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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National energy expert and political adviser to speak at OCU

The adage that politics makes strange bedfellows has perhaps never been so true than in this time of divisive ideology and a polarized electorate. So what do a conservative Washington, D.C.-based think tank and a progressive, Clinton-era, energy initiative have in common?

The National Defense Council Foundation released a blueprint for national energy security in September 2003. That blueprint emphasizes the use of alternative fuel technologies to decrease dependence on petroleum and bridge the gap between today's internal combustion engine and transportation technologies of the future.

Milton R. Copulos, president of the National Defense Council Foundation, will present *America's Achilles Heel: The Hidden Cost of Imported Oil - A Strategy for Energy Independence* at Oklahoma City University on October 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Watson Lounge, Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel.

Sponsored by Central Oklahoma Clean Cities, a locally based U.S. Department of Energy initiative, and the Vivian Wimberly Center for Ethics and Community Service at Oklahoma City University, the presentation will be followed by an open question and answer forum. The program is free to the public.

The world's economy is indeed dependent on petroleum to move agricultural and manufactured goods across countries and around the globe. But, technology exists today to make significant inroads in the amount of petroleum we import from some of the world's most unstable geopolitical regions. The NDCF report is the result of a yearlong investigation into the actual costs of America's dependence on imported oil. The investigation entailed a review of more than a half million pages of documentation and an in-depth peer review by noted experts from fields as diverse as special operations, military logistics, energy production, environmental science and medicine.

Findings include an almost \$49.1 billion annual defense outlay to maintain the capability to defend the flow of Persian Gulf Oil; the loss of 828,400 jobs in the U.S. economy, the loss of \$159.9 billion in GNP annually, the loss of \$13.4 billion in federal and state revenues each year, and total annual economic penalties from \$297.2 billion to \$304.9 billion. The NDCF report outlines a strategy for reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil incorporating the benefits of shifting the U.S. transportation sector to non-petroleum derived fuels.

Retired Army Reserves Special Forces Maj. F. Andy Messing, Jr., NDCF executive director, said in his introduction to the report, "From our perspective, the financial underpinnings of international terrorism rest on two pillars: the drug trade and oil dollars. The threat terrorism poses to our nation will be diminished in direct proportion to the degree these sources of funds can be reduced."

Since its release, the NDCF report has been quoted in publications such as the February 4, 2004 edition of The Wall Street Journal and August 30 edition of Fortune Magazine. The Department of Energy's Transportation Energy Data Book published by Oak Ridge National Laboratories also incorporates the study's results.

Milton R. Copulos has been a prominent figure in national political circles for more than 30 years. He is a former member of the National Petroleum Council and served as a cabinet-level adviser in the Bush and Reagan administrations where he worked closely with the secretaries of Defense, Energy, Interior and Commerce, as well as former CIA directors William J. Casey and Robert M. Gates.

Mr. Copulos is the author of more than 700 articles, books and monographs. His articles have appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Times, Insight Magazine and many other publications. His book, "Energy Perspectives," was a Washington Post best seller and for four years he wrote a nationally syndicated column distributed by the Heritage Features Syndicate. He has appeared nationally on broadcast news and information programs including FOX News Network's "Fox and Friends," and CNN's "Crossfire," and "The War Room with Wolf Blitzer." He has also served as an on-air military analyst for MSNBC.

Dr. Mark Davies, dean of OCU's Wimberly School of Religion and Graduate Theological Center, said, "The Vivian Wimberly Center is committed to providing forums that will educate the campus and community on issues of ethical importance. Ethical issues related to our use of energy, both as individuals and as a nation, are of crucial importance, and the center is pleased to be hosting a person who will provide information that will help us make sound ethical decisions in relation to this topic."

The National Defense Council Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The foundation studies low-intensity conflict, the drug war, and energy security. It briefs Congress, the media, and its members on salient matters that affect the socioeconomic, political, and military aspects of the nation.

The Department of Energy's Clean Cities program is a voluntary, locally based, government-industry partnership. Its mission is to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuel vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid-electric vehicles, fuel blends and fuel economy. There are more than 80 officially designated Clean Cities programs across the country with some 4,800 stakeholder members. Central Oklahoma's Clean Cities program is funded by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and the Department of Energy.