

Expert backs Rome security lab

By **TOM LAMBERT**
Observer-Dispatch

MARCY — In the aftermath of Sept. 11, a technology expert said it's more important than ever to develop a national center for cyber security at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

Thomas Triscari Jr. stressed the world needs to closely monitor cyber-based warfare and the world's information systems. He spoke during a session held Friday at the

SUNY Institute of Technology Utica/Rome campus.

Triscari is a management and technology associate professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute who is working for Rome Lab.

"We need to protect our information systems," Triscari said. "We feel we need to protect our security and go beyond military action."

"This was a brilliant, diabolical plan," Triscari said of the terrorist attacks. "They used our own sys-

tems — found our vulnerabilities — and hit us there. ... We can't let that happen again."

Last week, Triscari went before the Griffiss Local Development Corp. He said he envisioned a program at the lab that offers internships to top students and attracts \$10 million to \$20 million in state and federal funding to lure private businesses to Griffiss. He said the program could recruit future specialists in the cyber field — and could begin this summer.

The world has changed after Sept. 11, Triscari said, and the Mohawk Valley has to determine what role it will play.

Tim Clancy, project director for the House Science Committee, said he expects James Kallstrom — director of the Office of Public Safety for New York state — and Richard Clarke — special adviser for cyber security for President Bush — to tour Rome Lab in the near future.

Orlando R. Baiocchi,

dean of the school of information systems and engineering technology at SUNY Institute of Technology, said he wants a national center for cyber security built at the SUNY campus.

"This would be a great opportunity not only for the school, but for the area," Baiocchi said.

Jorge E. Novillo, professor and chairman of the department of computer science at SUNY Institute of Technology, said it was something the area needs to

keep college graduates here.

"There is a lot of talent here," Novillo said. "It would be a huge step to get a facility here that would have research and development opportunities."

The school is working with SUNY Stony Brook on a partnership for a technology center, Baiocchi said. "We want to establish cooperation between upstate and downstate," he added.

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Information systems security lab would be housed at Griffiss

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Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert, R-New Hartford, chairman of the House Science Committee, said he fully supported the plan to build a technology center at Rome Laboratory.

"The NIJ Center at Rome has established an effective partnership with law enforcement agencies across the country to

appropriation for the lab. "(That appropriation) will go a long way in taking that cyber science lab to the next level."

Rome Mayor Joseph A. Griffo said he thought bringing a technology-cyber center to Griffiss was a great idea.

"When you are dealing with new threats, if you can develop new technology that spawn new businesses to assist in this new

Role of colleges crucial for cybersecurity

By NICOLE A. HAWLEY

MARCY — A former Rome Laboratory employee is fighting to develop a national center for cybersecurity at Griffiss Business Park, and he wants SUNY Institute of Technology to be part of the efforts.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Dr. Thomas Triscari Jr., professor at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, stressed the importance and need of increased homeland security at a session held at the college's Utica/Rome campus Friday.

Triscari is an associate professor at the Lally School of Management and Technology and is also working with Rome Lab to promote the concept of a cybersecurity program that would be linked to local government officials, industry and academia.

Triscari said the information assurance center, which would be a base for monitoring cyber-based warfare and the world's information technology systems, could be a logistical outgrowth of what is already being done at Rome Labs.

"I want to see this happen in Rome," Triscari said. "I think what happened 50 years ago in command and control here when Griffiss Air Force Base opened after World War II, can move forward into this new technology."

"In 1950, someone in government saw a need for a military base in Rome, who saw how radar, which was facilitated here, had an effect on the enemy," he continued. "Romans have been working

on the problem of homeland security for 50 years and I think they've learned something. Why not extend that knowledge?"

For the project to "get off the ground," Triscari emphasized the need for a partnership between local colleges and universities, government and industry.

The first step would be "building intellectual capital," the professor said — linking schools which offer programs in information technology, to help educate and train employees in cybersecurity who could work for the lab.

Triscari said he wants the program to begin with internships for college students involving the lab and area colleges. The purpose of the scholarships would be to encourage undergraduate and graduate students to pursue a career in cybersecurity-related fields. He said he hopes to have at least 15 to 20 internships begin this year.

While Syracuse University and West Point are the only colleges in the state which are now "Certified Centers of Excellence" for information assurance education," Triscari said he wants to join local schools in a collaborative effort to get a local program certified. There are 23 schools which have certified assurance education programs in the country.

Those local schools would include SUNY Tech, Utica College, Mohawk Valley Community College and Herkimer County Community College.

"Working together here in the Mohawk Valley will be greater than working independently if we

want to see this happen," Triscari said. "Homeland security is a massive job and if we sign up to do this, we need to develop our role so we don't waste time, money and lives."

Triscari also presented his plan for an assurance information center at Rome Lab to the Griffiss Local Development Corp. two weeks ago and reviewed plans

with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton when she toured the lab on Jan. 14.

Triscari said it is possible that James Kallstrom, director of the state Office of Public Safety, and Richard Clarke, special advisor for cybersecurity to President George W. Bush, will be touring Rome Lab in the near future.

Creation of cyber security center at Rome lab studied

By DAN GUZEWICH

The formation of an entity to help businesses improve their computer security is being investigated for the Air Force Research Laboratory at Griffiss.

Thomas Triscari Jr. maintains that private industry has not done enough to invest in cyber security even as reliance on the Internet grows and that has him worried. He sees threats to U.S. electronic information infrastructure systems and technologies and is seeking to raise the level of technological preparedness, response and recovery actions, as well as training and information needs.

"We know we've been at war since Sept. 11," Triscari told the Mohawk Valley EDGE board last week, referencing the terrorist attacks in New York City and near Washington, DC., whose estimated death toll is nearly 5,000. The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute faculty member has begun a two-year assignment at Rome Lab to look into the establishment of the National Institute of Information Assurance as a way to better protect and defend computer systems and the information they contain from cyberterrorism attacks.

With corporate networks literally open to the world via the Web environment, there are more users to contend with, more easily accessible data to protect, more opportunity for error and more threats and exposures. Triscari's conclusion is that information protection must be identified and understood as a concern of paramount importance to an enterprise. He maintains it is a business risk issue as well as a critical technical infrastructure concern.

Triscari said the institute is a needed investment in "intellectual capital" and would be a partnership of local colleges and schools, such as Utica College, SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome and Mohawk Valley Community College, businesses, Rome Lab and the state.

A major component of the institute would be to train and educate people on how to protect information technology systems because computer hardware and software, and communication systems are now part of many business operations. The institute represents an opportunity for the lab to link what it now does for the military and intelligence community for the business world, according to Triscari.

For Triscari, the Rome Lab assignment is a coming home of sorts. He is a former Air Force officer who worked in command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence organizations in the government, including three years as deputy chief of the Advanced Command and Control Concepts and Software Technology Divisions at Rome Lab.

EDGE is sufficiently interested in the concept so that it has hired a con-

sulting firm, HR&A in New York City, to review the concept and attempt to identify funding sources, according to Steven J. DiMeo, EDGE executive vice president.

Griffiss Local Development Corp., which is overseeing the redevelopment of the former military base as a business and technology park, could be asked to provide a facility for the institute if the proposal moves forward.

Information assurance has already caught the attention of the Defense Department. It funds a scholarship program for students to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees, and graduate certificate programs in information assurance disciplines. Recipients of scholarship aid, in exchange for financial assistance, are required to serve a period of obligated service as a civilian Defense Department employee or a member of the armed forces.