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Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 14:11:31

Tags: apathy, wwi, feedback, wall display

Mood: curious

(U) Wondering about hallway wall displays - a plea for feedback

(U) One of the items on my "to do" list for 2009 is to come up with some new displays for the CCH wall display case in Ops 2B (4th floor, [REDACTED] towards the conference center).

(U) I wonder, does anyone even look at wall display cases anymore? If so, what types of things would hold your attention?

(U) I ask because I put up what I thought was a nice display on Cryptology and WWI back in September and I've had zero feedback from outside of CCH. So, I don't know whether people just don't care about this type of display or were indifferent to the subject.

(U) If no one really cares, I'll certainly reduce the effort I put towards this task in the future. [This particular effort involved both personal time and money and was fun to do.] If it is just the subject that is unappealing, what would you like to see on the wall? Displays have to be UNclassified, of course - and they must fit in a shallow case that is 3' x 4'9".

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2004 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 14:27:40

(U) Well I'm prejudiced of course being a historian but I do enjoy them and have read them all I guess over the last 20 years. I still stop at the NSA attic display now and then in HQS. I hope NSA will continue to attempt to educate the workforce on their heritage. I hope our current crop of interns would be interested in how all this started. I hope.

2005 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 14:29:17

(U) I'm not sure if I've ever even *been* on the fourth floor of Ops 2B.

(U) But if you wanted to put history display cases (aside from the clean suit) in the lobby of R&E, that would be cool! (There's some other display case there as well, I think, but I think it's got more of the "Icarus is going away!" type posters in it.)

2006 re 2005 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 14:31:40

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(U) I think we'll have some posters going into R&E, but we don't "own" a wall case over there. Surprisingly, each of those cases actually belongs/is assigned to an organization!

(U) If someone in R&E would like to loan CCH their case (and can is willing to unlock the case so we can install a display) I'd happily rotate something over from Ops 2B on a regular basis!

2007 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 14:53:35

I look at wall displays that are positioned in places where I might normally stop, anyway: outside the cafeteria, outside the restroom, in the lobby... I don't tend to stop to look at displays that are just in a hallway. I've never been to where your display is, but I bet whoever "owns" the one in the R+E lobby would lend you some space; they already have some historical looking things in the cases.

2009 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:30:03

(U) I'm with on this one: I look at wall displays in places I usually go. And since most of the places I go, and most of the people I meet with, are in OPS1, I didn't even know you folks had something up by the 2B conference center. Maybe I'll remember to take a walk up there sometime..

2010 re 2009 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:31:06

(U) Yep, me either. At least I know I haven't ever seen Betsy's wall display.

2011 re 2009 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:31:55

(U) It is actually a bit closer to the elevator end of that hallway - if you come from the elevator and head to the conference center, the display should be on your right.

(U) Not sure we had a choice as to the location of the case. Frankly, until someone made a fuss last spring, everyone here had forgotten that it was ours to fill!

2012 re 2010 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:32:45

(U) It probably isn't exciting enough to make a special trip to the Big 4, but if you are over that way it isn't too far from the elevator! :)

2013 re 2012 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:47:19

(U) I'll make a note for the next time I go over to the Big 4 then. :D

2014 re 2011 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 15:48:22

(U) That reminds me of a display case I used to pass in NBP all the time that had a calendar in it from 1995. It was there when we moved out in 2007. It's probably still there.

2015 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 18:25:46

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(U) Since most of the OPS1 first floor wall display cases disappeared during, and haven't reappeared since, the big renovation, I must say that I don't spend as much time as I used to spend trying to see what's in this or that wall display case. I'd forgotten about the one for you folks in Ops 2B, but will give it another look next time I'm down that way (am in HQS now).

(U) What holds my interest is grassroots-type information. We've got NSADaily and other web content for corporate sorts of information. I like the "cozy little nooks of insight" that I get from the wall display cases. Pictures from organizations' historical mini-archives, or from their promotion ceremonies, or even from their holiday luncheons. Accomplishments that don't have to be huge or of Agency-wide impact to merit photos or unclassified summaries. Alas, those are the types of displays that have disappeared, mostly. When I was in Ops2A, I noticed that this happened around the time of the reorg that [REDACTED] created CES [REDACTED]. It's like you can't go home again, and the display cases were kind of like that: pictures of "home".

written with Text Helper

2016 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 19:04:41

Speaking of wall cases and historic displays...the Pentagon was full of them and for the most part did an excellent job of telling the DOD story.

2017 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 19:30:23

Wall Displays

I was just a lowly Private when I was stationed at Fort Meade years ago, but I remember stopping and reading about each item displayed in the wall cases. I also remember that nearly every time I would stop to gaze into one of the cases someone, who had been around much longer than myself, would stop and speak with me for a brief moment. They would take the time to share with a young intelligence professional a personal story or perhaps what they knew of a particular artifact being displayed and I would listen intently. It's a funny thing though, that not once did I even consider seeking out the individual or individuals that had spent their time and energy putting the cases together to let them know that I enjoyed stopping by and looking at them. I apologize for that. I just felt I had to write a response to your blog, so that you know there are individuals out there who appreciate your efforts, sometimes they just don't think to say so.

2018 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-05 20:52:31

Well now that I know maybe I'll stop by the next time a meeting on 2B 3rd floor runs short.

2019 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-06 15:58:59

Of course you might want to rethink display case placement. I notice a fair number of my fellow introverts who wander the hallways observing the ceiling tiles.

2021 [REDACTED] @ 2009-02-06 18:22:46

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(U) I tend to at least glance at the wall cases that I pass, and if I have time I stop to read the contents (if it's been changed since my last sweep). I also don't get over to 4th floor OPS2B very often. Now I'm kinda sad, since it sounds like that display case changes more frequently than most. How much longer do I have to catch the current display?

2022 re 201 [redacted] @ 2009-02-06 18:24:08

(U) Mostly I see people looking at the floor. :) Red Robin has TVs in the floor of their waiting area. Maybe we could have floor cases!

2024 re 2021 [redacted] @ 2009-02-09 10:48:07

(U) I haven't figured out what the next display will be yet, so I figure the WWI display will be up for several more months.

202 [redacted] @ 2009-02-09 11:29:40

Wall Displays.

What I really would like in the way of wall displays are maps. Local bldg maps! You are here! There are a lot of people assigned in other buildings that need directions. I have been here a long time and would still like a map in more locations. Or print a bunch and leave a stack at each exterior door/entrance so I can pick one up if I forget mine.

2026 [redacted] @ 2009-02-09 15:19:28

(U) I like the historical-type display cases, but the one display case I always stop to look at is on the second floor of Ops2B (2A?) -- it has fun pictures from the people who work in whatever office owns the case -- last time I saw, it was all their pets. In the past, it has been pictures of their kids, or baby/toddler pictures of the employees, etc. Maybe not educational, but it makes me think that it must be a very fun, personable office. I might look into it the next time I'm looking to change jobs!

2027 [redacted] @ 2009-02-09 15:48:29

WWI Display

I work on the 4th Floor of OPS2B, but had never noticed your display. That comes from learning that hallway displays are almost always interesting only to the people who made the display. Your display taught me something new. Until I looked at your display, I don't think I'd seen an example of an American military code book. It was interesting.

By the way, I pass by the history displays on the First Floor of OPS2B at least once a day and often stop and look at the panels. The photograph of the USS Oxford brings back memories of the time I served on her in 1967.

Keep up the good work.

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2046 [redacted] @ 2009-02-12 09:03:09

Haven't seen the display myself, but I've been in Afghanistan since August. Sounds like it is interesting though. Personally, I like displays of this nature, but would agree with others here that location might play into it a bit.

As for ideas for other displays, I always like "Then and Now" kind of things.

2048 re 2046 [redacted] @ 2009-02-12 10:59:16

(U) Great idea! Thanks.

2050 [redacted] @ 2009-02-13 14:13:25

Hallway Displays

I love the historical displays. I have been here since 1978 and everytime I enter the Headquarters Building I look to make sure that the attic display is still there. I worked in that building in 1978. I hope it never changes as long as I am here.

I, too would like to see some different displays in the R&E building besides the "clean man".

2059 re 2024 [redacted] @ 2009-02-13 14:56:54

Display cases

Maybe the exhibit by the elevators of the HQ building could be rotated? The chair and gifts and other material have been there for quite a few years.

2074 re 2059 [redacted] @ 2009-02-17 10:59:33

Re: Display cases

(U) I can mention that to the folks at the Museum; CCH does not control that exhibit!

2075 re 205 [redacted] @ 2009-02-17 11:00:16

Re: Hallway Displays

(U) We'd be happy to put something up in R&E if someone would loan us the use of their display case! We don't "own" one there. :)

2173 [redacted] @ 2009-03-16 19:07:36

Display cases

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(U) Look at the display cases, although I'll admit I don't *study* them. However, I've seen many visitors standing in front of them, reading and absorbing. I think its GREAT PR.

2174 re 2173 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-16 19:10:22

Re: Display cases

(U) Yup! Thanks. :)

2177 re 2021 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-16 19:53:25

Re: Wall Displays.

(U) I would like to see compasses on the floor everywhere. "This is the north hallway. The East hallway is that way." Etc.

2178 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-16 19:59:13

(U) I saw it today--very cool! :-)

2193 re 2014 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-19 15:57:02

(U) That reminds me of a display case I used to pass in NBP all the time ... It's probably still there.

(U) Where in NBP?

2194 re 2193 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-19 16:49:08

(U) 9th floor, just past the elevators as you head toward the bathrooms (or the door you have to get to by cutting through the stairwell. 9a47?)

2195 re 2177 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-19 16:51:11

Re: Wall Displays.

(U) That'd be cool, a simple compass rose inlaid on the floor at each major intersection or something. :)

2197 re 2194 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-20 13:46:49

(U) The display for "National Native American Month, November 1995" is still there, apparently unchanged in over thirteen years.

2198 re 2197 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-20 14:01:55

(U) Thanks for confirming. :)

2202 re 219 [REDACTED] @ 2009-03-24 13:47:59

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Compass Directions (was Re: Wall Displays)

(U) I suggested something similar about 20 years ago, when everyone who visited our office in Ops 2B had trouble finding it. The signs on the walls near the elevators indicated something like, "Rooms [redacted] this way," but trying to follow the signs usually led people to walk 3/4 of the way around the building looking for our room. I suggested that if the walls near the elevators were marked, e.g., "North" and "South", it would be simple to give directions such as "Take the elevator to the 4th floor; go to the north corridor and turn right; we're halfway down on the left," etc.

(U) Nothing, of course, ever came of this, so we continued to tell visitors (especially those from other agencies) that "The room numbers are encrypted to keep undesirable elements out of our area."

Cheers,

[redacted]

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