SRF-JRMC uses new and modernized facilities

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

One of the many ways the partnership between the Government of Japan and the United States manifests itself is through the Japan Facilities Improvement Program (JFIP). Recently, JFIP provided U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) with two new state-of-the-art facilities to serve the ships of the 7th Fleet better. The U.S. Navy has also made the commitment to better maintenance facilities for the fleet through the renovation of SRF-JRMC building A46, originally built in 1929.

The new SRF-JRMC JFIP facilities are the Blast and Paint Complex, consisting of the two-story building 2078 and the one-story building 2079, and the three-story Electronics Facility, building 2068. The Electronics Facility provides new workspaces for the Weapons Shop, the Electronics Shop, and the Hull, Mechanical and Electrical (HM&E) Fleet and Industrial Support Division. Building A46 currently houses the Combat Systems Office and will provide expanded and updated services for fleet maintenance once refurbished.

The Blast and Paint Complex is located adjacent to Dry Dock 5 and the Electronics Facility is next to SRF-JRMC headquarters. Building A46 has been in use for several decades now and will continue to provide SRF-JRMC with the facilities needed to maintain the fleet.

The Blast and Paint Complex provides blasting and painting capabilities for various ship components, including doors and hatches, anchors and anchor chains, radar antennas, and ships' boats. The facility is capable of general blasting and painting items of various sizes, from small parts up through the command dive boat, according to the SRF-JRMC Shop Division.

A member of the SRF-JRMC Paint Shop moves two ship's doors into place for blasting and painting at the new Blast and Paint Complex. The new complex consists of two-story building 2078 and the large one-story building 2079 for painting and drying.
塗装と乾燥用にブラスト塗装複合施設は2階建ての2078ビル（中）と1階建ての2079ビル（左）がある。塗装工場の従業員がブラストと塗装の為に艦船の2枚のドアーを移動する。

The complex's variety of installed systems and equipment are new to the Paint Shop, so shop workers continue to learn their use and full capabilities almost daily. Additionally, in the old facility, the blast booth and the paint booth were separately located, requiring movement by forklift. This old arrangement wasted time moving items from booth to booth, according to Paint Shop Head Norio Shibuya.

"The new facilities provide our shop with blast and paint areas that are located side-by-side," said Shibuya. "We do not waste time moving work from blast to paint. In our new facilities, the lighting systems are bright making it easier to do our jobs, and the ventilation systems protect our workers from occupational health hazards such as organic gases, airborne wastes and dust pollution. Additionally, the large installed crane enables us to handle various types, shapes and sizes of items safely. In addition, we can properly store blast and paint materials."

Electronics Shop Head Takeo Kaneko said that his shop's former spaces in building A37, built in 1937, were inadequate, as his shop must repair modern equipment. Plus, his workforce increased in size to meet the needs of the fleet.

"Procedures, requirements and standards for repairs and maintenance, as provided by various shop instructions, have changed over the years, so the work and processes that we conduct in the shop also changed," said Kaneko. "The new facility is well equipped and the layouts of new machinery are effective. Air conditioning and lighting systems are improved; drainage and ventilation systems are well-designed. These improvements help us do our job safely, providing us with a better working environment."

Logistics Management Specialist Kennath Short, with HM&E Fleet and Industrial Support Division, also noted that the building is equipped with improved lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

"Building A46 is old. The building's layout and utilities are outdated. The new office space is comfortable."

According to Masato Okuyama, engineer technician of the Shop Division, the outfitting of these new facilities is not yet completed.

"It took a long time to construct the new facilities," said Okuyama. "However, these new facilities are essential to the work that our shops and codes conduct to support our customer, the 7th Fleet."

According to the Shop Division, although the original plan was to move the Combat Systems Department into the new Electronics Facility, Combat Systems will instead occupy the refurbished building A46. The upgraded facilities will support sonar, radar and various other combat systems vital to supporting 7th Fleet ships.

Combat Systems Director Tom Cairney said that the planned renovation of building A46 provides modern office space and updated labs for his technicians. A staffing increase of more than 70 personnel and increased mission requirements were key elements in the decision to renovate building A46.

"Due to increases throughout the command, additional space is needed for office and work space," said Cairney. "SRF-JRMC has a limited number of buildings to accommodate this growth. By renovating A46, the command is able to modernize and reutilize buildings to support our growing workforce. We selected A46 due to the overall size of the building and location. This will keep combat systems centrally located and accessible to the ships in Yokosuka."

SRF-JRMC、近代化された施設の使用を開始

文・写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

日本政府と米国の協力関係を明示する一つに日本提供施設改善プログラム（JFIP）がある。先ごろJFIPは、第七艦隊艦船への更なる支援を目指す艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）に2つの近代化された施設を提供した。また、米海軍も1929年に建てられたSRF-JRMCのA-46ビルの改修を通じ艦隊の整備施設の改善を行なうと公約した。

JFIPの新施設は2階建ての2078ビルと1階建て2079のビルを含むブラスト塗装複合施設と3階建ての無線施設2068ビルである。無線施設は武器工場、無線工場、艦隊支援部用の施設である。改修後にはA46ビルにはコンバットシステム部が移り艦隊整備に様々な新しい業務を提供する。

ブラスト塗装複合施設は5号ドックに近くにあり、無線施設はSRF-JRMC本部の隣に位置する。A46ビルは数十年間使用されており、今後も艦隊整備に必要な施設である。

Scaffolding encases SRF-JRMC building A46 in preparation for the facelift phase, part of the extensive renovation to provide improved combat systems spaces and labs.
集中的な改修のためコンバットシステム部と分析ラボがあるA46ビルに足場が組まれた。

ブラスト塗装複合施設ではドアー、ハッチ、アンカー、アンカーチェーン、レーダーアンテナ、ボートを含む様々な艦船の構成アイテムをブラストと塗装する機能を備え、ダイバー用のボートなどの小さな部品の一般的なブラストと塗装の能力も兼ね備えているとSRF-JRMCの工場管理部は言う。

塗装工場長の渋谷則夫さんによると、複合施設には様々なシステムと機材が新設され、従業員は毎日、機能と使用法を学ぶことになるという。また、以前はブラスト施設と塗装施設は遠隔であり、大小の機材はフォークリフトによる移動が余儀なくされ、施設間の移動に無駄な時間を要した。

「新施設にはブラストと塗装エリアが隣接しています。ブラストと塗装作業の時間が短縮されています。施設の照明は明るく作業が容易になり、空調システムが充実しているので有機ガスや粉塵汚染などの労働衛生問題から従業員を守ってくれますし、大型のクレーンは複雑な形状の品物も安全に扱えます。更にブラストと塗装用の資材も保管できます」と渋谷さん。

無線工場長の金子武夫さんによると、以前のA-37ビルは築1937年で老朽化し最新機材の修理には不十分だったという。また、艦船の要求に対応する為、工場の従業員も増員されていると話しこう続けた。「ここ数年間で様々の指示書にも変更が加えられた通り、修理の作業過程、要求事項、規格、標準が変わり、我々もそのように対応してきました。新しい施設は設備が充実していて、機械類が効率良く配置されています。また、空調や照明が改善も改善されている上、排水、排気設備も完備されています。より良い環境で仕事も捗ると思います。」

新しいビルには照明、冷暖房と換気が完備されていると話すのは艦隊支援部のロジスティック管理担当のケニス・ショートさん。「A-46ビルは古く、ビル内の配置や電気配線は旧式でしたが、新しい事務所は仕事がし易くなりました。」

工場管理部技師職の奥山正人さんによると、新施設の様々な機能はまだ十分に稼動していないといい、こう言葉を締めた。「新施設建築には時間と経費も掛かりましたが、我われの顧客である第七艦隊の支援のために不可欠であるのは間違いありません。」

Desks, cabinets, lockers and shop material await relocation inside the new SRF-JRMC Electronics Facility for shops, offices and other spaces.
デスク、キャビネット、ロッカーなど工場に必要な機材が無線施設に運び込まれ、工場、事務所、その他のスペースに配置される。

工場管理部によると、元来、コンバットシステム部が無線施設に入る予定だったが、A-46ビルへ引越しとなった。艦隊を支援するカギとなる改修後の施設はソナー、レーダーなど様々なコンバットシステムを支えることとなる。

A-46ビルの改修は、最新の分析ラボ、増員され70人となった従業員への快適な事務所スペースと業務スペース、そして任務要求の増加がA-46ビルへの引越しの主な要因だとコンバットシステム部長のトム・カーニーさんは語り、こう続けた。「部隊全般の増員傾向に伴い事務所や作業場を拡張する必要が生じました。しかしながら部隊にもスペースの限度があるため、A46の建物を再利用し近代化させることにより部隊の増員へ支援を講じてきたのです。A-46を選んだのはそのビルの大きさと立地条件の利便性です。これによりコンバットシステム部は部隊の中央部に位置付けされ横須賀の艦船へ行き易くなります。」