



# *News Release*

## **Public Affairs Office**

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**NDSTC honors fallen Soldier  
Story by: Mass Communication Specialist 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Fred Gray IV**

**NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY Panama City Beach, Fla.** – The Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) held a plaque dedication ceremony to honor one of their fallen brother-in-arms at a new training facility at Naval Support Activity Panama City on May 7, 2015.

U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Levi English reported to NDSTC on June 5, 2000, where he trained to be a diving officer. English lost his life while deployed to Iraq on December 6, 2006, and the plaque dedication was in his honor.

“A lot of people gave their lives for this country and it is always good to commemorate the leaders that made an impact on people,” said Cmdr. Hung Cao, commanding officer of NDSTC. “Leaders inspire us, leaders make us better than who we are, and Capt. English was one of those leaders.”

Cao hand made the plaques that were dedicated to the English family, from re-claimed wood that was part of an outdoor playset from the former English home. As a fellow diver, husband and father I couldn't imagine going to war and not having my family being able to see me again, and it just meant a lot to me to be able to do this for his family, said Cao.

“At first it was really emotional, and I couldn't believe it,” said Nathan English, Shawn English's 16-year old son, in response to receiving the hand-made plaque. “It's an honor just to be here and to have all this in his name is just so special.”

Along with Cao the official party consisted of Brig. Gen. John J. Elam, deputy commander of the 411<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, Rear Adm. Babette Bolivar, commander joint region Marianas, and the English family.

“I am humbled, honored and extremely grateful that he was chosen to be honored in this way,” Tricia English, widow of Shawn English, said about the ceremony. “It was overwhelming,” Tricia said when she learned that the plaques were from re-claimed wood from the former playset. “What people don't know is that I just sold that house in February, and nobody knew I was there, or how much that playset meant to me, so to then find out that he (Cao) reclaimed that to make those plaques is just amazing.”

Shawn English is survived by his wife, Tricia and his three boys, Nathan, Noah, and Austin.

The plaque dedication ceremony was one of several events celebrating the Year of the Military Diver (YOTMD) on Naval Support Activity Panama City at NDSTC. YOTMD marks such milestones as the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mark V dive helmet, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Navy's presence in Panama City, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women divers and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NDSTC.