

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: Kathi Dimmock

706-821-0607

dimmockk@nscdiscovery.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CEO AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD APPOINTED FOR THE NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTER

Augusta, GA -- Joe F. Edwards, Jr., has been appointed CEO and Chairman of the Board for the National Science Center. The National Science Center, headquartered at Fort Discovery, serves as a catalyst to spark interest in math and science among young people across America.

Edwards replaces Paul S. Simon as Chairman of the Board for National Science Center, Inc., a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, which operates the National Science Center and Fort Discovery through a unique partnership with the U. S. Army.

"We are deeply grateful for Mr. Simon's years of service as Chairman and CEO of National Science Center, Inc. We would not be here without him. We now welcome Joe as the Chairman of NSC, Inc. and CEO of the National Science Center. Joe's background and his passion to excite children about science will be a valuable asset to the National Science Center," stated Phyllis H. Hendry, President of National Science Center, Inc.

Edwards, a former NASA Astronaut, has been involved with several start-up companies in the areas of technology, aviation, telecommunications and leadership development.

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Attachment: Joe F. Edwards, Jr. Biography



BIOGRAPHY OF JOE F. EDWARDS, JR.

Joe Edwards has an extensive career centered on military affairs and the execution of foreign policy. He has served in the Operations directorate of the Joint Staff under General Colin Powell where participated in the planning and execution of over 30 military operations around the globe, many of them still classified. While at the Pentagon, he also operated and maintained several computer systems in a worldwide network used for politico-military operations. His experience in public policy and military affairs includes extensive interaction with the White House and Capitol Hill while serving in Washington D.C.

He is a combat proven Naval aviator serving as an operational fighter pilot during combat operations in the Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf, including Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He was the youngest pilot to be Strike Leader qualified in his Carrier Airing and a graduate of the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, Topgun.

In the late 1980's he was the lead test pilot for the Navy's F-14B and F-14D development, conducting flying qualities, performance, high angle of attack and systems flight tests on the aircraft. He was awarded 21 military decorations during his military career, including the Navy's only peacetime Distinguished Flying Cross and one of only 63 awarded since WWII. He has logged over 4500 flight hours, 650 aircraft landings and 27 combat missions.

As a NASA Astronaut, Mr. Edwards transported the last American to the Mir Space Station and flew the closest flying maneuvers ever conducted around a space station in the history of spaceflight. Among several leadership positions at the agency, he managed training for the International Space Station in the Star City, Russia and was deeply involved in contract negotiations between the two space agencies.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and postgraduate degrees in Aviation Systems Engineering, Industrial Management and Engineering Flight Test.

He has run his own consulting company and operated four business units of a start up technology company, generating over \$173 million in revenue over 18 months. He is currently serving as the Chairman and CEO of the National Science Center, an organization established by Act of Congress to improve the quality of science and mathematics education of American students. He also serves as an advisor to several start-up companies in the areas of information security, aviation and leadership development and has recently completed his first book, a memoir of his flying career at NASA and during the Cold War. He resides in Augusta, Georgia with his wife and young daughter.