SRF-JRMC、日本人退職者の栄光を称賛

文・写真:安達慶一、CFAY広報課

6月15日、艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）に於いて日本人従業員の定年退職式が行われ、6名の退職者が出席した。

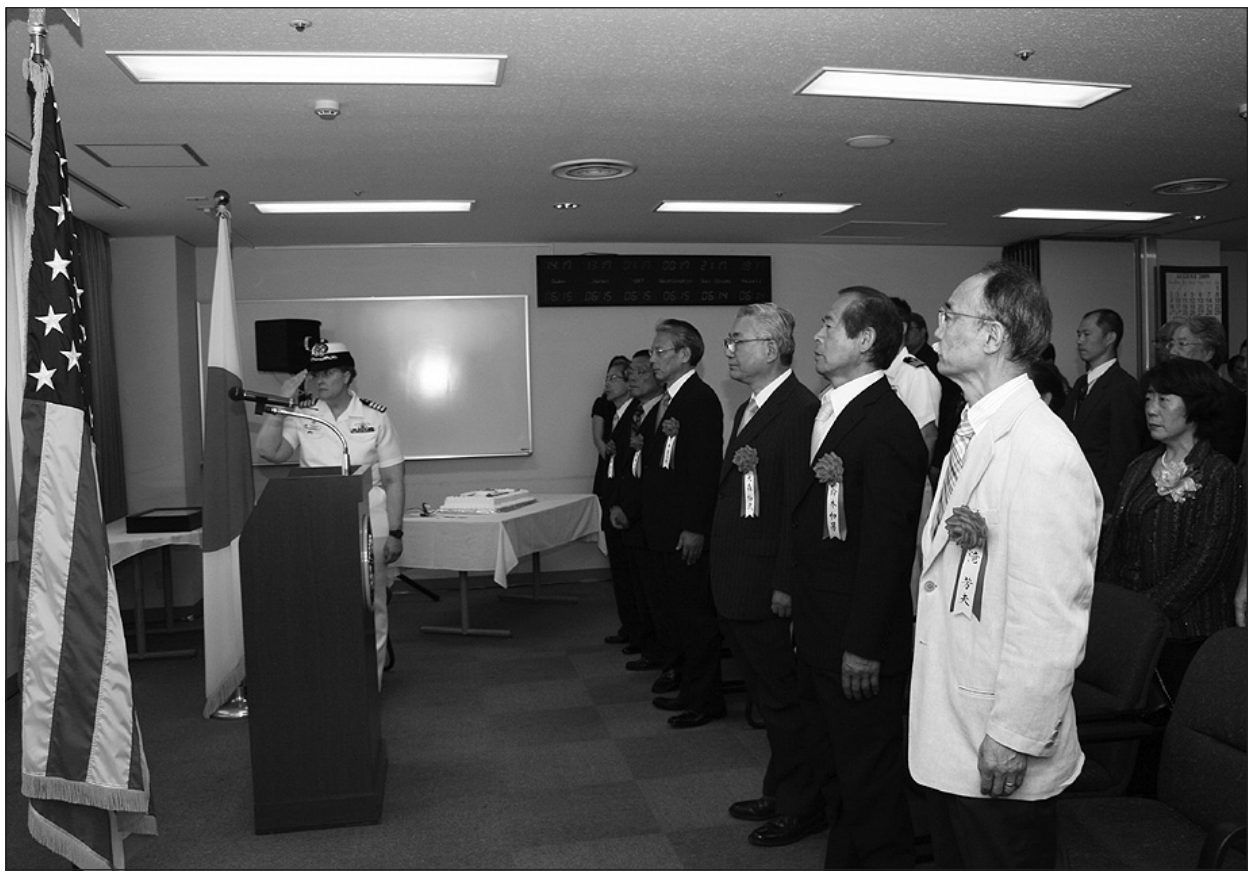
退職を祝うためにSRF-JRMCの司令官ステファニー・ダグラス大佐、リーダー、退職者の監督者と同僚が一同に集まった。

ダグラス大佐は次の様な感謝の言葉を述べた。「米海軍並びにSRF-JRMCを代表し、長年にわたる勤務を通して、日米の安全保障に大きく貢献された退職者の皆さんに、ここでお礼の言葉を述べる機会を得ましたことを誇りに思います。退職される皆さんの勤務総年数は189年にも及び、在職の期間は目まぐるしい変化の時代でした。」

日々、退職者が実現させてきた「第七艦隊の艦船を常に機能できる状態に保つ」というSRF-JRMCの使命が変わることはない。

「1973年の空母ミッドウェイの横須賀基地配備以来、最も著明といえるのは2008年9月25日の原子力空母ジョージワシントンの配備と、その後の日本での最初の定期修理の成功といえるでしょう」とダグラス大佐は述べた。

ダグラス大佐は6名の退職者の一人一人が、在職中に築き上げてきたSRF-JRMCへの素晴らしい成功や名声に対して計り知れない貢献をしてきた経歴を披露し、式の参加者と分かち合った。



Capt. Stephanie Douglas, six Japanese retirees and their supervisors, coworkers and friends gathered to celebrate the retirement ceremony and salute the flags while the Japanese and American national anthems are played.
日米国歌が流れる中、ダグラス大佐、６名の退職者、退職式を祝う為に集った監督者、同僚、友人たちは両国旗に敬礼する。

Employees of SRF-JRMC gathered to say “goodbye” to the retirees as they prepare to depart on the traditional bus ride around the SRF-JRMC facility.
退職者の部署の従業員が、バスに乗っている退職者に多数の色鮮やかなリボンテープで退職を祝う。

船舶整備取り付け工の鈴木和男さんが話すには、25年以上常にがむしゃらに仕事と安全を念頭に彼は同僚と働いてきたが、辛かった。「しかし、同僚との仕事や旅行、更に仕事を終えた後に杯を傾けながら個人的なことや作業のことを話してきたことは楽しい思い出です。」

32年以上働いてきた生産管理技師の亀井節夫さんが話すには、時は移り、人も変わってきたが彼の在職中、SRF-JRMCの使命は変わっていないと言う。部隊内では作業上のプロセス、プロダクトや業務が変わった。それは、上層部の求める艦船修理、整備、刷新への要求が変わったので、必要なことだった。「そのような大規模な変化に対応するには個人の力ではどうにもなりません。全従業員が一丸となってはじめて様々な変化を乗り越えられるのです。彼らと一緒に仕事をできたことが嬉しく、満足であり、誇りなのです。」

退職者の旅立ちは後に残された者にとり、大きな挑戦になるだろう。何故ならば、彼らと同じレベルの技術の熟達度や献身的な態度を持った後継者を見つけることは容易ではないからだ。

ダグラス大佐は感謝の言葉をもってスピーチを締めくくった。「退職者に対し、感謝をするとともに、末永く幸福で健康で実り多き第2の人生を迎えられますことをお祈りしております。退職者のご家族によるたゆまないご支援に対し心よりお礼を申しあげます。艦船修理の業務は、多くの予期せぬ出来事に対し適切な処置を求められる困難を伴う仕事です。退職者の皆さんもご家族のご理解なしには決して十分に業務を遂行できなかったに違いありません。本当に有難うございました。」

SRF-JRMC retirees recognized for 189 years combined service

Story and photos by Keiichi Adachi,
CFAY Public Affairs

Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) bid farewell to six dedicated Japanese employees during a retirement ceremony held at SRF-JRMC headquarters June 15.

SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Stephanie Douglas, along with leaders, retirees’ supervisors and co-workers at SRF-JRMC gathered to celebrate the retirement ceremony.

“I am very proud to represent the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility Yokosuka and Japan Regional Maintenance Center in commending these retirees for their many years of service that has so significantly contributed to the security of both Japan and the United States,” said Douglas. “The six retirees here with us have a combined total of 189 years of dedicated service to SRF-JRMC during a period that has seen the world change significantly.”

After the ceremony, the retirees along with family members and supervisors take the last SRF-JRMC facility tour by bus.
式を終え、退職者は家族、監督者と共にバスによる最後のSRF-JRMC施設ツアーを行なった。

The SRF-JRMC mission that the retirees significantly contributed remains unchanged; to “Keep the 7th Fleet Operationally Ready.”

“As we all know, the most significant change since *USS Midway* (CV 41) homeporting in 1973, has been the arrival of the first nuclear aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), Sept. 25, 2008 and successful execution of her first availability,” said Douglas. “You have not only witnessed history, you, without question, have made history.”

Douglas shared the six individuals’ dedicated careers with the audience, which have made a significant contribution to the outstanding success and reputation that SRF-JRMC has earned over the years.

Shipfitter Kazuo Suzuki said that he has been working hard for more than 25 years and that he and his coworkers always focused on their jobs and safety, which was tough for them. “However, working and traveling with my coworkers and talking with them about some personal and job related matters over drinks after work, are my good memories. Thank you very much for everyone at SRF-JRMC.”

Production Control Engineer Setsuo Kamei who has worked for more than 32 years said that time goes on, people change, but the mission of SRF-JRMC has not changed during his time at the command, and that within SRF-JRMC, a lot of things changed like processes, products or business, because as requirements for ship repair, maintenance and modernizations at higher levels changed, we needed to change. “A single employee cannot meet or complete big changes, all employees as a whole at the command enable them to accomplish the changes. I am so glad, satisfied, and proud to have worked with the SRF-JRMC Team.”

The retirees’ departure will be a great challenge for those they leave behind, and it will be very difficult to replace their skills and dedication.

Douglas concluded her speech with words of thanks. “I am honored and thank you for your dedicated service and wish you a long, happy, healthy and prosperous future. Additionally, I would like to recognize the spouses and families of our retirees and thank them for their unfailing support. Ship repair is a difficult business that is full of unexpected demands no matter what role on the team you play. Today’s retirees could not have made it without their family’s understanding. Please accept our sincere appreciation.”

With many colorful ribbons to stop the bus, employees from each of the retirees’ shops and codes gather around to assist the retirees on board the bus and to show their respect and appreciation.
退職者の各部署の従業員が、多数の色鮮やかな紙テープでバスに乗っている退職者に感謝を念を表す。