

Posted by [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 16:26:34

Tags: orientation, history, museum, new employee

Mood: contemplative

(U) Museum Tour for New Employees

(U//~~FOUO~~) This morning I had the opportunity to do part of the museum tour for the new hire orientation - half a tour, as I'm still learning the exhibits and need to practice my patter. Big group today - I think there were 32 people entering on duty (EOD'ing).

(U) Question(s) for today - did you have a museum tour as part of your new hire orientation? What did you like/dislike about it? Have you gone back to the museum to check out the other exhibits?

11 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 16:31:25

(U//~~FOUO~~) Yep, I had a tour when I EOD'd (9/12/05). The only thing that still really sticks in my brain is getting some stories told about people on the Wall of Honor. Specifically: the Friedmans and Juanita Moody. Which I liked, and I've noticed it seems I don't see the general tours usually spend much time over there which kinda disappoints me.

(U) And I've definitely gone back to check stuff out. And dragged people to see it... I'm also usually found there volunteering as receptionist on Saturdays. ;)

12 re 11 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 16:35:23

(U) Well then, I'll probably meet you on 2 February as I'm going to be a "warm body" volunteer that day.

13 re 12 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 16:54:27

(U) Cool! See you there. :)

14 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 17:15:58

(U//~~FOUO~~) Yup, I got a museum tour, too. I EOD'd in Feb of 2006. I liked seeing the actual equipment- ENIGMA machines, the Cray, etc. I did go back to the gift shop at one point because they had a particular type of shirt in stock that I wanted to buy for a relative. Apart from that, I haven't been back since then, though.

15 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 18:04:07

(U) I did have the museum tour! I thought it was neat. (I also think you all should make little Jesus-fish out of the Enigma logo and sell them at the gift shop, but I digress.)

(Unless that's offensive?) I would like to go back sometime, but for whatever reason it hasn't worked out yet. Maybe when I graduate from the LDP and bring my family up here I will take advantage of the "visitors in town" thing or a day off from work and go tour the museum again.

16 re 15 [REDACTED]@ 2008-01-07 18:10:21

(U) It would be offensive at the very least to all those working here (or visiting the Museum gift shop) who have Jesus-fish that say "JESUS" or "IXΘΥΣ", I've learned from experience.

17 re 16 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 18:12:20

(U) I was worried more about it being offensive to Jews, or homosexuals, or anyone else targeted by the Nazis. (But then, I had both an IX(-)YS and a Darwin fish on my first car, so maybe I'm not the majority of people...)

18 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 18:37:43

(U) When I EOD'ed, the Colony 7 was still a functioning motel. I can't remember when or why I took my first tour--probably shortly after the Museum opened. During one of my tours, there was a SEMESTER system on display (talk about coincidences ;-). I thought it was cool (?) that one of the systems I had been a sysadmin on was now in a museum. It's not there anymore, having been displaced by other exhibits.

(U) Every summer the Stokes program has a social event at the Museum, and a couple of tours are scheduled that afternoon. As a mentor, I've been to a few of these, and have gone on the tour with my student. The tours always seem to be well-received.

19 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 18:39:06

(U) Question(s) for today - did you have a museum tour as part of your new hire orientation?

(U) There was no museum when I was a new hire. ;-)

20 re 19 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 18:41:13

(U) Same here. I envy the new-hires.

21 re 20 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 18:56:04

(U) Why? The museum is just as open to the oldbies as the newbies. Or is it more a general sort of "new hires now have so much more available to them right out of the gate than I did" thing?

(U) Just curious. :)

22 re 21 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 19:06:35

(U) Well, the museum tour for new hires seems to have been something done for them as part of their orientation. I don't think I can go to the museum for a tour and get paid for it during duty hours. Even the hours I spent portraying a character for the Museum, including during NSA's 50th Anniversary Family Day, were all on my own time.

(U) The time is not the big thing here -- it's the fact that it's something NSA wants to do, and is able to do, for the new-hires. It just wasn't available, nor was a social networking society back when I came on board. It's not unreasonable that we can do better things for

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society, back when I came on board. It's not unreasonable that we can do better things for our new-hires than we could back in 1979... but it does make me a bit envious.

23 re 18 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 19:41:30

(U) Yeah, it was a motel when I EOD'd. The museum opened to NSA employees in the summer of 1993 and to the public in December 1993.

24 re 23 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 19:43:22

(U) The building which serves as the main exhibit area of the museum was the Schrafft's Restaurant at the Colony 7 Motel. I actually ate there.

26 re 15 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 19:49:05

(U) The gift shop is independently owned and operated; I'm not sure what influence (if any) the museum has on what they sell.

(U) Bletchley Park has a wide variety of Enigma knick-knacks, I'm pretty sure I saw a logo that might have been a magnet last time I was there - maybe check out their web page?

28 re 22 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 19:58:19

(U) Personally, I think museum gives some special connection to history of NSA. and I am surprised that if people want to visit cryptologic museum, they will have to do so on their own time. I am wondering if it's possible to set something that allows Hotel-ers hires to be able to visit the museum on duty time, just to get sense of impact of what work they did?

(U) Maybe I'm talking crazy or something, but it certainly may be worthwhile...

29 re 28 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 20:04:37

they will have to do so on their own time.

(U) Which is, as you might guess, difficult for most with the museum only being open from 0900-1500) on weekdays and then only 2 Saturdays a month (1000-1400 and you have no idea how many people I've heard say "wow, we're lucky we got here on the right day, we just heard about you!). But with many people working during the hours the museum is open, it's no wonder those who don't go on the day they EOD are unlikely to go at other times. As a general sort of thing, of course.

30 re 28 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 20:18:40

(U//FOUO) I'd really have to check on the policy to answer this properly. However, I suspect that if your supervisor approved, you might be able to arrange a group to go for your team/branch/whatever. I'll try to check into this in the next day or two and will post an answer.

32 re 15 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-07 20:33:46

(U) Like suggests above, you'd do better talking to CWF about what the museum gift

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shop sells. :)

33 re 21 [REDACTED] @ 2008-01-08 11:46:55

(U) It would appear, happily, that I need to correct myself. Tours of the National Cryptologic Museum are **MOST DEFINITELY available for any group with supervisory approval on duty time.**

214 [REDACTED] @ 2008-02-02 01:00:50

(U//~~FOUO~~) Yes, there was a Museum tour for our EOD class. I had been to the Museum before on several occasions ... but this was different. The most memorable part for me was this was where we reported for our first day, received our paperwork prior to being bussed over to the visitor center, and being sworn in. I have taken family and friends by since then and pointed to the room and said "right there is where I stood when I was asked to raise my right hand and repeat the oath I took ...". It was an impacting moment on my life and I shall never forget it. And to be able to stand there in that room while I knew that the stories, works, and accomplishments of some of the greatest minds in the service of our Country were on display just a few feet away was somewhat overwhelming to me (and I am not an emotional person). It was a great honor to stand there on that day. As for the tour (afterwards) it is mostly a blur to me - the impact of the moments before had not quite caught up or diminished yet. I do remember thinking "yeah, yeah, I know that. Tell me something new." But then I'd had visited several times before. There was nothing I disliked about it, but if I were to make any suggestion at all - it would be to raise the impact of the accomplishments and the sacrifices on display there. The briefers should be passionate (but not overbearing), exciting and engaging (yet serious and reverent). People should walk away understanding that ENIGMA was a *hard* problem and that it was overcome with blood, sweat, and tears (no comedic inference intended) and that the sacrifices made were in no way trivial. Sometimes I'm not sure that all people can appreciate the history (the technical nature of the work and the clandestine environment do not help this at all), so any means of communicating this to the common person should be used. All the smart people out there will get it anyway. People like myself need a little extra coaching.

218 re 214 [REDACTED] @ 2008-02-04 12:17:54

(U//~~FOUO~~) Thank you for your comments, I'll keep them in mind when I'm doing the tour.

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