



Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis' DOLLARS & SENSE

Florida Department of Financial Services

Dear Fellow Floridians:

This week, alongside the men and women of fire service, I announced that during the 2018 Legislative Session we will work to increase benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer connected with their jobs or with PTSD.

Anytime you have a health concern, you seek treatment. If diagnosed with cancer or any mental health issue in the line of duty, our firefighters must get the treatment



they need without incurring enormous costs. The University of Miami's Sylvester Center Comprehensive Cancer Center's Firefighter Cancer Initiative is currently studying firefighters' risks for developing cancer. This work is invaluable and I'm committed to helping further these efforts.

I have the honor of serving as State Fire Marshal, and it is my mission to do everything I can to support our firefighter community. Increasing benefits is one way, but there assuredly are others. So, I'll be traveling the state to meet with firefighters and their families to hear the issues that are most important to them.

I want those in the fire service to know we are here for them. I'll be putting the full weight of my office to support and fight for these fearless first responders this legislative session.

Sincerely,

*Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida*

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In This Issue

**Volume 14 Number 49
December 6, 2017**

Message from the CFO on
Firefighters and Health Care

News of Interest

CFO on Florida Community
Selected to Host Remotely
Piloted Aircraft
Headquarters

Florida Economic Brief

Print PDF

Archives

November 2017
October 2017
September 2017
August 2017
July 2017

Archived Issues

Quick Links

Subscribe

En Español

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Consumer Help

Email CFO Patronis

Press Releases

News of Interest

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CFO on Florida Community Selected to Host Remotely Piloted Aircraft Headquarters

Chief Financial Officer Patronis released the following statement on the selection of Tyndall Air Force Base as the preferred location for the MQ-9 Reaper Wing, housing 24 remotely piloted aircraft headquarters, a mission control element, and a launch and recovery element.

"I'm thrilled that the U.S. Air Force recently announced that Tyndall Air Force Base remains their top location to headquarter remotely piloted aircrafts. Not only will this move boost the local economy and strengthen our military economy, bringing an estimated 1,600 new jobs and adding \$250 million in construction, but it also has greater implications for our state. Selecting one of Florida's communities reinforces our reputation as the top military and veteran-friendly state, and further cements us a place where innovation and technology can thrive.



"These cutting-edge aircrafts are used more and more for military operations and disaster response efforts, so having the MQ-9 Reaper Wing call Florida home will greatly benefit our state and nation. I applaud the work on behalf of Bay County's military community, including the Bay Defense Alliance, in securing this win for Florida and supporting our country's national security efforts."

Florida Economic Brief

U.S. Unemployment Rate Continues Decline

The national unemployment rate dropped to 4.1 percent in October, representing a 0.1 percent decrease

in the rate. Total jobs grew by 261,000, with the biggest growth in the food services industry.
Source: **Bureau of Labor Statistics**
