

The Alliance Matters



Colleagues, Friends –

The COVID pandemic brought challenges, frustration, and sorrow that touched all of us throughout 2020 and 2021. I have personally watched family members struggle, unable to work and pay bills. I've seen businesses downsize or close because of a lack of employees or supplies. Despite the hardships, I've also seen friends, family, and our community rally with optimism for better times. I'm hopeful and wish everyone better times in 2022.

As we did in 2020, the CNY Defense Alliance worked through numerous challenges in 2021 to continue our important work with our partners on initiatives to support and grow the CNY high tech and defense ecosystem. In our final 2021 "The Alliance Matters" newsletter, we share some of those accomplishments, along with news for the coming new year.

As you read the info below, I think you will agree that the CNY Defense Alliance is an important Central NY advocate and partner, committed to building an internationally recognized technology hub in CNY. We hope we can count on your support in 2022.

On behalf of the CNY Defense Alliance, happy holidays and please be safe and healthy.

Respectfully,
MC

Federal and Defense assets power CNY's high-tech economy. The CNY Defense Alliance works to promote, protect and expand those assets and the countless jobs and opportunities they bring to the region.....We are your voice in Washington, Albany, and beyond!

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2021 was challenging for our Defense/Federal assets, including the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (Rome Lab), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Eastern Area Defense Sector (EADS), FAA-Designated New York Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Test Site, defense contractors, community partners, and service organizations, but resilience and creativity enabled continued success and growth.

2021 saw numerous successes and accomplishments; below are a some of the highlights. I look forward to building on the region's positive growth and momentum in 2022. I encourage you and your organization to get involved. *Become part of the team that keeps our defense industry growing and fueling our region's high-tech ecosystem.*

Rome Lab Leadership

We said goodbye to Colonel Tim Lawrence and welcomed Colonel Fred Garcia. We can't thank Col Lawrence enough for his vision. He understood the importance of pushing technology challenges beyond the walls of defense organizations and empowered his team to create the true open innovation campus that is now the Innovare Advancement Center (www.innovare.org). Col Garcia didn't miss a beat when he took the reins and has been a positive force committed to doing what is right for his staff and for the community.

Innovare Advancement Center

First, thank you to Oneida County Executive Tony Picente, who recognized Rome Lab's vision and invested over \$14 Million in repurposing the former Griffiss Air Force Base Operations Center to become Innovare, which officially opened in July. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and Representatives Brindisi and Tenney, secured funding that helped build one of kind labs to make groundbreaking discovery possible. The 1st floor is home two quantum labs and two neuromorphic computing labs. The collective resources and capabilities found in the Innovare quantum labs are unmatched across the globe. With capabilities like these, it is no wonder that the former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Dr. Will Roper, stated unequivocally that "all quantum roads lead to Rome."

In August, "The Air Force Research Laboratory was designated as the Quantum Information Science Research Center for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force." [AFRL designated as Quantum Information Science Research Center for Air, Space Force](#)"

The second floor is the new home of the Griffiss Institute, which welcomed Ms. Heather Hage as its new President and CEO in May. A national search brought Ms. Hage back to the Mohawk Valley to "further expand the technical and economic impact of the Griffiss Institute and Rome Lab, as well as the surrounding region, in the promotion of ongoing research, technical innovation, and entrepreneurial ventures locally, nationally, and globally." She has over 17 years of experience in entrepreneurship, technology commercialization, and nonprofit management as a leader of The Research Foundation of the State of New York.

Heather hit the ground running. Her high energy and infectious personality have made her a great CNY Defense Alliance partner, with vision focused on the evolution of Innovare into an international science and technology ecosystem where researchers from government, industry, and academia from around the world can come to collaborate on new algorithms technologies, and tools.

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“SkyDome”

And another big thank you to Oneida County Executive Tony Picente and NYS for supporting the development of a one-of-a-kind, year-round indoor instrumented experimentation environment with the working name SkyDome. The facility will support the development of technologies for autonomous small unmanned aerial systems (sUAS), swarms, and resilient communications that can operate in contested environments, as well as safely and securely in the National Air Space. Supply chain challenges are impacting construction; however, Commissioner Arcuri is hopeful that the grand opening can take place in the March-April 2022 timeframe.

The Alliance is leading the search for a unique name that captures the essence of the SkyDome vision. **GET INVOLVED**, send your ideas!

Rome Lab is excited to announce the expansion of their Stockbridge and Newport test resources to include Griffiss International Airport and SkyDome. In June 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding for technology testing and advancement was signed by Oneida County Executive Tony Picente and Col. Garcia, AFRL Information Directorate Commander.

In addition, the lab is putting together a limited objective experimentation series called Future Flag that leverages AFRL, Griffiss International Airport, EADS, 174ATKW, Ft. Drum, the NY MOAs, and other test sites in upstate NY.

While the FY23 budget is still uncertain, the CNY Defense Alliance submitted a request for Community Funding for \$200K on behalf of Oneida County and Griffiss International Airport. The objective of the project is to lay the foundation for building a fully configurable electromagnetic, physical, and digital capability in SkyDome that replicates an area of interest such as a city block in a modern metropolitan area or airport or military base. This “living lab” will facilitate experimenting with Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. It will also support connections and collaboration opportunities with the greater Griffiss Business and Technology Park (GBTP), the AFRL Information Directorate, NY UAS Test Site, Innovare, and the City of Rome’s Smart City infrastructure to enable complex and compelling experiments.

Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS)

Commanded by Col. Paul Bishop, EADS is a North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) unit located on the Griffiss Park. EADS is manned by New York Air National Guardsmen from the 224th Air Defense Group (ADG), a Canadian Forces detachment, liaison officers from the Army and Navy, and federal civilians. The CNY Defense Alliance is working with EADS and Rome Lab to create a testbed that will enable the assessment and transition of advanced technology that supports their mission to counter all air threats.

2021 marked the 20th anniversary of 9/11. More than 150 New York Air National Guardsmen, Canadian Forces members and government civilians from the Eastern Air Defense Sector posed for a group shot in front of two F-16s from the 180th Fighter Wing, Ohio Air National Guard, on Wednesday, June 9 at the Griffiss International Airport in Rome, N.Y. One of the first U.S. military units to respond to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the plane directly behind the formation was part of the initial response on 9/11.

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On September 11th, Maj. Gen. Dawne L. Deskins, Deputy Director, Air National Guard and retired Brig. Gen. Robert K. Marr unveiled the inscription for the Eastern Air Defense Sector's 9/11 memorial on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021 in Rome, New York. Deskins delivered the keynote address at EADS 9/11 remembrance ceremony, which was attended by more than 200 Airmen, local elected officials, invited guests and former Guard members.

Distinguished Visitors

Travel challenges didn't slow down visits to our region, Rome Lab, EADS, DFAS, the NY UAS Test Site and Innovare Advancement Center. Distinguished visitors in 2021 included:

- Under Secretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones
- General Bunch, Commander, Air Force Material Command
- Maj General Pringle, Commander, Air Force Research Laboratory
- Dr. Joel B. Mozer, Chief Scientist, Space Force Space Operations Command
- Mr. Sakulich, Executive Director, Air Force Research Laboratory
- Senator Schumer
- Senator Gillibrand
- Congresswoman Tenney
- Congressman Katko

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Kick Off Your New Year with a Visit to the Griffiss Institute/Innovare Advancement Center

GI will be hosting an open house on Jan. 6, 2022 from 4-6:30pm to kick off Innovare's Elevation Series. The evening will feature a special guest for a Fireside Chat and a showcase of GI program leads and partners. The audience will be a mixture of individuals from AFRL, CTC leads, High school students interested in stem, general public, local college students, and area businesses/staff. There is no cost to attend this event. You can learn more and register for the event here (feel free to share with your network!)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovare-elevation-series-fireside-chat-lightning-strikes-wleon-etienne-tickets-229390953517?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Mark your calendar and attend the Innovare Elevation Series: Lunch & Learn: Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE) with guest Dr. John "Mike" Borky (Hybrid Event) on Jan 12, 2022 from 11:30-1230.

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/innovare-elevation-series-presents-lunch-learn-wdr-john-mike-borky-tickets-229420923157?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=16e12ae947&mc_eid=b7e02e44e4