



THE NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR SIMULATION

# The NCS Nation

July 2023

The NCS Nation Newsflash highlights initiatives, future events, leadership team updates, and Board of Directors and member company insights. Follow our social media platforms for up-to-the-minute updates!



## A Message From George Cheros, Our CEO & President



Welcome to our summer NCS Nation Newsflash!

We've had a busy few months, but the big news is that in a major decision, Space Force announced Florida's Space Coast as the selection for STARCOM training and readiness headquarters. Welcome STARCOM!

Given that decision, this year's NCS Business-2-Business (B2B) event will bring the MS&T industry together to meet STARCOM. Mark your calendar for Sept. 13 at The Celeste Hotel -- you don't want to miss this event! More details coming soon, but registration is at our [NCS Big Five Events website](#).

Finally, our Florida Simulation Summit was a tremendous success! From Dr. Will Roper's amazing keynote to defense and industry experts discussing their actual work product and progress, the Summit was a tremendous learning experience for all. We even had a sneak preview of the Brightline train station! Read more below.

I hope you find this newsletter to be informative. Please feel free to contact Neal personally or me with any questions or suggestions, and thanks for the continued support!

George

George E. Cheros  
President and CEO

## SpaceForce Lands STARCOM at Patrick Air Force Base



After years of surveys and deliberations, our Metro Orlando Defense Task Force collaborated with many in our community to support Space Florida and Brevard County to ensure the DoD had the necessary data to make an informed

decision to move one of Space Force's major commands to Patrick Space Force Base in Florida.

The selection committee referenced the proximity of Team Orlando as a major contributing factor to their decision. STARCOM will initially bring hundreds of personnel to the Space Coast to help develop training programs for Space Force members.

## NCS B2B Event to Focus on STARCOM

Connecting our other technology

ecosystems is something NCS likes to do best, so be sure to join us for this year's Business-to-Business event on Sept. 13 at the Celeste Hotel.



Whether cyber, defense, energy, gaming, healthcare, homeland security, manufacturing, optics, photonics, space, or transportation transferring technology is one of our missions.

Therefore, we would like to welcome and connect STARCOM, the Space Training and Readiness Command to Florida and our MS&T ecosystem at our next B2B. More details will be added to the registration site as they are confirmed.

[Register Today](#)

## Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chair Admiral Christopher W. Grady Visits STARBASE Central Florida



Admiral Christopher W. Grady, his wife, Christine, and his team spent time at NCS STARBASE Central Florida in June. Grady serves as the 12th vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In this capacity, he is a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's second-highest-ranking military officer. Grady and his wife have a great interest in STEM and while visiting Team Orlando, they came over to

STARBASE to meet our students and learn more about immersive learning lab.

Through 25 hours of exemplary hands-on instruction and activities to our elementary students, STARBASE CF exposes Central Florida 5th graders to the technological environments and positive civilian and military role models found in our defense industry, Active, Guard, and Reserve, nurturing a winning network of collaborators, and building mutual loyalty within our communities.

## U.S. Representative Cory Mills Visits Team Orlando

Serving his first term in Congress as the Representative of the 7th district of Florida, Cory Mills is a decorated U.S. Army combat Veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star. Rep. Mills visited Team Orlando and several future visits are on the agenda to increase awareness of the MS&T community for Rep. Mills and his Staff. Pictured far left, Rep. Mills



meets previous NAWCTSD commanding officer, CAPT Dan "Stuckey" Covelli, before meeting with Team Orlando Leaders and seeing capability demonstrations.

## NCS MS&T Community: Talented and Ready to Partner



The National Center for Simulation was established almost 30 years ago to "lead the growth of the Modeling and Simulation (M&S) industry" through impactful efforts and accomplishments. Together in Team Orlando with our industry partners, government, and academia, we strive to provide the platform, infrastructure, and resources to develop and expand this important technology.

Our key objectives are to support our industry, which provides cutting-edge solutions to the

Warfighter from all branches of the military; enable tech transfer to civilian vertical markets, and strongly support STEM education development from elementary through graduate school.

We support 345 members and a \$7 billion industry, with a membership that includes companies ranging from large primes to many small and start-up businesses. Our initiatives focus on the integration of defense developers and users of M&S technology into other verticals such as healthcare, space, gaming, energy, transportation, and entertainment companies like Walt Disney Company and Universal Studios.  
*(Pictured above attendees at the Florida Simulation Summit held in May)*

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## Working with Federal, State, and Local Representatives

Our ability to leverage our academic, industry, and government partners in Central Florida leads to educating our local, state, and federal representatives. As such, our members and partnerships give us the ability to seize the moment to fuel Orlando's economy.

One of the essential relationships is working with our state partners on the Governors Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force. This relationship reaches all the way back to 1999 under then-Governor Jeb Bush.

Additionally, we host visits to many federal, state, city, and county elected officials and staff. These visits and trips to Tallahassee and Washington D.C. are numerous and the demonstrations aim to continue spreading the message of our MS&T strategic initiatives. It is not an understatement to say all boats rise with the tide, adding that with the strength of our growing members, NCS will continue to promote, protect and grow the MS&T ecosystem.

*Pictured in top photo (L-R), are George Cheros, NCS president and CEO, Captain Tim James, Commanding Officer, NAWCTSD, and bottom photo is Congress, Maxwell Frost, representing FL-10 in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Frost brought both his Washington, DC, and Orlando staff for a deep dive into the MS&T community.*



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## Digital Transformation: The Next Big Ecosystem Expansion



Orange County Government, National Center for Simulation, and our Host Sponsor, Duke Energy, held the 2023 Florida Simulation Summit (FSS) at the Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

This year's theme was digital transformation and the "Airport of the Future." The goal was to discuss what we feel is the next big expansion of our ecosystem with the continual push toward the digital transformation of our economy. No matter what sector you work in — cyber, defense, energy, finance, gaming, healthcare, homeland security, manufacturing, optics, photonics, space, or transportation — the addition of sensors, artificial intelligence, and machine learning is transforming the way we do business. When done correctly, the collection, storage, distribution, consumption, and protection of data are making the return on investment of the digital transformation too big for companies to ignore.

Following this year's summit program, attendees had the option to tour the new Brightline Fast Train! From what we received as feedback this year FSS provided a great networking opportunity and was of immense value to hear from the experts on how they are employing digital transformation throughout their enterprises.

In its eighth year, the FSS highlights the strong progress, synergy, and development of the Orlando region's multi-billion-dollar MS&T industry. Our region likes to showcase the ease of collaboration between businesses, researchers, and the military, which is one of the major reasons it is recognized as an epicenter for the MS&T industry. Read more on the [FSS](#).

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## Open Houses, Ground Breakings, and Ribbon Cuttings

Watching companies grow, supporting the relocation of out-of-state companies to Central Florida, or establishing new homes for new company projects or programs are one of the things that we like doing best at NCS.

Our MS&T community is known best for how large and small companies mentor each other. While competitive in winning contracts, when it comes to growing the entire MS&T community, companies always step up to work together for the good of the entire MS&T ecosystem. Above is the Open House held on April 11th at the continuing-to-expand [Bluedrop USA](#) in Research Park. Learn more about [Bluedrop USA](#).



## MS&T Evangelists: Sharing Our Community's Message



NCS leadership is always excited to get out and spread the message of the Central Florida MS&T community. It's our passion -- whether talking about Team Orlando, STEM MS&T Pipeline, or the digital transformation occurring across all economic sectors with digital twins. We look forward to facilitating more of those discussions as digital twins move from hype to reality.

We want to thank our partners at the Florida Optics and Photonics Cluster for having us out at the SPIE Defense + Commercial Sensing symposium at the Gaylord Palms Hotel for an MS&T Panel Discussion. Connecting our communities is of utmost importance as you really cannot even discuss all the DoD equipment that uses photonics and optics. So letting each community understand and be aware of requirements and challenges is an important conversation.

## Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



*This is not paid advertisement.*



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## ASI Displays



www.asidisplays.com

“ASI displays has been a member of NCS for nearly 10 years. Having partnered with many NCS members and being active in the S&T industry, it was a logical step to join NCS. Companies, large, and small, have trusted us to be their trade show an event marketing partner. ASI specializes in providing amazing exhibit and corporate environment, exceptional service, and spectacular events. We are always seeking the opportunity to bring our clients brand(s) to life! NCS has been the perfect partner to expand connections in the S&T industry.

- Ms. Terry Genovese, Business Manager, ASI Displays Worldwide

[www.simulationinformation.com](http://www.simulationinformation.com)



## Board Member Spotlight Series

**Amy Motko**, NCS Board Member  
CEO & President | Carley Corporation



“Being a part of the simulation, training and education community for over 30 years, I have watched Orlando become the true hub for all things simulation. NCS is an integral part of that hub and a voice for the Services, Industry companies - large and small - and Academia. It's an honor to serve on the board of an organization that promotes, grows and protects all aspects of this unique MS&T community.

[www.simulationinformation.com](http://www.simulationinformation.com)

## There's Room for Your Company at the NCS Big Five Events!

Become a corporate sponsor of NCS Big Five Events and save 10%. Pick and choose which events work best for you, individually, and for your company.

**Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament**



**Business-2-Business Events**



**Florida Simulation Summit**



**M&S Hall of Fame**



**Membership Night**



**Business-2-Business Networking Event | September 13, 2023**

**NCS Hall Of Fame | October 12, 2023**

**NCS Membership Night | January 2024**

**Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament | March 25, 2024**

**Florida Simulation Summit | 2023 May 10, 2023**

## From the STEM Corner: STARBASE Teams with Florida Virtual School Foundation for Two Week-Long Camps



The NCS STEM Team -- Lindsey Spalding, Lana Wallis, Abbie Easter, Alexandra Morffi, and Chris Voltzke-- continue to foster community inclusion in world-renowned STEM programs to help support the future MS&T workforce.

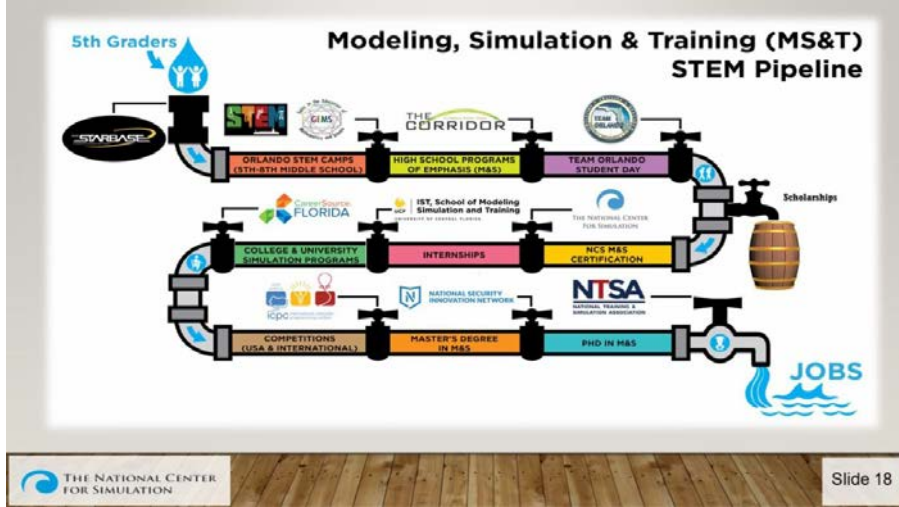
This past quarter, the NCS STEM Team in collaboration with the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Foundation invited 40 middle and high school students into the DoD STARBASE Central Florida lab over two weeks.

Throughout each week-long camp, students embarked on exciting projects in the multiple realities of STEM education, including the creation of bouncy balls using strategic amounts of polymer crystals to create bouncy balls with high elastic potential energy. They then transitioned to developing 3D versions of their balls on online modeling platforms based on the data collected from the balls they made, with the goal of incorporating them into a video game demonstrating how the ball could interact with various types of matter. The camp culminated in a "Game Jam" where students presented their games, and a vote by their peers and parents determined the winner of the game with the most potential for future sales.

Students also learned from Subject Matter Experts in the fields of robotics, digital art, and inclusive learning. Each student was able to expand their learning by using tools and software in the DoD STARBASE Central Florida Lab, such as flight simulators, virtual reality gaming systems, an interactive augmented reality human anatomy display, an Army augmented reality topography sandbox, and more. At the end of the camp, each student was given a **FREE** high-end gaming computer capable of running industry-level 3D modeling software to keep - thanks to a generous grant from the Truist Bank Foundation.

This quarter, DoD STARBASE Central Florida hosted 300+ early learners through adults to engage, grow, and nurture the MS&T workforce of the future.

To learn more about the NCS STEM program, DoD STARBASE Central Florida, or how you can get involved, please reach out to [Lindsey Spalding](#), Director of STEM Programs for NCS.



## Q & A With Our COO, Dr. Neal Finkelstein



**Question:** I'm a small company, how can the industry work closer with NCS?

**Answer:** Working with our members is one of the things we like doing best at NCS. NCS has proudly supported our MS&T industry which has developed some of the greatest training aids, devices, simulators, and simulations (TADSS) ever built to ensure we maintain the world's superior military force. Those training devices have saved

time, money, and lives, giving our Warfighters a superior tactical advantage in every way over our adversaries and competitors.

In fact, our industrial base has developed and produced some of the most innovative, advanced, game-changing technologies! Today, we train on ubiquitous "six-degree of freedom" high-fidelity simulators networked and linked around the world in live-virtual-constructive gaming-augmented reality training exercises. These capabilities were unimaginable just a decade ago. This evolution of science and technology continues with low-cost head-mounted displays, virtual reality, augmented reality, cyber, artificial intelligence, intelligent tutoring, data mining, data analytics, medical technology, theme park entertainment engagement, gamification, digital twins, and of course, space to write the next chapter in the future of TADSS. It is not an understatement to say our member companies have proven MS&T capabilities that cover the spectrum from submarines to satellites.

As I always say, NCS is like a YMCA the more time you invest into our community the more you get out of it. There is strength in numbers, and we want you to be actively involved in this mission to ensure your voice is heard in advocating local, state, and federal policies. By uniting our efforts we are a force multiplier and a show of force with 345+ member companies.

By pooling our resources and uniting our efforts, we can better promote, protect and grow the Modeling, Simulation, and Training (MS&T) industry. Please take a deep dive into this [website](#) for a complete answer to the opportunities that can link your small company to work closer with NCS.





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# Become A Member!

## JOIN US TODAY

*"NCS has a fundamental objective of extending modeling, simulation, and related technologies into new applications-- principally by growing the membership, leveraging the investments that have been made in defense-related programs, and pursuing new and emerging commercial opportunities, such as education, medical/health care, space, energy, transportation, manufacturing, digital media, serious games, entertainment, and Digital Twin technology.*

*I encourage you to become a member of NCS and leverage our resources to the betterment of your company's full potential."*

*George E. Cheros  
President/CEO*

### Become A Member

## NCS Lunch & Learn Opportunities for Member Companies



An important key focus area at NCS is to provide a platform for member companies to learn about current events that can impact business and the community.

As such, NCS hosts Lunch & Learn throughout the year. If you have something to share with our members and would like to host a Lunch & Learn please [review our guidelines](#).

## Improving Industry-Military Communication: PALTs

In response to Industry's continued requests to improve communication between Military Contracting Commands in Orlando, the Services continue to host monthly Procurement Administrative Lead Time (PALT) update sessions. These are open to Industry participants intending to pursue contracts and/or business with the U.S. Government. To learn more about PALTs and scheduled sessions, visit [here](#).





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