Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center Detachment

Rota, Spain

Accessible Version

History and Mission

The Navy established initial maintenance center operations in Rota in December 2013 to oversee maintenance of the four destroyers the Navy began to move to Spain in 2014. The Navy established the Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) headquarters in Naples, Italy, in 2014, with detachments in Spain and Bahrain. FDRMC Detachment Rota is responsible for managing the maintenance of ships based there and providing technical assistance to U.S. Navy ships visiting U.S. Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of operation and other duties.

Unique Issues

One state-owned Spanish company maintains all four ships in Rota, with management and oversight by the FDRMC detachment's U.S. Navy and civilian personnel. The maintenance approach and set of ships in Rota were designed around the specific ships' mission, according to officials. For example, the four ships based in Rota are similar age and configuration, serve the same mission, and have regular patrol schedules. The Navy decided not to conduct dry-dock maintenance in Rota to maximize the ships' availability for operations. As a result, Navy officials said ships must receive all dry-dock maintenance and modernization in the United States before and after rotating to Spain.

Performance

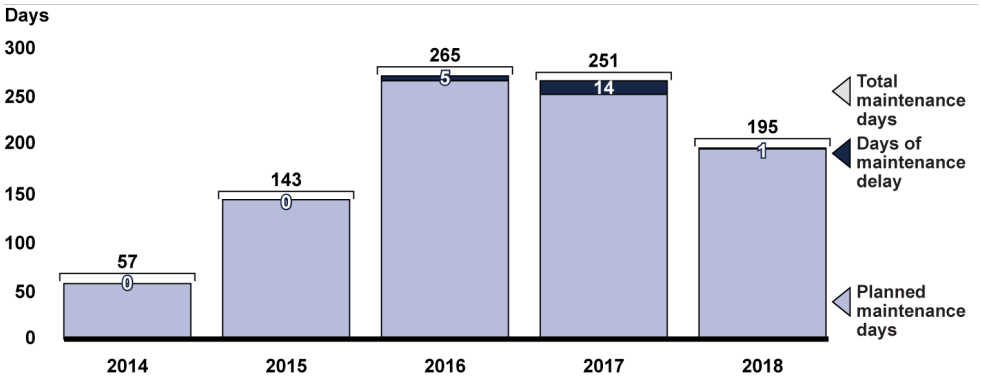
Ships based in Rota experienced 20 total days of delay during fiscal years 2014 through 2018, and the majority of maintenance periods started during this time were completed early or on time.

U.S. Navy Surface Ship Maintenance Snapshot

Surface Ships Maintained in Rota as of Fiscal Year 2018
4 Guided-missile destroyers (DDG)

Fiscal Year 2018 Authorized FDRMC Workforce
U.S. Civilians: 73
U.S. Navy: 8
Note: These numbers represent approved full-time equivalent civilian and authorized military positions not numbers of personnel, according to Navy documentation.

Figure 13: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Rota, Spain, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

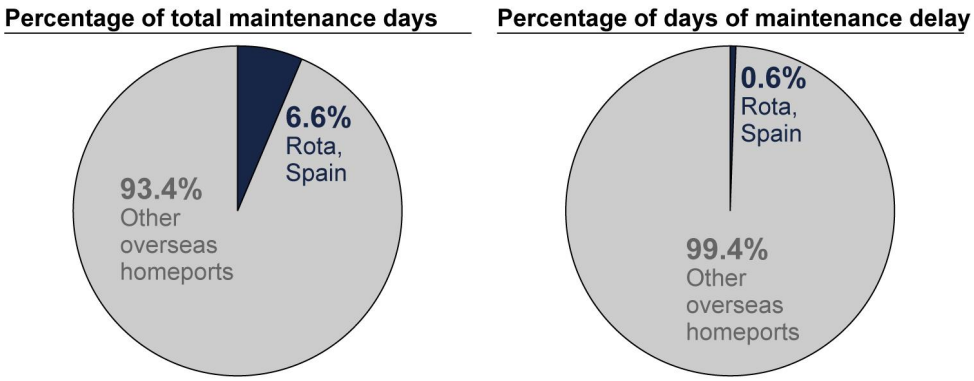


Source: GAO analysis of Navy data. | GAO-20-86

Accessible Data for Figure 13: Total Days U.S. Navy Surface Ships Based in Rota, Spain, Underwent Maintenance, Including Delays (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Fiscal year	Total	Delay
2014	57	0
2015	143	0
2016	265	5
2017	251	14
2018	195	1

Figure 14: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Rota, Spain (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 Manama, Bahrain.

Accessible Data for Figure 14: Percentage of Total Overseas Maintenance and Delays Experienced by Surface Ships Based in Rota, Spain (Fiscal Years 2014 through 2018)

Category	Percentage	Overseas homeport
Percentage of total maintenance days	6.6%	Rota, Spain
Percentage of total maintenance days	93.4%	Other overseas homeports
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	0.6%	Rota, Spain
Percentage of days of maintenance delay	99.4%	Other overseas homeports

Future Considerations

The Navy plans to rotate the four current ships back to the United States beginning in 2020 through 2022. FDRMC officials said the next set of ships will not be as standardized as the first four. Additionally, the Senate Armed Services Committee has directed the Navy to assess the feasibility of increasing the number of guided-missile destroyers based in Rota from four to six. FDRMC officials said increasing the number of ships would require additional staff and physical infrastructure that would need to be negotiated with the Spanish government.