SRF-JRMC、恒例のサマーフェスティバルを開催

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８月７日、米海軍艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）は、日本の夏の風物詩と言える納涼大会（サマーフェスティバル）を開催した。部隊内外から集った数千人の参加者は、連日の猛暑をしばし忘れ、盆踊りや様々な催し物を満喫した。

SRF-JRMC親睦会会長を務める大森裕武さんによると、納涼大会は４０年間、SRF-JRMCの伝統行事として定着。従業員の家族に職場環境を披露し、部隊が従業員とその家族への慰労に感謝の意を表すこと。そして、日本人と米国軍人・米国政府職員との異文化交流構築の重要性を再認識すること、これら２つが納涼大会の目的と言う。

「この時期は正月、ゴールデンウイークと並び、日本人にとって大切な休暇であり、お盆休みとして帰郷される方も多いと聞いております。その忙しい最中に参加頂きありがとうございます。私は皆さんがご家族やお友達と楽しい夏休みを過ごされる事を願っております」とSRF-JRMC司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐はスピーチで話した。

毎年８月に開催されるSRF-JRMCの納涼大会は、従業員とその家族にひと時の憩いと楽しみを提供している。日本の伝統的なお祭りを米軍施設で楽しむというユニークな企画の中で日本人従業員が自分の家族を横須賀基地に連れてこれる格好な機会となっている。また、職場や上下の隔たりを超えた従業員同士の交流を深め、米国従業員が浴衣を着て盆踊りに参加し、日本文化に触れることができる。

「この納涼大会のために、親睦会を始め各ショップ、コードの従業員が実に沢山の協力をしてくれました。ありがとうございました。存分に楽しんでいって下さい！」とスタンシー大佐はスピーチを締めくくった。

横須賀市長の代理として横須賀市役所企画調整部長、廣川聡美氏が来賓として参加した。挨拶文の中で、62年の歴史をもち、造船分野における卓越した技術を誇るこの艦船修理廠においては、基地で働く5,600人の日本人従業者の33パーセントにあたる1,850人の方々がアメリカ人の方々と共に働いていらっしゃると伺っておりますと話し、こう続けた。「SRF-JRMCは、第7艦隊の艦船にとりましてはなくてはならない存在であり、たいへん重要な仕事を受け持って発展を続けています。」

SRF-JRMC machine shop parking lot becomes filled with thousands of guests for the SRF-JRMC annual summer event.
SRF-JRMC納涼大会の会場となったSRF-JRMC機械工場駐車場。納涼大会には、部隊内外から数千人が参加した。

浴衣姿の参加者は、ビンゴゲームや色とりどりの模擬店に立寄り、輪になって音楽に合わせて先祖の魂を歓迎する伝統的な盆踊りを楽しんでいた。盆踊りは「提灯祭り」とも呼ばれ、日本で５００年以上も祝われてきた。

「司令官スタンシー大佐自身がこのイベントを楽しみ、納涼大会を盛り上げる為に従業員を後押しされていました。素敵に浴衣を着こなし、日本人以上に盆踊りを上手く踊ってたことにとても印象を受けました」と話してくれたのは、空母プロジェクト室に所属する日本人プロジェクト修理監督補佐の永藤宏和さん。

SRF-JRMC enjoys traditional *Noryo* Summer Festival

Story and photos by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC) hosted its annual *Noryo* or evening party Summer Festival–one of Japan's most popular seasonal traditions Aug. 7. Thousands of people from SRF-JRMC and elsewhere joined in on the fun.

According to Hiromu Oomori, president of the SRF-JRMC Friendly Society, the Noryo Summer Festival along with the "*Bon* Dance" is SRF-JRMC's biggest traditional event, which has been held for 40 years. The event has two purposes; one is for employees' families to visit the workplace and the other is to emphasize the importance of building cross-cultural relationships between Japanese and American military and civilian personnel.

"*O-bon* or summer vacation is one of three holiday periods faithfully observed by our Japanese friends, the others being Golden Week in May and New Years in January," said SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy during his opening remarks kicking off the event. "I know many of you will travel to family reunions and we are most pleased that you have made time to share this evening with us. I wish all of our Japanese friends a wonderful summer vacation and happy reunions with your family and friends."

The SRF-JRMC *Noryo* Summer Festival is an annual event that takes place in August and provides employees and their family members a chance to take a break from work and celebrate.

During the festival, many participants got involved from different levels throughout SRF-JRMC and enjoy interacting with their co-workers. Some American employees embrace the Japanese culture by wearing summer *yukatas* and joining the traditional *Bon* dance, which is a ritual held to welcome back the spirits of the dead. During the dance, people wear lightweight cotton gowns known as *yukata*, form a circle and dance to the rhythm of festival music known as *hayashi*.

Many booths were available to enjoy various food, drinks and games during the SRF-JRMC *Noryo* Summer Festival.
納涼大会では伝統的な盆踊りのみならず、ビンゴゲームなど、多様な催し物も用意され、会場には所狭しと、色とりどりの模擬店が建ち並んだ。

(Center) SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy and others perform *Bon Odori* dances while dressed in *yukata*, a traditional Japanese summer clothing.
浴衣に身を包み、盆踊りを踊るスティーブン・スタンシー大佐、SRF-JRMC関係者と来客たち。

The festival is also an excellent opportunity for Japanese employees to bring family members on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka while celebrating the traditional Japanese festival in a unique fashion.

"I know that much work goes into preparing for an event like this by the SRF-JRMC family, including the Friendly Society, the production shops and support codes. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work. Be safe, and have a great time," Stancy said while concluding his remarks to the crowd.

Director-General Planning and Coordination Department of the Yokosuka City Office Satomi Hirokawa, on behalf of the mayor of Yokosuka City, during his speech stated that SRF-JRMC, with its 62-year history, is the forerunner in the ship repair arena. SRF-JRMC employs 1,850 Japanese employees, or 33 percent of the 5,600 Japanese employees working inside Yokosuka Base. "SRF-JRMC is indispensable to the U.S. 7th Fleet and is continuously evolving to better achieve its mission goals."

The festival, also called the *Feast of Lanterns*, which has been celebrated in Japan for more than 500 years, included games, food and drink booths.

Japanese Deputy Project Superintendent of the Carrier Project Office Hirokazu Eito said, "I am very impressed that Capt. Stancy was having a good time and he also gave the employees a boost to promote the festival. He donned a *yukata* nicely and was dancing *Bon* better than some Japanese people."