

Lasswell Hall – The picture below is Jim Lasswell who was the Weapons Officer aboard the FRANK KNOX 66-68. He is one of several new Life Members in 2019. Jim is pictured with 5" 38 batteries that are part of the NTC Parade Ground still preserved today. Lasswell Hall is not about Jim but about his father, Alva Lasswell a career Marine Officer and Japanese Language specialist. With the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Midway and the 75th D-Day Anniversary fresh in our minds let's look back in history. Prior to and during WWII Col. Lasswell was working with CDR Joe Rochefort to crack, or read, the Japanese Navy Code. Lasswell, an expert Japanese linguist and cryptanalyst, was an important figure in translating messages that revealed the Japanese trap for the US Fleet being set at Midway Island in early 1942. A now famous deception message was devised and sent. The Japanese repeated the message destination and the US learned the identity of Midway Island as the target for part of the upcoming operation. The US was able to ambush the Japanese fleet and win the battle thanks to the code-breakers. The next year Lasswell also had a major role in translating the itinerary of the senior Japanese Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku, enabling US Army Air Corp planes to shoot down his plane killing. [OR later, Rochefort, Lasswell and their team were reading Japanese Naval code and tracking the movements of Admiral Yamamoto, the planner of the Pearl Harbor and Midway Island operations. The pair correctly guessed Yamamoto's destination and an Army Air Corp flight of P-38's shot down the plane carrying the Admiral and killing him.] One of these events would be a career for some. These events lead to the Marine Corps honoring Colonel Alva B. Lasswell, SIGINT Officer 1920 – WWII by naming the Marine's newest building at Cyberspace Command - Lasswell Hall

