



DFAS center to add hundreds of jobs by 2011

By **JAY MILLER**

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DFAS is the gift that keeps on giving for Cleveland and Northeast Ohio.

Civic leaders today unwrapped the latest decision by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to grow the federal agency's staff here from about 1,600 today to more than 2,000 by 2011 — or as the celebrants put it, "2,011 in 2011."

That number would double the number of DFAS workers that were here in 2005, when it was announced that the Cleveland center would be closed and its jobs relocated, principally to Indianapolis and Denver.

However, hard work and a hard sell by the local congressional delegation and the business group Greater Cleveland Partnership convinced the commission that was analyzing options for reductions in Defense Department offices and military bases to keep and even grow the Cleveland center.

"We can celebrate a huge victory here," said Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Cleveland, at a news conference in downtown Cleveland this morning.

Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Bainbridge Township, said saving the local DFAS center preserved \$40 million in payroll for the region. He said that by 2011, the local DFAS payroll will reach \$80 million or \$90 million.

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