

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

News Release #77-14

Aug. 11, 2014

Contact: Ed Barker

850.452.4858  
(DSN) 922.4858  
(FAX) 850.452.4900

## **Instructor at Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School honored with Purple Heart**

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Saying he joined the military to save lives, Air Force Staff Sgt. Douglas Ryan was presented the Purple Heart Medal by Navy Capt. William Noel, commanding officer, Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) during a ceremony on Eglin Air Force Base Aug. 8.

Ryan, currently an instructor in the Air Ordnance Division at the school, received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action while deployed in Afghanistan Mar. 18, 2010. The event took place at the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Memorial.

“The Purple Heart is a physical reminder to me how precious and fragile life is,” Ryan said. “I originally joined the military to save lives and be a part of something bigger than myself. I have a beautiful wife and son, and my goal is to be an example to them and to leave this world better than I found it.”

While serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician in the vicinity of Marjah, a Taliban stronghold in the Helmand Province, Ryan and other members of the Coalition Forces were clearing a route for troops and supplies when the vehicle Ryan was driving was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He immediately began conducting a post blast analysis to collect evidence and ensure the area was free from any further explosive devices.

Ryan's actions directly contributed to the safe movement of the other members of his team away from the kill zone. Upon completion of the mission, he was evacuated to Camp Bastion to undergo medical evaluations and treatment for injuries sustained during the blast.

Any military member of the United States Armed Forces is entitled to awarding of the Purple Heart, in the name of the President of the United States, for injury or death during direct or indirect combat operations

NAVSCOLEOD, located on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. provides high-risk, specialized, basic and advanced EOD training to U.S., partner nation military and selected U.S. government personnel each year.

For information about the EOD School and its training visit <http://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/ceneoddive/eods/> .

To learn more about the Naval Education and Training Command, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

-----

Story by Billy P. Martin, Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal Public Affairs Officer