



# 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.



Our **Goal** 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.



## Alliance Membership

Our 2017 Membership Drive is underway. I hope we count on your 2017 Central New York Defense Alliance support! **Our Voice is as strong as our membership!!**

“Rumblings of a new Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC round, have continued in Washington, D.C. A bill supporting the move, which would evaluate and consolidate military infrastructure around the country, was introduced and discussed at the House Armed Services Committee earlier this year. It enjoys some military and lawmaker support, but any kind of talk of closing bases leaves communities scrambling to protect their own jobs.

Ohio State House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, R-Clarksville, authorized a Task Force on BRAC and Military Affairs last month, which he said would “collaborate with experts and interested parties to increase our understanding of these topics in order to forge a productive pathway forward.”

Ohio State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, chairs the task force and said he's selecting its other members” Read more at: <https://www.bizjournals-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.bizjournals.com/dayton/news/2017/04/12/state-to-ramp-up-military-strategy-with-brac-task.amp.html>

## Annual Meeting

The CNY Defense Alliance Annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 24 May 2017 from 3:00 - 4:30pm**. This year, we are excited to showcase one of the assets the Alliance works to promote and grow, the NY Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Site, by hosting the annual meeting at the Test Site Operations Center at Griffiss International Airport (GIA).



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The NY UAS Test Site is 1 of 7 in the country; working with NASA and the FAA on the challenges associated with integrating UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS). The NY UAS Test Site is operated by the GIA and managed by NUAIR. Mr. Russ Stark, Airport Commissioner, will provide an overview of the NY UAS Test Site and UAS Test Corridor between GIA and Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Before, our guest speaker starts, we will introduce candidates interested in running for the 2 open Board of Director seats. **Note, in order to run you or your organization must be a member of the CNY Defense Alliance.** If you or someone from your organization is interested in running, please send me a short resume by 17 May 2017. The resume should highlight why the nominee is a good candidate for the Alliance Board of Directors.

Cost for non-members to attend is \$20.00. Space is limited so Alliance members will have priority. **Please RSVP by Friday, 19 May 2017.**

## NY UAS Test Site

In addition to supporting UAS testing, the NY UAS Test Site has been busy demonstrating a one of a kind set of capabilities.

On April 12, 2017, NUAIR hosted Underwriters Laboratory personnel and provided an overview brief that highlighted NY's UAS Secure Autonomous Flight Environment (U-SAFE) and National Unmanned Aerial Standardized Performance Testing and Rating (NUSTAR) initiatives. U-SAFE is a \$250M NY funded program that will accelerate the integration of low altitude small UAS into the NAS. NUSTAR will provide standardized testing, certification and performance benchmarking for UAS products currently under development. UL personnel also received an overview brief and tour of the GIA followed by a demo of the NY UAS Test Site Operations Center capabilities.



On April 14, 2017, senior technical representatives



from NASA Ames visited the NY UAS Test Site to discuss the upcoming flight tests that will include multiple UAS types flying simultaneously using vertically stratified flight plans.

And finally, New York, with the support of the Griffiss International Airport and NUAIR, will be hosting a booth at the upcoming AUUVSI Xponential Conference and Trade Show in Dallas, Texas, 8-11 May. For more info go to:

<http://www.xponential.org/xponential2017/public/enter.aspx>



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## **AFRL Information Directorate & NY UAS Test Site**

Congresswoman Claudia Tenney and her staff met with the CNY Defense Alliance leadership and Alliance partners on 17 April 2017. Thank you Dr. Gerry Capraro for hosting the lunch meeting at Capraro Technology Inc.

The objectives of the meeting were to address the challenges with maintaining and growing the DoD and Federal assets found at the Griffiss Business and Technology, why the CNY Defense Alliance came to be and where we need Congresswoman Tenney's help.



Following the Alliance meeting, Congresswoman Tenney had a great introductory visit to the AFRL Information Directorate. The Director, Mr. Dan Goddard, provided a mission overview, articulating the C<sup>4</sup>+I research and development technology program that supports our warfighters. Her visit to the lab included a tour of the quantum and neuromorphic computing labs and was briefed on the success of trapping the lab's first ion.



Following the meeting at the Lab, Congresswoman Tenney, Rome Mayor Izzo and Mr. Goddard visited the Griffiss International Airport and the NY UAS Test Site. Mr. Russ Stark, Airport Commissioner, provided an overview of the airport, the UAS Test Site and

the integrated capabilities that support the research and development (R&D) needed to enable the safe integration of UAS in the NAS. Mr. Larry Brinker, NUAIR Executive Director, provided an overview of the U-SAFE and NUSTAR initiatives.

Following the overview brief, Congresswoman Tenney, Rome Mayor Izzo and Mr. Goddard visited the NY UAS Test Site Operations Center where they received a demonstration of the test site capabilities that are supporting UAS developers, NASA and FAA R&D projects, and the NY UAS Test corridor that will connect GIA and Syracuse Hancock International Airport.





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## **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Rome**

The DFAS workforce is responsible for supporting a range of functions critical to our military's readiness, including the processing of pay and benefits for two million service members and the management of more than \$18 billion in accounts receivables. In particular, DFAS Rome primarily serves and supports financial processes that are critical to the day-to-day operations of the Army.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer and Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-NY) teamed up to urge the Department of Defense (DoD) to exempt the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and its Rome facility from any government-wide hiring freeze. Read more at:

<http://www.wktv.com/story/34941579/schumer-tenney-want-dfas-employees-excused-from-govt-hiring-freeze>

<https://tenney.house.gov/media/press-releases/schumer-tenney-urge-dept-defense-exempt-dfas-rome-hiring-freeze>

## **Griffo and Brindisi continue to work to protect and enhance NY's Military Assets**

In a recent press release, State Senator Joseph Griffo and Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi announced that they have secured \$3 million in the 2017-2018 State Budget to help protect and enhance New York's current and former military facilities, including Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome. Within Griffiss, a portion of this significant funding will be used to strengthen and retain the Air Force Research Laboratory at Rome, the Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS), and the Eastern Air Defense Sector (EADS), Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Brindisi said.

Chruscicki said "Senator Griffo and Assemblyman Brindisi continue to step forward for the Mohawk Valley region and provide unwavering support for Rome Lab, EADS and DFAS, all located at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park. They truly understand the importance of New York's military facilities to our economy and our nation's security. Each organization is unique in the capabilities they provide, but collectively they support nearly 3,000 jobs and drive the development of the Mohawk Valley's high tech business base, expansion of our academic programs and growth of our supporting businesses."

Read more at: <http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Anthony-Brindisi/story/74438/>



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## **THANK YOU to our Current 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. Your support enables us to continue the important work of the CNY Defense Alliance.

- **PREMIER**
  - AIS
  - Altamira
  - AmeriCU Credit Union
  - AX Enterprize
  - BAE
  - Clarkson University
  - First Source Federal Credit Union
  - FTL Information Technology
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  - Mohawk Valley Community College
  - NYS Power Authority
  - NYSTEC
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- **ASSOCIATE**
  - Capraro Technologies
- **COMMUNITY**
  - Black Owl
  - Phoenix Contract Management
  - Research Foundation for State University of NY

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.