Lt. Gen. Robert H. Ludwig

LUDWIG HERITAGE HALL

Named after Communications and Information Hall of Famer, Lt. Gen. Robert H. Ludwig, the heritage hall displays historical communications equipment and items of interest. The public is encouraged to donate personal memorabilia associated with communications and the agency's heraldry. ▶▶

SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR

Military switchboards like this date back to the 1920s. This one was first installed in the Hawaiian Islands before civilian telephone service. It was also the first to relay the news of the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941. It was operational until the late 1980s.

The AFCA building and a yearly unit excellence award is named after this comm and info pioneer.

LT. GEN. HAROLD W. GRANT JACKET

There is a variety of General Grant memorabilia on display that was donated by his wife, Dorothy. Included in the collection is this one-of-a-kind uniform jacket designed by General Grant and Lord Mountbatten while they were serving in India.

FIELD PHONE - IRAQI FREEDOM

Former AFCA commander, Col. David Kovach, used this field phone while deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. At the time he was stationed with the 3rd Combat Communications Squadron, Tinker AFB, Okla.

GENERAL BLAKE NAMEPLATE & 'SHORT SNORTER'

Pilots and their crews would add a sample of local currency at each country where they landed, creating a "short snorter." They would go to the local pub/club and have their peers sign it. Whoever had the shortest snorter had to buy a round of drinks.

JAPAN'S SURRENDER

Microphone reportedly used by Emperor Hirohito in surrender of Japan Sept. 2, 1945.
"The thought of those officers and men as well as others who have fallen in the fields of battle, those who died at their posts of duty, and those who met with death and all their bereaved families, pains our heart night and day."
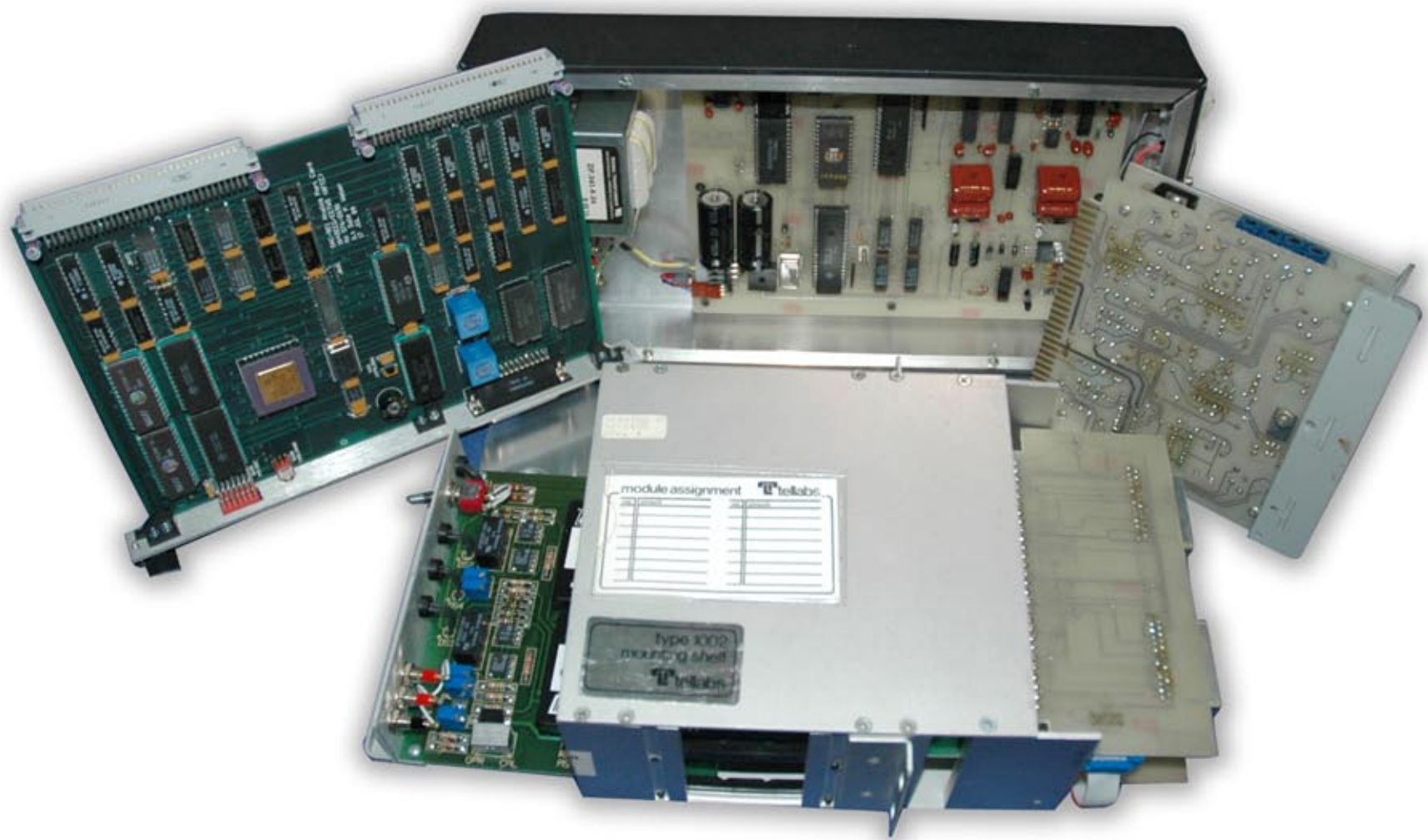
CRYPTO M-209 & KW-7

Among the cryptographic equipment on display is this WWII-era M-209 (left) and the KW-7. The notorious spy John Walker was convicted of selling the keying cards and maintenance manuals for the KW-7 machine to the Soviet Union.

SENDER - RECEIVER

This telegraph system was the original means of air traffic control. Each pilot had a telegraph coder strapped to his leg and would send messages and fly at the same time. This system was replaced with the microphone that made flying safer for everyone.

CIRCUIT BOARDS

The engineers and technicians in our labs often design and build electronic equipment for special requirements. These items range from circuit cards used in encryption equipment to cable attachments used for classified messages and files during Desert Storm.

COIN COLLECTION

Relatively new to the collection are heritage coins donated from all over the world. On display are about 200 coins representing comm and info units, deployments, and training exercises the Air Force particpates in throughout the year.

HAMMER ACE RADIO & ANTENNA

The Air Force has the ability to deploy mobile communications teams into remote areas to set up secure satellite communications within a few minutes. This system, called Hammer ACE, is also used in disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, or airplane

THE "MERCURY CREW" FLAG

During WWII, Col. Grant supervised the outfitting of the Mercury aircraft with the latest radio, message center and cryptographic equipment to convert the C-47 into a self-contained mobile command post for Lord Mountbatten.