SRF-JRMC Safety Office provides training to new apprentices

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

The Safety Office at U. S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) recently conducted a three-day safety training session for the 31 apprentices who are the newest members of the SRF-JRMC Apprentice Program. They were provided with safety knowledge that will protect them from potentially dangerous situations that they may encounter in the industrial working environment of SRF. This session for the new apprentices will hopefully foster an appreciation for safety consciousness.

"There are many aspects of safety that you must familiarize yourself with because there are many ways to get injured," said SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy in his remarks to the new apprentices. "Some injuries, like a cut finger happen quickly, while other injuries, such as hearing loss can happen over a longer period of time. Because we all work in an industrial environment with many hazards such as sharp edges, high speed machinery and large metal objects, we must be vigilant all day and every day. Several times during the day, before starting work in a shop or on a ship or even while you are just walking around the facility, you need to ask yourself the following questions: What can hurt me? What can I do about the thing that can hurt me? If there is nothing I can do about the thing that can hurt me, who can I tell?

"Be proactive in your safety and in the safety of your coworkers. Do not assume that someone else is taking care of safety while you are rigging or welding or cutting sheet metal. Safety professionals of the Safety Office do a great job, but they cannot be everywhere at all times. On the work site, no one person can see all the dangers, and no one cares about your own personal safety like you do. So take ownership of your own personal safety. You must learn about safety as soon and as quickly as possible," Stancy concluded.

According to SRF-JRMC Safety Inspector Kennichi Yokoi, safety is of the utmost importance throughout the daily operations at SRF-JRMC

"We provide the new apprentices with safety training immediately upon their entry into the four-year apprenticeship program," said Yoki. "We do this because we want to impress upon them how important safety is at SRF-JRMC and so that they will develop the mind-set to keep working safely until the day they retire."

In addition to basic safety training and command safety regulations and standards that were taught in the classroom, the trainers challenged the apprentices with some practical exercises in the use of safety harnesses and the fitting of protective masks used for respiratory protection. Additionally, the apprentices were each presented with a personal copy of the SRF-JRMC Safety Handbook and briefed on its contents including hearing conservation, personal protective equipment, emergency situations on board ships and mishap prevention.

"Training is meaningless if participants can't understand what has been presented," said SRF-JRMC Safety Inspector Shunsuke Nakamura. "We sometimes struggle in choosing training materials and tools for this safety training. I was glad when I saw them listening enthusiastically during our lecture."

"These apprentices are actually key members of the next generation of the SRF-JRMC work force," said Nakamura. "I expect them to keep themselves safe and healthy by making the work place as safe as possible while accomplishing a lot of excellent work."

Apprentices see first-hand the importance of properly using the respiratory protective mask during the training session of a respiratory protection and mask-fit test.
トレーニングで訓練生は適切な安全マスク装着の重要性を経験した。

Masaki Kanno, a diver apprentice, said that prior to the safety training, he never thought much about safety and thought the training would be less informative than it was.

"Members of the SRF-JRMC Safety Office take safety seriously and taught us the importance of safety," said Kanno. "They explained safety in an in depth and detailed manner, covering the various areas of our jobs. Now I understand the importance of safety. I got more useful knowledge about safety and I do not want to be killed or injured while working as a diver. I would like to do my best to reduce accidents and injuries at work by following the safety regulations and helping my coworkers. I will pay strict attention to help keep the work environment safe."

In his previous job, welding apprentice Takaaki Ashina said he did not pay much attention to safety. He thought that safety training at SRF-JRMC would be similar to other private enterprises; however, Ashina stated that he is now much more aware of the need for safety and felt that safety is very important after completing the safety training.

"I think that I should take care of my personal safety while on the job," said Ashina. "I should not depend on a coworker to keep me or others safe while traveling to and from work. We all need to be thinking of safety all the time to prevent accidents or injuries. I say safety first, business second, safety always."

Safety is an important element of the SRF-JRMC 2010 Strategic Plan. As part of Tactical Goal 1, entitled "Enabling Our People," SRF-JRMC is developing and implementing the Voluntary Protection Plan (VPP) for its workforce. The goal for VPP is to bring the ownership of safety down to the individual's level, thereby minimizing the number of safety incidents in the production shops and offices and on board ships. SRF-JRMC hopes to attain VPP Star Site status by December 2011.

SRF-JRMC技能訓練生、最重要項目である安全を学ぶ

文・写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

艦船修理及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）の安全室は今春入廠した31名の技能訓練生(以下訓練生)を対象に、3日間の安全講習を開催し、危険を伴う造修現場で身を守る為の安全知識を教授した。

SRF-JRMC司令官のスティーブン・スタンシー大佐は訓練生に対し安全の大切さを説いた。「あらゆる危険に対し、一人一人が安全に対する多くの知識を蓄えておく必要があります。指を切るなど単発的なケガもあれば、聴力の損失など長い時間をかけゆっくりと起こるケガもあるのです。我われは鋭利な刃物や高速機械、大きく重い板金など多くの危険なものを扱う工業的な職場で働く上で、いかなる時も危険に対し注意を払わなければなりません。一日のうちに何度でも、例えば職場や艦船上で仕事を始める前、施設を歩いている時など、ケガをさせる物がないか、どうしたらケガを回避できるか、ケガをしそうなものを見つけたら誰に報告すべきかなど、常に自問自答して安全を意識して下さい。」

そしてスタンシー大佐はスピーチをこう締めくくった。「自分と同僚の安全に前向きに取り組んでください。索具、溶接、板金切断など作業中に誰かが自分の安全を気にかけてくれているなどと思ってはいけません。SRF-JRMCの安全室がどれ程優秀であっても、四六時中あなたの危険を見張っているわけにはいかないのです。安全とは誰かが全責任を負い、その保障を約束できるものではないのです。自分の安全は自分で確保してください。そして同僚の安全、職場の安全と更にはSRF-JRMC全体の安全に目を向けてください。安全知識は訓練生が最初に学ぶべき必須項目です。」

「SRF-JRMCでの業務で最重視項目が安全です」と語気を強めて話すのは、安全検査官の横井健一さん。「4年間の訓練項目の最初の講習として安全室は訓練生に安全講習を行ないます。入廠した訓練生がこの部隊でいかに安全が重要であるかを理解し、ゆくゆくはケガなく定年退職を迎えることを願います。」

この安全講習で安全に関する基礎知識や部隊安全基準に関する教習など教室内で行なわれる講習の他、落下防止安全ハーネス及び安全マスクの装着方法を実地訓練も行われた。又、訓練生は聴力保護、個人保護具、艦船上での緊急事態や災難防止を含むSRF-JRMCのセーフティーハンドブックによる従業員安全規則を学んだ。

Safety trainers challenge apprentices with practical exercises in the use of harnesses during fall protection training.
安全室のトレーナーが訓練生に落下防止安全ハーネスの装着方法を実地訓練した。

「講習は我われの意図することが受講者に伝わって初めて意味があるのです」と安全検査官の中村俊介さんは話し、こう続けた。「それ故、どうしたら受講生が十分に講習の内容を理解してくれるか、どんなツールや資料がいるのか準備に苦労しました。受講生の皆さんが真剣に聞いてくれたようで安心しています。」

「彼ら(訓練生)は将来のSRF-JRMCを背負う大切な人材です」と中村さんは続けた。「仕事をばりばりやってもらいたいですが、その前提として是非、安全作業に気を使うよう期待します。」

ダイバー訓練生の菅野政貴さんによると、安全講習を受ける以前は安全を軽視し、安全講習も大した内容ではないだろうと思っていたと言う。

「SRF-JRMCの安全室の皆さんは安全に対する考えが真剣で、安全とは何かを教えてくれました。あらゆる仕事に於いて詳細にわたって安全についての説明をしてくれました。今は安全の重要性がわかり、安全に対する貴重で有益な情報を得ました。ダイバーとして水中で命を失いたくはありません。同僚と共に安全規則に従い、職場でのケガや事故を限りなく減らす事が出来るように最善を尽くし、職場環境を安全に保つように徹底した注意を払います。」と菅野さんは自信を持って述べた。

訓練生になる前の職場では、安全よりも仕事が最優先であり、SRF-JRMCの安全講習の内容は一般企業と変わり映えしないものだろうと考えていたのは溶接訓練生の芦名高明さん。安全講習を終えて芦名さんは多くの事柄を学び安全への意識が上がり、安全とはとても重要だと感じるようになったと言う。

「仕事中は自分の安全は自分自身で確保すべきだと強く思います。また、通勤中も自分の安全を同僚や他人に委ねるべきではないと思います。事故やケガに被らないように常に安全を考えていることが必要です。『安全第一、安全あってこその仕事、何時も安全に』を心構えとし、職務を努めたいと思います」と芦名さんは言葉を締めくくった。

SRF-JRMC2010年度戦略計画の重要な要素は安全性がある。「人材『財』育成という題の実務ゴール1の1部であり、SRF-JRMCはその従業員の自助的保護プログラム（VPP）を展開しその達成の促進している。VPPのゴールは安全に対する意識を個人レベルまで浸透させ、個々の造修工場、事務所及び艦船上での安全上の出来事の数字を減らすものだ。2011年12月までに、SRF-JRMCはVPP最高レベルである「スターサイト」の獲得を目指している。