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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2010

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## BAE SYSTEMS DONATES \$5,000 TO THE BLUEGRASS CHALLENGE ACADEMY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

**A Representative from the BAE Systems office in Louisville, KY, presented the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy with a \$5,000 check to go toward scholarships for graduates of the Academy**

*Presented at the Kentucky Speedway on Friday, September 3, 2010, the donation will allow graduates of the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy to continue their education at college, vocational, or trade school.*

Alexandria, VA – BAE Systems awarded the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy of Fort Knox, KY, with a \$5,000 check to go toward scholarships for graduates of the Academy on Friday, September 3, 2010, at an event hosted by the National Guard Youth Foundation at the Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, KY. The National Guard Youth Foundation hosted National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Awareness Day to showcase cadets and graduates from the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy and raise awareness and support for the high school dropout program in Kentucky. Held the day before the Meijor Indy 300, the awareness event congratulated Bluegrass ChalleNGe cadets and graduates for taking the “challenge” to turn their lives around by obtaining their high school diploma or GED through the Academy.

BAE Systems was invited to the event due to its strong support and sponsorship of the National Guard Youth Foundation and ChalleNGe Program. Bob McElwain, Test Engineer for the Armament Systems Division out of the Louisville office, attend the event as a BAE Systems representative. Bob McElwain presented cadets of the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy with a check in the amount of \$5,000 which will go towards scholarships for December 2010 graduates of the Bluegrass ChalleNGe Academy. These scholarships will enable graduates to continue their education at a college, vocational, or technical school.

With over 1.3 million youths (one in every three youths) dropping out of high school each year, our nation is facing an epidemic of high school dropouts that is resulting in juvenile crime, education delinquency, poverty and unemployment of historic proportions. The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program and Foundation, along with sponsors and supporters like BAE, are working to combat this growing trend and turn the lives of these youths around.

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, is a 17-month voluntary intervention program established to provide high school dropouts a second chance. With a success rate exceeding 90%, Youth ChalleNGe assists dropouts in completing a high school

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diploma or GED and allows them to continue on to higher education or achieve career-related employment.

BAE Systems is a global defense, security and aerospace company with approximately 107,000 employees worldwide. The Company delivers a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions and customer support services.



*Maj Gen Edward Tonini, TAG of Kentucky, John Barnes, CEO of Panther Racing and National Guard Youth Foundation Board Member, Bob McElwain, and cadets and graduates of the Bluegrass Challenge Academy.*

## About The National Guard Youth Foundation

The mission of the National Guard Youth Foundation is to foster program awareness, advocate for the program goals and funding, and provide scholarships, training and workforce transition assistance to the graduates of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. To learn more about the Challenge Program and their Cadets, please visit our website at [www.ngyf.org](http://www.ngyf.org).

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