STRIKEFORCE PREPS PILOT OF LAYERED ID-CHECK SYSTEM

StrikeForce Technologies Inc. will begin testing its expanded authentication-software product in about two months, said **George Waller**, the company's cofounder and executive vice president of marketing and sales. Before testing begins, Edison, N.J.-based StrikeForce must complete integration of its ProtectID product with components of a similar tool, called SecureID, developed by RSA Security Inc., Waller said.

"You use SecureID as keys to [get into] the house," or network, said **Tim Powers**, a spokesman for Bedford, Mass.-based RSA. "Once you get in [to the network], StrikeForce provides access to the information." It can be used for "assigning rights and privileges to users who come into system," he said. For example, a bank employee would use the RSA product to gain access to the company's network. Specifically, he would type in his username, then input a unique password delivered to his SecureID keyfob.

If the employee wanted to transfer $50,000 from a savings account to a checking account, though, StrikeForce's ProtectID product would ring the manager's phone or send an instant-message requesting confirmation of the transaction. Three-year-old StrikeForce also offers clients — 80% of which are financial institutions — the capability to authenticate users by voiceprint, thus adding another layer of security.

Consultancy **KPMG International** recommends StrikeForce's technology as a compliance solution for Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Section 404 requires senior corporate executives to file statements affirming that their company has "established and maintained an adequate internal control structure." Although banks are struggling with security conundrums stemming from keystrokelogging exploits by hackers and chronic phishing attacks, the industry will be slow to embrace a technology like StrikeForce's — which is referred to as "out-of-band" authentication — at the retail level.