SRF-JRMC welcomes Kanagawa prefecture vice governor

Story and photo by Keiichi Adachi, CFAY Public Affairs

Mitsuo Furuoya, one of three vice governors of the Kanagawa prefectural government, along with members of his staff recently visited Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center (SRF-JRMC).

The main purpose of the Furuoya visit was to express his gratitude and appreciation for the 46 years of volunteer support provided by members of SRF-JRMC to the people and staff of Kanagawa Prefectural Miura Shiratori-en, a home for mentally challenged children and adults.

SRF-JRMC's leaders and Sailors including Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy, Deputy Commander Cmdr. Bill Manders, Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Shane Lazio, Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Iva Flores and Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 1st Class (SW) Michael Finazzo symbolically representing all of the command's employees welcomed Furuoya.

Furuoya said that one of his responsibilities is to oversee several departments of the government. He visited one of the Kanagawa prefectural welfare facilities, the Miura Shiratori-en and, while speaking with the Shiratori-en Director Masayuki Onoda, was informed about the great support and effort provided by SRF-JRMC Sailors, Japanese and U.S. civilian employees, and their family members through volunteer activities for more than four decades since 1963.

Furuoya had often come to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka to visit Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan to maintain a good relationship between Japan and the U.S. Navy. However, this was his first visit to SRF-JRMC.

"When I heard the story from Onoda about SRF-JRMC, I really appreciated what SRF-JRMC has done to support the people of this facility," said Furuoya. "I went back to my office and talked with Governor Shigefumi Matsuzawa about this. He was so delighted to hear the story. I decided then to visit SRF-JRMC and personally show my appreciation on behalf of the government and people of Kanagawa."

Finazzo said that he appreciates that Furuoya took time out of his busy schedule to thank SRF-JRMC employees for their volunteer support at Shiratori-en.

(Center) Kanagawa prefecture Vice Governor Mitsuo Furuoya with staff members and SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy with SRF-JRMC members gather for a group photo.
副知事の古尾谷光男氏（中）とSRF-JRMC司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐を中心に県職員、SRF-JRMCのリーダーとスタッフが集り写真に納まる。

"The Shiratori-en facility has friendly staff members who take pride in their work and enjoy working with the people there. The residents of Shiratori-en seem to enjoy their home and being around the people that help in their everyday lives."

The vice governor said that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. "The governor said that he wants to express his appreciation to SRF-JRMC for their contributions to Shiratori-en next year," Furuoya said. "I would like to offer SRF-JRMC an opportunity to meet and talk with the governor. Another reason I came to SRF-JRMC is to give Capt. Stancy a personal gift, a box of traditional art craft called '*Yosegi-zaiku*' which is made in the town of Hakone located in Kanagawa Prefecture."

Stancy expressed gratitude and appreciation to the vice governor and thanked him for visiting SRF-JRMC. "You are always welcome to visit and see our facilities and capabilities. We also have Japanese citizens supporting our command and they try to build a good relationship among U.S. civilians and Sailors. You are more than welcome."

At the conclusion of the visit of Furuoya, Stancy presented him with two SRF-JRMC baseball caps.

Finazzo said that it was great to see the outstanding relationship between the U.S. Navy and a host country government official. "I felt that exchanging gifts was very honorable and it was a very nice gesture for SRF-JRMC to receive such a thoughtful gift from the vice governor. It is something to remember and it shows the respect that each country has for one another."

古尾谷光男神奈川県副知事、SRF-JRMCを訪問する

文・写真:安達慶一、CFAY広報課

先頃、現神奈川県副知事3名の内の1人である古尾谷光男氏と県職員が、艦船修理廠及び日本地区造修統括本部（SRF-JRMC）を訪問した。

訪問の主趣旨は知的障害を持つ子供と大人の施設、神奈川県立三浦しらとり園への４６年間に亘るSRF-JRMCのボランティア支援に対する副知事の感謝を表すものだ。

司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐を始め、副指令ビル・マンダース中佐、部隊最先任上等兵曹長（SW/AW）シェイン・ラジオさん、YN1（SW/AW）イバ・フローレスさん、GSE (SW) マイケル・フィナゾさんら、SRF-JRMCのリーダーと兵士がSRF-JRMCの従業員を代表して古尾谷氏を歓迎した。

幾つかの神奈川県機構の管理も職責の一つとされ、古尾谷氏はそれらの施設に注意を払う。１９６３年から４０年以上も続くSRF-JRMCの兵士、日本人、軍属従業員と彼らの家族による多大なボランティア支援活動と努力については神奈川県福祉施設の三浦しらとり園・園長の小野田正幸さんを訪問した際、聞いたという。

古尾谷氏は日本と米海軍間の友好な関係を維持する為に在日米海軍司令部に表敬訪問を行っているが、SRF-JRMCへは初めてだ。

「小野田さんからSRF-JRMCが行なってきた三浦しらとり園への支援活動を聞き、とても感銘を受けました。県庁に戻り、松沢成文（しげふみ）県知事にSRF-JRMCの活動を報告したところ、知事はとても喜んでいました。そこで私はSRF-JRMCを訪問し、知事と神奈川県民に代わって感謝の意を伝えることを決めたのです。」と古尾谷氏は語った。

貴重な副知事の時間を割いてSRF-JRMCの従業員に感謝の礼を述べる為に当廠に足を運んでくれたことを大変嬉しく思うとフィナゾさんは話しこう続けた。「三浦しらとり園の職員は仕事に誇りを持ち楽しく他従業員と共に仕事をしている友好的な方々です。また、施設の入居者は自分たちを援助してくれる人たちに囲まれ、日々の生活を楽しまれているようです。」

副知事によると、来年、日本と米国間の相互協力及び安全保障条約締結５０周年を迎える。「知事は、来年、しらとり園へのSRF-JRMCの貢献に感謝の念を伝えたいと言っています。私は知事とSRF-JRMCが歓談する機会をつくりたいと思っています。尚、今回SRF-JRMCに来たもう１つの理由は、スタンシー大佐に神奈川県箱根町で作られる寄木細工の箱を、個人的な贈り物として手渡すことです」と古尾谷氏は言葉を締めた。

スタンシー大佐も副知事のSRF-JRMCへの訪問に感謝と述べ、こう続けた。「いつでも歓迎いたします。お気軽に我われの施設と業務を見に来て頂けたらと思います。地域日本人従業員も兵士や軍属と友好な関係の構築に貢献してくれています。訪問は大歓迎です。」

古尾谷氏の訪問の締めくくりとして、スタンシー大佐は２つのSRF-JRMCのベースボールキャップを贈呈した。

フィナゾさんは米海軍と基地受け入れ側区域の日本政府高官との素晴らしい友好関係に触れた感激を述べこう続けた。「ギフト交換はSRF-JRMCにとって名誉なことです。また、副知事から心のこもったギフトを頂戴し光栄に思います。今回の訪問とギフトは相手の国への尊敬の念の表れであり、双方の大切な思い出になることでしょう。」

(Right) Kanagawa Prefectural Vice Governor Mitsuo Furuoya presents an art craft gift to SRF-JRMC Commanding Officer Capt. Steven Stancy during his recent visit.
神奈川県副知事の古尾谷光男氏（右）が感謝の念として、SRF-JRMC司令官スティーブン・スタンシー大佐に工芸品を手渡す。