Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

FELLOW PROFILE

Name: **Harold R. Booher**

Degrees, certifications, etc.:

BA DePauw University

BSEE Rose Hulman

MA Psychology George Washington University

PhD Human Factors The Catholic University of America

Biography (How you got involved in the field, your major career activities and milestones):

I started with an electrical engineering degree and worked in the patent field as engineer for 8 years. I earned a Master's degree in psychology during the time and then switched full time to Human Factors. While getting more work experience, I also earned a PHD in Human Factors. I got into the field because I wanted diversity (HF can work on any area of engineering for almost any job area). I also wanted a career that could use both my engineering and psychology education and experience. During my career I worked with Army, Navy, Air Force in the military (both government and contractor/consultant); National Highway Transportation Safety Administration; Nuclear Regulatory Commission and nuclear systems consultant; and Food and Drug Administration (consultant). The last 20 years of my career allowed me to develop and spread the MANPRINT/Human Systems Integration (HSI) approach throughout the world, covering, research, education, and systems development in government, contractor facilities and universities. Getting HSI into all the educational and career paths for human factors personnel and systems engineers was the major milestone I was working toward when I retired. Throughout my career an important goal was to make HF a household word for all engineering products and systems.

Employment History (List top 5 positions):

Director - HR Booher Consultants 1995-2008
MANPRINT Director – Army 1986-1995
Branch Head - Nuclear Regulatory Commission – 1982-1986
Department Head, Human Factors, Systems Exploration Inc. San Diego 1978-1981
JPA Director, Navy Personnel R&D Center San Diego 1976-1978

What were your significant contributions to the field?

1. Implementer of Army's MANPRINT program and book Editor/Author *MANPRINT: An Approach to Systems Integration.*
2. Leader of DOD Human Systems Integration program and book Editor/Author *Handbook of Human Systems* Integration
3. Navy leader of Job Performance Aids/Technical Manual Programs

Did you receive any notable awards or recognition during your career?
Army Distinguished Service Award – Senior Executive 1986-1995

MANPRINT Foundation Awards 1996, 2006

Alumni Citation – DePauw University, 1992

Navy Patent (JPA simulator) 1975

Numerous outstanding performance awards from government agencies and industry

Which articles in the journal *Human Factors* would you say were the most influential to you and your research or practice?
Human Factors Journal was most influential in my early HF efforts in vision research and in Job Performance Aids

Please provide any links to your online articles, essays, blogs, Wikipedia pages, etc., that pertain to your research, publications or practice.
References to the *Handbook for Human Systems integration* can be found on numerous web sites by looking on Google etc for Harold Booher. The MANPRINT book is out of print.

What advice would you give someone considering HF/E as a profession?
Be sure to get as much experience in the engineering area(s) that you would like to influence. If military systems, understand the specific air, land, or sea systems by obtaining as much direct experience with their engineering systems as you can obtain. The same applies to any field, Nuclear, transportation, medical, education. It is extremely difficult to influence (in any lasting or positive way) engineering systems by regulation or specification (these are necessary, but not sufficient). Engineers need someone they can trust to give them HF/E advice (someone who understands the specific problems they face as engineers on that system). MANPRINT/HSI is an extremely valuable background for HF/E to influence the systems engineering profession.