

Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center Readies Gerald R. Ford CSG for Timely Departure



The world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), sails in formation with the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers USS Winston Churchill (DDG 81), USS Mitscher (DDG 57), USS Mahan (DDG 72), USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), and USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98) in the Atlantic Ocean, Nov. 12, 2024. The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group is underway in the Atlantic Ocean completing Group Sail. Group Sail is the first at-sea integrated phase training event during a routine deployment training cycle. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Maxwell Orlosky)

By Danielle Lofton, Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center Public Affairs

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NORFOLK Va. – Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center showcased its critical role in naval readiness after providing crucial technical support to the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group. The strike group, which includes USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), USS Mahan (DDG 72), USS Forrest Sherman (DDG 98), USS Bainbridge (DDG 96), USS Mitscher (DDG 57), and USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81), received comprehensive maintenance assistance from MARMC, allowing it to depart for training on time from Naval Station Norfolk.

While supporting the CSG, MARMC simultaneously extended its expertise to several other ships, providing Fleet Technical Assists to USS San Antonio (LPD 17), USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28), USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44), and USS Normandy (CG 60). In total, MARMC enabled 10 warships to depart on-schedule, fully mission capable.

“We are proud to work alongside our Fleet and our industry partners to deliver results and demonstrate MARMC’s commitment to ensuring our warships are ready to project power and uphold the U.S. Navy’s standing as the world’s premier fighting force,” said Capt. Jay Young, MARMC commanding officer. “This success highlights the capabilities of our team and our ability to provide simultaneous, high-priority support to multiple ships, getting them back to sea in record time.”

Preparing a Carrier Strike Group (CSG) for deployment is no small task. Behind the scenes, Regional Maintenance Centers (RMCs) play a vital role in ensuring that everything from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier to the propulsion systems of the escort ships is in optimal condition to meet the demands of modern naval warfare.

“The preparation for each group of ships is unique,” said Maintenance Operations Director Riccardo Cutruzzula. “Each ship’s schedule and maintenance need is different, and the

maintenance team must be flexible. A continual assessment approach is taken based on the ship's current material condition. Ultimate success is driven by identifying the potential problems before it becomes critical so there is adequate time to repair and address."

While the immediate task of preparing for deployment is critical, RMCs also play a long-term role in shaping the Navy's future readiness. Maintenance teams use real-time data, lessons learned from previous deployments, and predictive analysis to ensure that each ship remains ready for future missions.

In her 2024 Navigation Plan, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Lisa Franchetti emphasized the importance of readying our platforms. This strategic guidance highlights CNO's focus on readiness and long-term advantage with a specific focus on workforce growth and development. Expanding the fleet maintenance workforce provides the opportunity to better address both routine and emergent needs ensuring that the Fleet is always prepared for a rapidly changing global security environment.

CSGs are among the Navy's most formidable assets, and it is the dedication, technical capability and expertise of RMCs that ensures ships are mission ready. Comprised of skilled technicians, engineers, and military and civilian professionals, MARMC plays a crucial role in maintaining these ships' battle-readiness, putting more ready players on the field that are equipped and capable of projecting power across the globe, whenever and wherever they are needed.