



For Immediate Release

April 9, 2009

NASCAR's Jeff Gordon and 5,000 National Guardsmen Win Big Under *GED Plus*® Banner

Melbourne, Florida – Driving in his DuPont/National Guard *GED Plus* Chevrolet, Jeff Gordon finally took the checkered flag at Texas Motor Speedway last weekend to win the Samsung 500. Today, thousands of National Guardsmen can relate to that level of perseverance and achievement.

Gordon's milestone win—in his famous No. 24 car adorned with a large [*GED Plus* logo](#) on the hood for this race—comes on the heels of a recent milestone achieved by the National Guard. More than 5,000 guardsmen now have successfully completed the *GED Plus* program since its inception in 2006.

GED Plus® is a one-of-a-kind, finely-tuned educational program developed by Paxen Learning and offered through the National Guard. It allows recruits to expediently earn their GED (General Education Development diploma), learn basic army skills, and rapidly move forward to basic training en route to becoming National Guardsmen.

“We're extremely proud and honored to be working closely with the National Guard in the development and delivery of the *GED Plus* program,” said Douglas Merlin, Chief Operating Officer, Paxen Learning. “Reaching out to 5,000 recruits and positively impacting their lives is an outstanding achievement. To see Jeff Gordon cross the finish line with the *GED Plus* logo so prominently displayed on his car was icing on the cake.”

GED Plus is a free, comprehensive three-week program designed to provide non-high school graduates with all the tools they need to earn their GED certificates and advance their career opportunities in the National Guard. The program is like no other in the nation and features a better than 90 percent success rate, which is significantly above national averages that typically hover around 70 percent.

“The National Guard's *GED Plus* program can transform an individual's life by giving them a second chance to earn their diploma,” said LT. General Clyde Vaughn, the director of the Army National Guard. “The program helps to instill the skills, discipline and knowledge needed to guarantee a successful future for everyone in it.”

Thanks to the success of the program, the National Guard is currently building a new \$18 million complex at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas, where *GED Plus* is run. The complex will allow 7,500 recruits a year to attend the program and will feature a new building to house dorms, classrooms, a clinic, and dining facilities.

In addition to working closely with the National Guard, Paxen also offers a version of the GED program for civilian communities and organizations throughout the United States under its *GED Xcelerator* brand.

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About Paxen Learning

Paxen Learning specializes in developing and delivering outcome-based educational programs that build academic and employability skills for at-risk youths and adults. Each year, thousands graduate from Paxen programs on their journey toward meaningful employment. The company currently operates 25 programs in 10 states. Its clients and partners include the American Hotel and Lodging Association, Blackboard, Department of Defense, Department of Juvenile Justice, Indiana University High School, Home Builders Institute, National Guard Bureau, The Florida and Hawaii National Guards, state Departments of Labor, and local Workforce Investment Boards. The 25-year-old private, for-profit company is headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, with offices in Tallahassee, Florida, and Maui, Hawaii.

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