SRF-JRMC、退職式で貢献した日本従業員を称賛

文・写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

12月18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、4名の退職者が式典に出席をした。

退職を祝うためにSRF-JRMCの司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐を始め、退職者の監督者と同僚が一同に集まった。

スタンシー大佐は退職者への感謝の言葉を次の様に述べた。「米海軍並びに横須賀艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部を代表し、長年にわたる勤務を通して、日米そして太平洋全域の安全保障に大きく貢献された退職者の皆さんに、今日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。」

退職者の皆さんそれぞれは、SRF-JRMCが長い間に得た成功と名声に計り知れないくらい貢献してきたとスタンシー大佐は続けた。4名の退職者は2009年７月以降、在籍する1,973人の日本人従業員でSRF-JRMCを退職する21名の代表だ。

SRF-JRMCにとって、退職者が去った後も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」という部隊の使命が変わることはない。

スタンシー大佐は4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、式の参加者と別れを惜しんだ。

佐藤貞義氏は1981年に生産管理技師として企画見積部に入廠、合計で28年と7ヶ月勤務した。

田中宗一氏は1980年5月に品質保証部に自然科学技術職として入廠、合計で29年7ヶ月勤務した。

関口次郎氏は1977年12月に配管・銅工工場にパイプ取り付け工として入廠、合計32年勤務した。

関口氏が入廠した時には、帝国海軍工廠出身の職人が沢山いて腕の良い職人集団の感があったという。「最初に艦船の修理に行ったのはブルーリッジ(LCC 19)ではなく、戦艦オクラホマシテー（CG 5）でした。当時、空母はミッドウェイ（CV 41）で全ての艦船が缶（かま）を炊くスチームエンジンで走行をしていました。」

(Center) SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy, the four Japanese retirees, leaders of SRF-JRMC, retirees' supervisors and co-workers pose for a group photo during the retirement ceremony.
退職を祝うためにSRF-JRMCの司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐、リーダー、退職者の監督者と同僚が一同に集まった。

堂田俊久氏は2000年に訓練部に訓練技術職として入廠、合計10年ほど勤務し、訓練生の育成に従事した。

その堂田氏は訓練生の日々の成長と職工に育つ姿を見つめる嬉びを話し、こう加えた。「短い間ではありましたがSRF-JRMCで働けて楽しかったです。」

関口氏は退職までを振り返り、グアムから移送された浮きドックの整備、ミッドウェイの近代化への着手、納涼大会、ソフトボール大会、バーベキューやクリスマスパーティーなど、楽しい思い出を語った。「退職後は私を退職まで支えてくれた妻と義母を連れて旅行をしたいと思っております。また、現在は2年生に所属する創価大学通信教育部を何としても卒業したいと思っております。私を支援してきてくれた皆さんと家族に感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。これからも熱心にかつ安全に業務に励んでください。」

スタンシー大佐はスピーチを終えるにあたり、感謝を込め餞の言葉を送った。「退職者の皆さんには今後も我々と連絡を密にとり合い、お気軽にSRF-JRMCを訪ねていただきたいと思います。SRF-JRMCのモットー『何でもできます』のお手本となり、長年の誠意ある皆さんの勤務態度に心から敬意を表します。皆さんのような熟練した献身的な後任従業員を見つけることは容易ではありません。それゆえ、皆さんの退職は残される我々にとって、大きな挑戦になります。長年にわたり優れた業績を示し、誠意をもって勤務されてきた退職者に対し、アメリカ合衆国海軍を代表して、退職者の皆さんの献身的な勤務に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。」

SRF-JRMC retirement ceremony recognizes dedicated MLC employees

Story and photos by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) bid farewell to four dedicated Japanese Master Labor Contract (MLC) employees during a retirement ceremony held at SRF-JRMC headquarters on Dec. 18.

SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy, 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 as well as the entire Western Pacific," said Stancy.

Capt. Steve Stancy, commanding officer of SRF-JRMC and Jiro Sekiguchi, one of four Japanese retirees, cut the ceremonial cake during their retirement ceremony.
退職式でSRF-JRMC司令官司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐と関口次郎氏によるケーキカット。

According to Stancy, each of the retirees has made a significant contribution to the outstanding success and reputation that SRF-JRMC has earned over the years and helped shape the command in history. The four retirees make up a combined total of 21 dedicated MLC professionals to retire at SRF-JRMC since July 2009 from an overall Japanese workforce of 1973 employees.

The SRF-JRMC mission, which the retirees helped to fulfill, remains unchanged; to keep the 7th Fleet operationally ready. They all have done this exceptionally well, every day.

Stancy shared the four 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.

As the retirees prepare to depart on a traditional bus ride around the SRF-JRMC facility, employees from the retirees' shops and codes gather around the bus to show their final appreciation with many colorful streamers, .
バスに乗りSRF-JRMC施設ツアーの準備の中、退職者の部署の従業員がバスの回りに集り、多数の色鮮やかなリボンテープで感謝の念を表す。

Sadayoshi Sato entered the Planning and Engineering Division as a production control specialist in 1981, where he worked for 28 years and seven months.

Souichi Tanaka entered SRF in the Quality Assurance Office as a physical science technician in May 1980, where he worked for 29 years and seven months.

Jiro Sekiguchi entered SRF in the Pipe and Coppersmith Shop as a pipefitter in Dec. 1977, where he worked for 32 years.

"When I entered SRF, there were lots of employees who came from the Imperial Navy Shipyard. They seemed like a group of skillful professionals," said Sekiguchi. "The very first ship repair I did was not for *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), but for *USS Oklahoma City* (CG 5). The aircraft carrier was *USS Midway* (CV 41) at that time. All ships generated steam by boiler systems"

Toshihisa Douda entered SRF in the Training Division as an apprentice program administrator in 2000, where he worked for almost 10 years.

Douda said that he was pleased to see his apprentices grow day by day and become journeymen. "I did not work at SRF-JRMC for a long time, but I enjoyed working at this command."

Sekiguchi stated that he was impressed to have overhauled a floating dock which came from Guam, and to have conducted modernizations for *USS Midway* (CV 41), and that he had a good time joining the Bon Dancing Festivals, softball competitions, barbecue events, and Christmas parties. "I would like to travel around with my wife and mother in law, they supported me a lot until my retirement. I am also a sophomore at the Education Department of Souka University by distance learning, so I want to complete this education and graduate. I really appreciate the people and their family members who have supported me, please work hard and safely from now on."

At the conclusion of his speech, Stancy gave words expressing his gratitude toward the former employees.

"We would like each of you to remain close to SRF-JRMC and visit often," Stancy said. "To each of today's retirees, we salute you for your long and faithful service to SRF-JRMC. Your departure will be a great challenge for those you leave behind. It will be very difficult to replace your skills and dedication. You have personified SRF-JRMC's motto, '*Nandemo Dekimasu*.' 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."