



# *The Alliance Matters*

Welcome to “The Alliance Matters”, a newsletter focused on keeping you informed about the Alliance initiatives and accomplishments, highlights about our Central New York (CNY) region, defense industry, members, our partners and upcoming events.

## **Mission**

The CNY Defense Alliance mission is to Promote, Advocate, Strengthen and Expand the region’s Department of Defense (DoD) and federal assets including the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Eastern Area Defense Sector (EADS) and the FAA Designated New York (NY) Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Test Site, all located at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.



AFRL/RI, DFAS, EADS and the NY UAS Test Site are organizations that are recognized nationally for their respective accomplishments but that makes them a target for other states looking to grow their military value and high tech eco-system.

The **goal** of the CNY Defense Alliance is to strengthen and expand our defense industry and high tech eco-system by supporting initiatives enabled by collaboration and partnerships with our region’s DoD and federal assets. We also work directly with our federal, state and local representatives to ensure they address issues head on while taking a proactive stance on a potential BRAC (2021) or DoD realignment.

## **AFRL Information Directorate**

Congratulations on another year of going above and beyond meeting the warfighters’ needs for new tools and techniques. Achieving **over \$1.3 Billion** in research and development funding in fiscal year 2017 is a solid indicator that AFRL Rome and its defense eco-system understand the requirements of our warfighters while looking beyond for that next innovation. Mr. Dan Goddard, AFRL/RI Director, works tirelessly with his staff and the community to identify “moon shots” and collaborative approaches to achieve them.



In October, Senator Griffo hosted a visit by NY Senator Thomas Croci, Chairman of the NYS Senate Majority Task Force on Counter-Terrorism and Public Protection, to AFRL/RI and the UAS Test Site. The objective of the visit was to research the state’s counterterrorism and public protection capabilities. Senators Griffo and Croci discussed their vision and support for joint federal and state initiatives that create shared R&D resources (e.g., UAS Indoor Sky Dome).



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**\*\*\*\*\*SAVE the DATE\*\*\*\*\***

AFRL Information Directorate briefing to Industry will be January 4, 2017 at the Griffiss Institute from 9-12. Mr. Goddard will start with a short overview and then each CTC Lead for a 30 minute session on their programs and opportunities. **Note:** Those attending need to be contractors with the ability to do work with the Lab or have on-going contracts.

## **NY UAS Test Site**

NY and Oneida County investments of **over \$300M** are being used to create indoor and outdoor capabilities, including a UAS test corridor that extends from Griffiss International Airport in Rome, NY to Hancock Field in Syracuse, NY, capabilities do not exist anywhere else in country.

The NY UAS Test Site is recognized by industry and federal entities, including NASA and the FAA, as a premier test site. The test site hosts an infrastructure that integrates the computing, wired and wireless communications, sensors and radars needed to test and evaluate UAS capabilities, techniques, processes and procedures that will pave the way for the safe integration of UAS into the National Air Space. The Alliance continues to work initiatives that facilitate research and development collaboration, with AFRL/RI and potential industry partners, where applications may vary but the technology foundation is the same.



Upstate NY is positioned as a national leader in the growing military and commercial UAS marketplace, bringing together government, industry, non-governmental organizations, and academic resources that offer enhanced capabilities for UAS technology development and testing, manufacturing and operations. Checkout New York State: Unmanned Aerial Systems at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mdE9G65PbA>

In September, CNY Defense Alliance and NUAIR industry partners participated in the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) Hill Day 2017 in Washington, D.C. The goal of the event was to have representatives from all the states meet with representatives from both chambers of Congress and encourage them to continue working positive steps towards furthering development for the unmanned systems and robotics industry. The talking points were:

- 1. Enhancing Government and Industry Collaboration**
- 2. Committing to Research and Development**
- 3. Support Key Legislation**
  - Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations
  - National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 2810, S. 1519)
  - Long-Term FAA Reauthorization (H.R. 2997, S. 1405)
  - Automated Vehicle Legislation



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In October 2017, President Trump and the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a new drone integration pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is to expedite the integration of drones into the national airspace system. Click here to view a U.S. Department of Transportation press release<<https://www.transportation.gov/UAS-integration-pilot-program>>. The NY UAS Test Site and NUAIR are working on a proposal that will be submitted on behalf of New York State.



In November, we celebrated Larry Brinker's work and accomplishments as acting CEO of NUAIR while also serving as Chief Legal Counsel. We also welcomed the new NUAIR CEO and President, form FAA Director, AF MajGen (ret) Marke "Hoot" Gibson.

### **THANK YOU to our 2017 Members/Sponsors**

The Alliance is the ONLY not-for-profit corporation in the region that is positioned to legally engage in lobbying to advocate, strengthen and expand the region's DoD and federal assets.

***Our 2018 Membership Drive will kick off in January. I hope we count on your support!***

**Our Voice is as strong as our membership!!**

- **PREMIER**
  - AIS
  - Altamira
  - AmeriCU Credit Union
  - AX Enterprize
  - BAE
  - Clarkson University
  - First Source Federal Credit Union
  - FTL Information Technology
  - Griffiss Institute
  - Intelligent Automation Inc.
  - Mohawk Valley Community College
  - Mohawk Valley EDGE
  - NYS Power Authority
  - NYSTEC
  - PAR/ Rome Research Corp
  - Raytheon BBN Technologies
  - SUNY POLY
  - Syracuse University/CASE
- **ADVOCATE**
  - Bank of New York Mellon
  - Booz Allen & Hamilton
  - CenterState CEO
- **ASSOCIATE**
  - Capraro Technologies
  - Mohawk LTD
- **COMMUNITY**
  - Black Owl
  - Dr. Don Hanson
  - JAG Technologies
  - Phoenix Contract Management
  - Research Foundation for State University of NY



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I would like to also thank the CNY Defense Alliance Board of Directors for their commitment to the mission of the organization: Ms. Cheryl Haritatos, Chairperson, Dr. William Jemison, Vice Chairperson, Mr. Mark Pfisterer, Treasurer, Dr. Gerry Capraro, (CTI), Mr. Chuck Green, Mr. Evan DeGennaro, and newly elected, Mr. Ed Jones, CEO, Black Owl Consulting and our Directors Emeritus Mr. John Graniero, Dr. Don Hanson and Mr. John Zogby.

A BIG shout out to our federal, state and local (Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congresswomen Tenney and Stefanic and Congressman Katko, NY Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Brindisi, Governor Cuomo and Lt. Governor Hochul, Oneida County Executive Picente, and City of Rome Mayor Izzo and Utica, Mayor Palmieri) and their staff who continue to provide unprecedented support to the CNY Defense Alliance.

Thank you State Senator Joseph Griffo, Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi and Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente for the funding support that is critical to augmenting the resources needed to promote and strengthen the region's DoD and federal assets.

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If you have information or news that you would like to share in the newsletter, please let me know. Also, we are always looking for community support. If you would like to get involved in the Alliance mission, please contact me at [mary.chruscicki@cnydefensealliance.org](mailto:mary.chruscicki@cnydefensealliance.org) or 315-617-2821.

***Wishing Everyone  
Happy Holidays and a  
Happy New Year!!!***