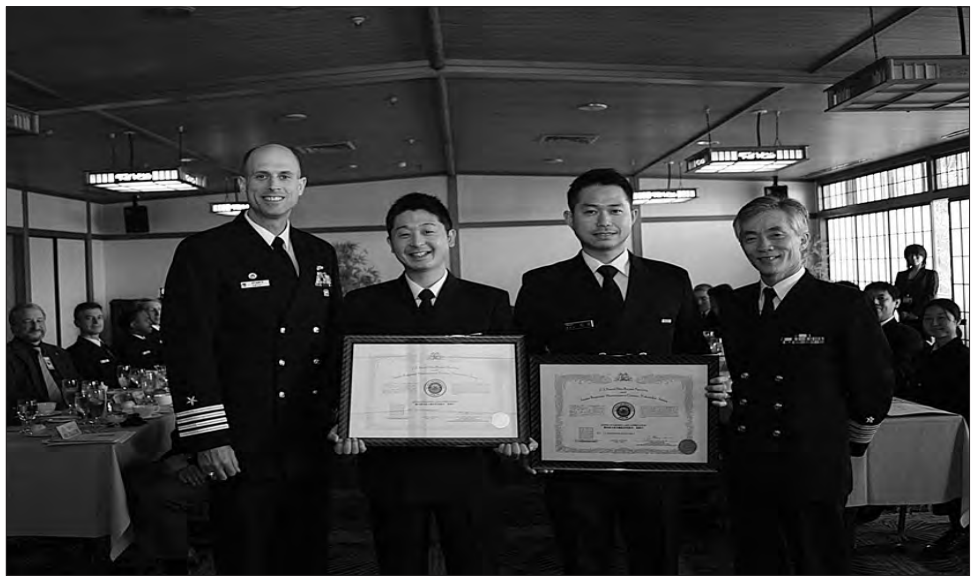
SRF-JRMC hosts JMSDF Officer Exchange Program graduation ceremony

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Two Engineering Duty Officers (EDO) of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) who completed the JMSDF Officer Exchange Program at Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) Yokosuka were honored at a recent graduation ceremony at the Officer's Club.

Lts. Tomonori Matsuoka and Yusuke Satou from the JMSDF Yokosuka Repair and Supply Facility completed two and a half months of training at SRF-JRMC. The two JMDSF officers had a chance to attend some of the day-to-day schedule of events at SRF-JRMC. They attended morning production briefs to understand how SRF-JRMC manages daily repairs on ships and observed how SRF-JRMC communicates progress on larger projects when they attended progress briefs that were presented to the ship's crew when the ship is going through a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) availability. During their time in the program they got a chance to see one of their own JMDSF ships go through a docking evolution, as well as a U.S. Navy ship. On the lighter side of life at SRF-JRMC, the officers experienced an office party during the 2009 Employee Appreciation Day.



(Left) SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy, Lts. Yusuke Satou and Tomonori Matsuoka, and JMSDF Yokosuka Repair and Supply Facility Commanding Officer Capt. Minoru Tada pose for a group photo during the graduation ceremony.
（左から）卒業式でSRF-JRMC司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐、佐藤勇輔一等海尉、松岡友則一等海尉、横須賀造修補給所所長の多田穣（みのる）一等海佐が集合写真に納まる。

Leading up to the graduation ceremony, they each participated in a technical research project and studied U.S. Navy ship maintenance processes and methods. In addition, they were able to greatly enhance their English language abilities through training provided by SRF-JRMC's Language Division as well as through daily interaction with their U.S. Navy EDO counterparts.

During opening remarks, Yokosuka Repair and Supply Facility Commanding Officer Capt. Minoru Tada extended his deepest appreciation to SRF-JRMC for their great support to his officers during their training. "I believe this exchange program helps to build a mutual working relationship between SRF-JRMC and JMSDF. I hope we will continue to enhance our close relationship."

"Congratulations to Lt. Matsuoka and Lt. Satou on completing the JMSDF Officer Exchange Program," SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy said during his remarks. "It was a pleasure to have you here. SRF-JRMC has been doing this training for more than 22 years and it is a great tradition we have established with the JMSDF. The two JMSDF officers are hard workers and diligent students. What they have learned will be of significant use for the JMSDF, and I believe this exchange program will continue to play an important role for our relationship between the JMSDF and SRF-JRMC."

Lt. Cmdr. Njuguna Macaria, a U.S. Navy EDO, served as the sponsor for Matsuoka and Sato during the entire training period. According to Macaria, the purpose of the training program is two fold; first to share ideas on maintenance between SRF-JRMC and JMSDF and second to promote camaraderie between the United States and our Japanese hosts. "The JMSDF officers devoted a considerable amount of time speaking to everyone in our office and working with SRF-JRMC personnel from the different shops and codes," Macaria said.

"I think every working area at SRF-JRMC has a relaxed and lively atmosphere which allows the opportunity for personnel to easily exchange opinions about their business," Matsuoka said.

Satou said, "I felt that the employees of SRF-JRMC make every effort to conduct business safely and correctly during every single operation or project in accordance with documented maintenance procedures. I had many opportunities to see and hear briefings and operations of individual shops and offices during the training period."

Both graduating officers presented a brief on their respective research projects during the graduation ceremony.

"The merit of automating JMSDF systems increases the number of electric devices and quantity of information. Because of the increase of devices, the maintenance period and cost also grows," Matsuoka said during his presentation. "Also, since each ship uses the same system, they can use the same parts during troubleshooting, and the important thing is to enhance efficiency of the crew's work and check the balance between the operator and the equipment and not rely on automation as much."

Satou mentioned that modernized ships of the JMSDF are equipped with groups of small and large circuit card assemblies for navigation and combat systems and that the JMSDF has been looking for techniques that can handle mechanical difficulties and periodic maintenance. "The JMSDF conducts 'time based maintenance,' which means that the number of maintenance periods is more than the U.S. Navy because the JMSDF has fewer ships than the U.S. Navy," he said. "U.S. Navy maintenance is based on the concept of 'conditioned based, reliability centered maintenance' which provides the USN with increased operational availability due to shorter scheduled maintenance periods."

The two JMSDF officers said that the 10-week training period went by fast, but that it was fruitful because they achieved their objectives within the short period. They also said that SRF-JRMC military and civilian personnel and Japanese employees provided lots of support and cooperation.

SRF-JRMC、海上自衛隊交換士官制度の卒業式を行なう

文・写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

２名の海上自衛隊(JMSDF)の技術士官が米海軍艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部(SRF-JRMC)で「海上自衛隊交換士官プログラム」を修了、卒業式が横須賀基地の将校クラブで行なわれた。

横須賀造修補給所松岡友則一等海尉と佐藤勇輔一等海尉は約２ヵ月半に渡る研修で、SRF-JRMCの通常業務を知る機会に恵まれた。毎朝行なわれるプロダクションブリーフに参加し、日々の修理運営を学んだ。また、艦船の定期修理工期中、乗組員に対して行われているブリーフィングに参加し、大掛かりな工事の進捗状況の通達がどのようにされているかを傍観した。更に、JMSDF艦船と米海軍艦船の入渠作業を見学、その後、SRF-JRMCの側面でもある従業員感謝デーにも参加をした。

卒業式に向けた研修の間、彼らは米海軍が管理する技術研究プロジェクトに参加、艦船修理体系と手法を学んだ。更に、SRF-JRMC語学訓練部で英語トレーニングを受けつつ、米海軍技術士官と日々の会話を通して英語の力も磨いた。

Lt. Tomonori Matsuoka gives his presentation during his and Lt. Yusuke Satou's graduation ceremony at the Officer's Club while JMSDF and SRF-JRMC participants listen and observe.
横須賀基地の将校クラブで行なわれた卒業式でJMSDFとSRF-JRMCから出席者が聴講する中、松岡友則一等海尉はプレゼンテーションを行なう。

横須賀造修補給所所長の多田穣（みのる）一等海佐は式の冒頭の挨拶で、研修生に対するSRF-JRMCの支援に深い感謝の念を述べ、こう続けた。「この研修プログラムはSRF-JRMCとJMSDFの相互関係の構築に役立っていると信じております。この緊密な関係を維持する事を切に願います。」

「松岡一等海尉、佐藤一等海尉、おめでとうございます。とても熱心で勤勉な二名の研修生が学んだものは、JMSDFとって意義深きものになることでしょう。JMSDFと共に２２年以上育んできた良き伝統であるこのプログラムが今後も相互の友好関係を深めてくれると信じております」とSRF-JRMC司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐はスピーチをこう締めくくった。

米海軍技術士官の1人、ジョゴナ・マシャリア少佐が松岡一等海尉、佐藤一等海尉のスポンサーを務めた。マシャリア少佐よるとこのプログラムの主な目的は、第１に相互の艦船整備についてのアイデアと知識の共有、第２にその共有により友情や仲間意識を強化することにあるという。「彼らは私達と会話を楽しみ、有益な時間を過ごしながらも、SRF-JRMCの従業員と一丸となって作業・任務の遂行を立派に成し遂げました。」

「SRF-JRMCで従業員が業務上の意見交換をし易いのは、どの職場も和やかで活気があるからだと感じました」と語るのは松岡一等海尉。

佐藤一等海尉はこう話した。「研修期間中、多くのオフィスで説明を受け、現場での作業を見学する機会がありました。その中で、SRF-JRMCの従業員は細心の注意を払って仕事を安全に且つ着実に進めている印象を受けました。」

卒業式で両研修生は、それぞれの卒業論文を発表した。「JMSDFの護衛艦はオートメーション化により電気機器数や情報量を増すことに成功しましたがそれにより整備期間や費用も増えました。一方、米海軍の艦船は比較的オートメーション化がされていない為、系統的故障が少なく、操作や整備が容易です。またどの艦船も同じ機器を搭載してるため、故障時には同じ部品を使用することができます。まとめとして、機器に対するJMSDFの整備方法の改善点として自動化に頼るのではなく、装備と人のバランスを考え、乗員の作業効率を上げ、人員の能力を十分発揮させることが重要であると考えます」と松岡一等海尉はプレゼンテーションの中で述べた。

佐藤一等海尉によると、近代化されたJMSDFの護衛艦ではレーダーを始めとした戦闘システムの為の大小各種の電子回路を装備していて、故障発生時や定期的な整備のための様々な対策が模索されていると話し、こう続けた。「JMSDFでは修理に部品や装置を一定期間で交換する『定期交換整備』を行なっており、更に我われの艦船数は米海軍が保有する艦船数より少ないので交換整備の実行数が多いのです。しかし米海軍の整備システムは計器や装置の状況とその信頼性を整備の基にしています。よって整備期間も短く、艦船の即応性が増します。」

松岡一等海尉、佐藤一等海尉は、瞬く間に１０週間が過ぎ、短期間で卒業論文を仕上げることも出来た実り多いものだった。そしてSRF-JRMCの米国軍人、日本人従業員の多大なる支援と協力を得たと研修の感想を締めくくった。