SRF-JRMC celebrates 17th annual U.S.- Japan Spring Festival

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Members of the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) Yokosuka joined together to participate in the 17th annual U.S.-Japan Spring Festival held on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) March 28.

SRF-JRMC held a fund raiser and was represented by a full spectrum of personnel including the command master chief and members of the wardroom, Chief Petty Officers Association, the Blue Collar Association, Master Labor Contract employees, U.S. Civil Service employees, U.S. contract employees, and numerous SRF-JRMC family members who were eager to share a fun-filled and spirited day with our host-nation Japanese neighbors and to support the command's fundraising efforts that support several local charities including Miura Shiratori-en, a home for the disabled, and Shinsei-kai, a local home for battered and abused women and children.

(Right) FCC (SW) Dan Glatz of SRF-JRMC had fun serving food and meeting new people during the the 17th annual U.S.-Japan Spring Festival on board CFAY March 28.
FCC (SW) ダニエル・グラッツさんは販売する食品の給仕やお客さんとの会話を楽しんだ。

The Spring Festival, which drew more than 40,000 guests to CFAY, not only increased friendship between the U.S. Navy and the Japanese community, but also the relationship among the 20-member SRF-JRMC team who worked numerous hours to set up equipment, prepare food and work the grills.

According to SRF-JRMC Morale, Welfare and Recreation Treasurer Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Rickey Davis, a key element to the success of this event was to plan ahead. Taking steps to ensure the timely booth set up, early food preparation, keeping up with the grills and good customer service ensured the success of this event.

The SRF-JRMC team sold more than 700 hot dogs and 250 kilograms of Korean-style barbequed ribs to raise more than $6,400 that will help with the command's charitable projects.

The day provided members of SRF-JRMC with not only the chance for fundraising, but was also a positive for all family members.

"The reason my family volunteered was to help the command raise funds and also because I wanted my children to learn that it is good to help other people," said Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Daniel Glatz. "Everyone seems to have fun and enjoy working even if sometimes it was a bit tiring. I think, for the most part, people enjoy being around laughter and seeing other people happy."

Glatz's wife, Sara, agreed with her husband, stating, "These open base festivals are great family events and since a great portion of the funds raised goes towards benefitting others, my family and I just enjoy being a part of it."

In addition to raising funds, the event offered an opportunity for cultural exchange between Americans and Japanese.

"We usually don't have a chance to come and see and enjoy the Spring Festival," said Jack Perkins, who volunteered to help with the event. "We really enjoyed meeting and talking with people of our host nation and everyone who came out for the event."

Master Chief Machinist Mate (SW/AW) Shane Lazio, SRF-JRMC command master chief, agreed with Perkins regarding cultural exchange.

"It's always amazing to see Japanese people come to the base and interact with members of our community," said Lazio. "I am so delighted and [I] appreciate the huge turnout of people."

SRF-JRMC volunteers put forth a lot of effort to ensure that things ran smoothly.

"The event booth was well organized and everyone had fun preparing and selling the food and meeting new people," said Youko Suzuki, who also volunteered. "Throughout the day, we had long lines of people waiting to buy our food."

Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer Koji Hasebe, who said that he was covering the Spring Festival waited in line for 20 minutes to buy Korean-style barbecued ribs, and waited for 20 minutes to get the ribs. He went behind the booth and talked with the volunteers who were cooking the ribs.

"I walked around taking pictures of the events and booths. The ribs I ate were very tasty and inexpensive. I could say the taste is 'A-1' here," said Hasebe.

SRF-JRMC、日米親善スプリングフェスタを祝う

文・写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）のボランティアが3月28日横須賀基地内（CFAY）で行なわれた第17回スプリング・フェスタに参加した。

士官協会、部隊最上級兵曹長、ブルーカラー協会（BCA）、日本人従業員、軍属、兵曹長協会（CPOA）とその家族が地域との親睦、そして女性と児童向け保護施設の真生会や、障害を持つ児童や居住者の介護施設三浦しらとり園などを含む地域事業への支援金の調達を目的としてボランティア活動を興じた。

3万5千人近くの人々が詰め掛けたスプリング・フェスタは、米海軍と日本人との友好関係を向上させ、SRF-JRMCチームの絆を強めた。20名以上のボランティアが3時間交替制でブースの設置、食べ物の準備、肉の焼き具合やグリルの火加減の調整を行った。

SRF-JRMCの士気、福祉、娯楽(MWR)の会計を担当するFFC(SW)リッキー・デービスさんは、資金調達の成功のカギはブース設置、食べ物の下準備、グリルの火加減の調整、と顧客サービス役割分担といった総体的且十分な事前準備にあると言う。

この日、SRF-JRMCはホットドッグを700個以上、韓国風スペアリブを250キロ　完売し、6400ドルの収益を上げた。その収益はSRF-JRMCが支援する地域貢献プロジェクトの資金に充てられる。

このイベントはSRF-JRMCの参加者にとって、単に活動資金調達への奉仕だけでなく、家族と楽しく過ごす一日となった。

家族と参加したFCC(SW)ダニエル・グラッツさんは「参加理由は資金調達の手伝いに留まらず、他の人達を手伝う事の大切さを子供たちに学ばせたかったからです」と話す。

The SRF-JRMC team worked throughout the day to keep up with the demand for ribs and hot dogs during the U.S. - Japan Spring Festival March 28.
スプリングフェスタでSRF-JRMCチームはホットドッグとスペアリブの調理に余念がない。

Volunteers at the SRF-JRMC booth kept busy preparing and selling hot dogs, ribs, soft drinks and souvenirs while Spring Festival guests eagerly lined-up for a chance to purchase items.
出品物の購買に並ぶお客さんが待つ中、SRF-JRMCのボランティアはホットドッグ、スペアリブ、ジュース、お土産物の準備と販売に忙しい。

また、サラ夫人は「こういった基地開放などの行事は、素晴らしい家族行事でもあります。調達した資金の大半が他の人達のためになるのですから、私と家族も貢献できて嬉しく思います」と感想を述べた。

ボランティアのジャック・パーキンスさんは、「貴重な機会を得て、我われは地域の方々やこのイベントに集った人たちとの出会いと語らいの場を楽しみました」と話してくれた。

「出店は順調で誰もが販売や人との出会いを楽しんでいました。長蛇の列ができる繁盛ぶりにうれしかったです」と日本人ボランティアの鈴木葉子さん。

読売新聞記者の長谷部耕二さんは、スプリング・フェスタの取材で訪れれた。韓国風スペアリブの購入に20分並び、その後、裏方で肉を焼くボランティアと言葉を交わした。「出店やイベントの撮影で歩き回りました。ここで食べたスペアリブはとても上手く安くて大満足です。」

グラッツさんはさまざまな面からチームワークを楽しめたと言う。「時々、疲れも見られましたが、誰もが楽しみながら販売、準備、下ごしらえに従事していました。何処でも笑い声と笑顔があふれていた一日だったと思います」と話した。

「日本人の皆さんが基地に足を運び、我々と親交を深める姿を見て、毎回、驚いてます。大変嬉しく、ありがたいことです」とSRF-JRMCの部隊最先任上等兵曹長(CMC)のMMCM(SW/AW)シェーン・ラジオさんは言葉を締めくくった。