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RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

SUPPORT OF THE MODELING, SIMULATION & TRAINING INDUSTRY

and the

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

Resolution No. 99-M-15

PREMISES

WHEREAS, Orange County and the Metro Orlando region is widely recognized as the international center of the modeling, simulation and training (MS&T) industry, providing technologies which support national defense, space exploration, law enforcement and other government agencies, along with commercial applications in fields including transportation, health, entertainment, and education, among others; and

WHEREAS, the MS&T industry is estimated to provide as many as 17,000 jobs in the state, mostly concentrated in Orange County and the Metro Orlando region, which pay an average wage per employee of \$52,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, in December, 1997, former Governor Lawton Chiles and the Cabinet of the State of Florida designated Orange County's Central Florida Research Park as the National Center for Simulation; and

WHEREAS, our region includes the Army Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM); the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division/Marine Corps Program (NAWC-TSD); the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation; the Joint Simulation System Joint Program Office; the University of Central Florida's Institute for Simulation and Training (IST); the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA); headquarters of the National Center for Simulation (NCS); and over 150 defense contractors; and

WHEREAS, STRICOM, NAWCTSD, and the Air Force currently employ 1,700 workers in our region, manage about 140 projects valued at \$4 billion, and are considered critical components to national defense preparedness and readiness; and

WHEREAS, the University of Central Florida sponsors a research institute specializing in MS&T technology, established the nation's first masters degree program in simulation and training in 1984, and is advancing related doctoral programs; and

WHEREAS, MS&T is considered by Enterprise Florida and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Mid-Florida, Inc. as a targeted industry in their current strategies focusing on the retention and creation of high-tech jobs; and

WHEREAS, growth in this industry sector is expected to exceed \$1.5 billion by 2003 in Florida alone; and

WHEREAS, a strong community initiative, led by the EDC of Mid-Florida, is under way to grow and preserve this high-tech, high-impact industry in our community; and

WHEREAS, members of the Orange County Commission recognize the value and significance of the MS&T industry in contributing to national defense readiness, in providing essential technological leadership, in providing quality jobs for our citizens, in contributing to the diversification of our economy, and in helping to strengthen our economic base.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

The Board of County Commissioners of Orange County pledges support for the continued growth and expansion of the modeling, simulation, and training industry in our community, and to the National Center for Simulation as the community's acknowledged simulation industry leader.

ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF JUNE, 1999.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: Mel Martinez
Mel Martinez
County Chairman

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

BY: Martha O. Haynie
Deputy Clerk

