Team SRF-JRMC resumes *USS Lassen* SRA in Sasebo

By Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

When the earthquake in northern Japan struck March 11, U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) Yokosuka was midstride in executing a 13-week Chief of Naval Operations Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) on *USS Lassen* (DDG 82).

Soon thereafter, *Lassen* received orders to depart Yokosuka March 21 and complete the SRA in Sasebo by May 31.

To prepare *Lassen* for underway, SRF-JRMC with ship's force assistance, reviewed 370 open maintenance work orders, with their associated work authorization forms and tag-outs, to determine how best to make the ship safe for underway, then quickly resume work upon arrival in Sasebo.

Challenges abounded, including sharing resources with *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), which also had to be prepared to get underway while in the midst of an SRA.

Emergent contracts were issued for rigging and utility support to augment SRF-JRMC shops and working hours were increased up to 12 hours per day to meet the requirement to get *Lassen* underway by March 21, according to June Rennick, SRF-JRMC project team manager for *Lassen*.

Rennick said her biggest challenge was with the work assigned to local contractors. More than 20 separate contracts were in various stages of completion when the earthquake struck.

"Jobs that were close to completion were accelerated; temporary closures for hull openings were installed to make *Lassen* safe for sea; temporary flight deck non-skid was applied in case of emergency flight operations; and scaffolding, temporary ventilation and temporary power were removed," Rennick said. "U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) and the *Lassen* project team worked to transfer all existing contracted jobs to Sasebo in time to meet the SRA recommence date of March 30."

SRF-JRMC Yokosuka workers draw tools from a Conex box that was shipped from Yokosuka to Sasebo to support the *USS Lassen* (DDG 82) SRA. A total of 10 Conex boxes and numerous truckloads of material were shipped to Sasebo to support the SRA.

Photo by Tomoe Nakamura

According to SRF-JRMC Surface Project Officer Pete Rita, an advance party led by Repair Officer Lt. Cmdr. James Mosman, Ship Superintendant Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Markiso Tisdale and Rita arrived at SRF-JRMC Detachment Sasebo March 23. SRF-JRMC Det Sasebo personnel, led by Business and Strategic Planning Officer Mike Bullard, quickly engaged with the advance party and took positive action to develop a number of support contracts with FISC Det. Sasebo.

Contracted support included erecting temporary office spaces, leasing barges and crane services, and hazardous waste sampling and disposal to support the *Lassen* SRA in Sasebo. These contracts were in place by March 30 at the restart of the SRA.

"While the advance party was working with their Sasebo counterparts, the project team and group masters in Yokosuka were heavily engaged in gathering material and identifying personnel needed in Sasebo," said Rita. "To complete *Lassen*'s SRA, various production shop workers, support code personnel and the project team members were required to travel to Sasebo with more personnel required during the course of the SRA."

Currently, there are 98 Yokosuka-based master labor contract personnel in Sasebo, nine U.S. civil service personnel and three U.S. Navy personnel. The respective administrative departments of Yokosuka and Sasebo did a "masterful job in moving and accommodating this large number of personnel," according to Mosman.

"The project team is encountering many challenges each day, but is working to overcome them," said Mosman. "Support provided by SRF-JRMC Det. Sasebo has been outstanding and their efforts have ensured the SRA success. We set a new schedule with the expectation that all work will be accomplished in the allotted time. The group masters did a great job putting together a plan and identifying who needed to travel. We identified and collected material for shipping. Harry Hummer, project team manager for *Stethem*, assisted Rennick in expediting material to Sasebo. He did a great job assisting the *Lassen* team by helping coordinate material movements."

"To date, we have shipped nine, 20-foot long Conex boxes with all shop materials and tools needed to support finishing the SRA in Sasebo, Hummer said. "Also shipped was material for major ship alteration upgrades to weapon systems and hull, mechanical and electrical repairs; all arrived on time to support the SRA restart."

According to Hummer, FISC personnel have been coordinating shipping with Defense Distribution Depot Yokosuka Japan (DDYJ) and SRF-JRMC Det. Sasebo. Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Georgia Simpson and her co-workers have been the driving force behind making the SRA material move expeditiously. To get material to Sasebo on time, shipment by water ferry augmented ground shipments via truck.

"Jocelyn Chiba is the lead material shipping clerk. All paperwork was processed at our office and material forwarded to DDYJ," said Simpson. "Thelmo Santos from DDYJ coordinated our shipment. So far, more than 30 shipments have been processed. Since material came from all over SRF-JRMC, items for shipment had to be prepared for transport. Everyone worked as a team to get it done!"

According to Simpson, after the decision to relocate Lassen's SRA, FISC had material leaving everyday, with most leaving in less than 24 hours. SRF-JRMC and DDYJ made a great team in getting the materials for *Lassen* to Sasebo."

On March 23, Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo Commanding Officer Capt. F. X. Martin, met with the project team advance party and SRF-JRMC Det. Sasebo Officer-in-Charge Cmdr. Neil Sexton. Martin personally facilitated modification to a parking area to support a lay-down area near the India Pier, *Lassen*'s new SRA berth.

"This has greatly enhanced the team's ability to execute the SRA," said Rita. "The support *Lassen's* project team has received in Sasebo has been outstanding!"

SRF-JRMC is proud to be living the message of a recent U.S. Navy video that was shown at the command's all hands event in January 2011: "Whatever it takes. Wherever it takes us."

SRF-JRMC Yokosuka and Detachment Sasebo workers resume work on the *Lassen* SRA at the India Six berth in Sasebo.
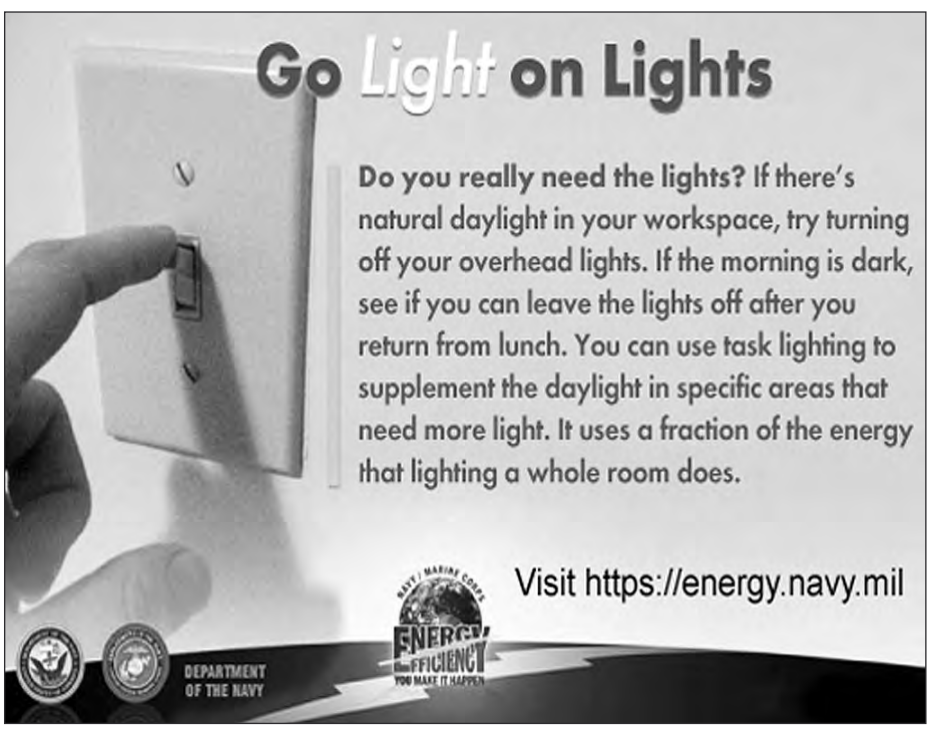
Photo by Tomoe Nakamura