Countermeasures Ships (MCM)

Fiscal Year 2018 Authorized FDRMC Workforce

U.S. Civilians: 87
U.S. Navy: 29
Foreign nationals: 14

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

Figure 15: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Manama, Bahrain, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

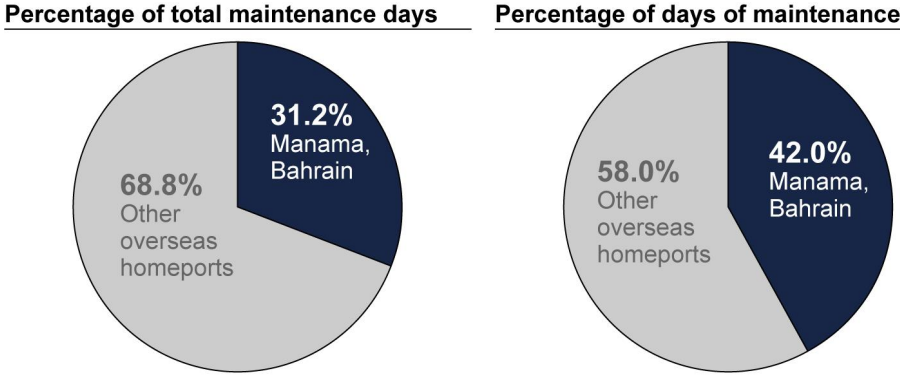


Source: GAO analysis of Navy data. | GAO-20-86

Accessible Data for Figure 15: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Manama, Bahrain, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Fiscal year	Total	Delay
2014	495	23
2015	486	140
2016	718	362
2017	603	257
2018	537	678

Figure 16: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Manama, Bahrain (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)



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

Note: The other overseas homeports are in Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan, and Rota, Spain.

Accessible Data for Figure 16: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Manama, Bahrain (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Category	Percentage	Overseas homeport
Percentage of total maintenance days	31.2%	Manama, Bahrain
Percentage of total maintenance days	68.8%	Other overseas homeports
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	42.0%	Manama, Bahrain
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	58.0%	Other overseas homeports

Future Considerations

Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the Navy will decommission U.S.-based MCMs to provide spare parts to MCMs overseas. The Navy plans to decommission the MCMs and PCs in Bahrain in fiscal years 2023 and 2026, respectively. The Navy plans to replace the MCM mission with littoral combat ships but has not finalized plans for their deployment or maintenance, according to Navy officials.