



NTDS RECOLLECTIONS REQUEST



By Capt. David Boslaugh (US Navy ret.) February 3, 2012

Hi Lowell: As you know the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is looking for people who have had experiences with the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS), the Marine Tactical Data System and the Airborne Tactical Data System to contribute their recollections in the form of First-Hand Histories to the NTDS history project on the IEEE Global History Network web site. They will be linked to the appropriate place in the NTDS history that is already on the site. I know that a lot of VIP Club members were involved with NTDS development, and I would like to ask if you could post something like the following on the VIP Club web site

A basic history of the Naval Tactical Data System has been written and posted on the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Global History Network (GHN) web site as the first step in the NTDS history project. The next step is to get personal narratives by people who worked on and/or used NTDS, the Marine Tactical Data System or the Airborne Tactic Data System to contribute First-Hand History articles about their experiences with these systems that will be linked to the basic history article.

First hand histories are personal reminiscences, written in the first person by people who directly lived the experiences they are writing about. The GHN web site administrators consider them to be the best historical data. These first hand histories can be about any aspect of a person's involvement with technology, in our case NTDS, MTDS, or ATDS. Since First-Hand accounts are personal, they can only be altered by the author. The GHN has a mechanism to allow two or more people to write their personal histories as a group, for example people working together on the same engineering project.

Your histories can be as short as one paragraph, or as long as you wish. The titles should contain "Naval Tactical Data System", "NTDS", "MTDS", or "ATDS" so the site administrators can identify them and link them to the history article. You can come back any time and add to or edit the article. If you have photos or illustrations you want to include, you can upload them and put them in your article.

The IEEE welcomes non-IEEE members to contribute first-hand histories. If you are not a member just bring up ieeeghn.org and click on the link "Request Guest Access" and fill in the form that comes up. In the form say you want to contribute a firsthand history to the NTDS history project. The form will be automatically sent to Nathan Brewer, the Global History Network Administrator and Librarian (n.w.brewer@ieee.org). He will get you registered.

For IEEE members just log in to ieeeghn.org using your IEEE Web Account username and password. For IEEE members who have lost or forgotten their IEEE username and password, click the "Forgot Password" link when you first bring up the site.

To start your article click on the "Submit a First-Hand History Button" and a field will appear for you to fill in your title. Make sure your title contains "NTDS", "Naval Tactical Data System", "MTDS" or "ATDS", and make sure it is the title you really want because after you submit it, you can't change it. Only the site administrator can. You can edit or change anything else in your article at any time. It is easiest to type out material ahead of time, then get on the GHN site and copy and paste your material into your article. If you have any kind of problem using the site, the site administrator Nathan Brewer stands ready to help you. He can be reached at n.w.brewer@ieee.org, and his turnaround is fast.

If you wish to view the NTDS history article bring up ieeeghn.org and type Naval Tactical Data System in the search block. You can also look at many examples of first-hand histories.