SRF-JRMC、日本人従業員定年退職式を挙行 ー 永きに貢献に感謝

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12月19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、9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261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とダグラス大佐はいう。

ダグラス大佐は９名の退職者の一人一人が、在職上に築き上げてきた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。

管理部訓練課の岡本ひろこさんは22年前にSRF-JRMCで初めて6等級へ昇格した女性従業員である。また、SRFに語学課ができるまでの間、日本語の指導を担当していた。現指導者養成プログラムの基となった日本人監督者育成制度の向上に従事してきた。

「工場や現場で作業に従事する従業員が数多くおり、活気がありました。入って間もない頃、訓練生の皆さんと空母ミッドウェー（CV 41）のシップツアーに行った時は、まさにここがSRFの現場と実感しました。従業員の知識、技術、能力の向上のため、訓練課でそのサポートが出来たことを大変誇りに感じています」と岡本さんは感想を述べた。

秘書・儀礼専門職の和田えい子さんは約２８年間働いてきた。その間に７人の元司令官に立派に奉仕してきた。彼女にとりSRF-JRMCは三番目の部隊でもあった。和田さんが入廠した時に大勢の日本人が働いていた事に驚いたという。

While their supervisors, coworkers, and friends gathered to celebrate, nine Japanese retirees received letters of appreciation during their retirement ceremony.
退職式を祝う為に集った監督者、同僚、友人たちが見守る中、９名の退職者は感謝状を受け取り、退職式の幕は降ろされた。

SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Stephanie Douglas and the retirees' supervisors exchange appreciative handshakes after they finished a bus tour of SRF-JRMC facilities.
退職者はバスでSRF-JRMCの施設を巡った後、メインゲートの近くでSRF-JRMCの司令官ステファ

「SRF-JRMCでは何十年もの間、日本の伝統行事の納涼大会、新年式など継続し日本人、アメリカ人が一緒に楽しみ、友好を深め、それが相互理解を深め良い仕事関係を構築する事につながったと思います」と和田さんは述べた。

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。

岡本さんはSRF-JRMCへのメッセージをこう述べた。「ここ数年、仕事内容やシステムの変更がたくさん要求され、更に今後も、変化に対応しなければならない状況が多々あると思われますが、皆様一人一人が与えられた仕事を十分に果たし、達成感を得ることが出来ますよう頑張ってください。」

「日本人、アメリカ人の皆さん、日本語、英語を学びながらお互いの習慣、伝統そして文化を学びつつSRF-JRMCのミッションである艦船修理に励み続けて下さい」と和田さんは話し、こう続けた。「19年間、辛くたいへんな日々も多々ありましたが、今となってはよい思い出で大勢のアメリカ人、日本人と仕事が出来、又たくさんの事を学ばせて頂きました。ありがとうございます。」

ダグラス大佐はスピーチを感謝の言葉をもってこう締めくくった。「退職者の一人一人に対し、アメリカ合衆国海軍を代表して、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 celebrates 261 years of dedicated service

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) bid farewell to nine dedicated Japanese employees during a retirement ceremony held at SRF-JRMC headquarters Dec. 19.

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 nine retirees here with us have a combined total of 261 years of dedicated service to SRF-JRMC during a period that has seen the world change significantly."

According to Douglas, the SRF-JRMC mission that the retirees significantly contributed remains unchanged; to keep the 7th Fleet operationally ready. They all have done this exceptionally well every day.

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

Training Technician Hiroko Okamoto from the Training Division was the first female employee to become a Master Labor Contract (MLC) 1-6 position at SRF some 22 years ago. She administered the Japanese language program until SRF stood up its Language Division and also administered the Japanese supervisory program helping it to expand into the Leadership Career Development Program.

"There were many employees working in various working places and shops and they were lively doing their job's at that time. When I had the opportunity to take a ship tour on board *USS Midway* (CV 41) with members of the apprentice program, I felt that this was the very place for SRF's working place," said Okamoto. "I am really proud that I could take part to improve our employees' knowledge, skills and capabilities on their jobs."

Secretary and Protocol Specialist Eiko Wada worked for almost 28 years and served seven former commanding officers with distinction. SRF-JRMC was the third command for Wada. She was surprised at the large number of Japanese employees working when she reported to SRF-JRMC.

"I believe that SRF-JRMC has continued to keep the Japanese traditions, such as the Summer Festival and the New Year's ceremony for many years, and Japanese and American employees enjoy working together," said Wada. "I also think that this opportunity enhances interacting, better mutual understanding and better working relations."

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.

Okamoto expressed her message to SRF-JRMC. "Over the last couple of years there was many changes to our jobs to prepare for the new carrier arrival, I think there will be a lot of situations for all employees at SRF-JRMC to meet new challenges from now on. I hope that each of the employees can complete his or her jobs required, and all of them can get a great sense of fulfillment."

"I hope both Japanese and Americans employees try to learn each other's language as well as each other's traditions and culture while working together to accomplish the mission of SRF-JRMC, and repair the ships," said Wada. "My 19 years of work at SRF-JRMC was not always easy however, I enjoyed meeting and working with many American's and Japanese, and I will treasure my experiences at SRF-JRMC. Thank you very much."

Douglas concluded her speech with words of thanks. "Each of you, our retirees, has served skillfully and faithfully for many years. On behalf of the United States Navy, I am honored to 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 thousands of colorful streamers to stop the bus, employees from the retirees' shops and codes gather around and assist the retirees on board the bus to show their final appreciation.
退職者の部署の従業員が、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