



Building Homes for Heroes

Master Sergeant Joseph Deslauriers
United States Air Force



Fort Walton Beach, Florida



MSgt. Joseph Deslauriers



Hero Story

In September of 2011, while on a combat operation in Afghanistan, Master Sergeant Joseph Deslauriers, an EOD specialist, was mounted in a mine resistance vehicle conducting a post blast assessment of an IED explosion. EOD specialists are tactical and technical explosives experts, who are trained to destroy and disable unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and weapons of mass destruction. Their activities were portrayed in graphic detail in the film *The Hurt Locker*. In an effort to get a closer look at the damage done by the IED blast, MSgt. Deslauriers dismounted and unfortunately stepped on a secondary mine. The explosion that ensued resulted in Deslauriers losing both legs above the knee, and his left arm at the elbow.

Deslauriers, who carried out two tours of duty in Afghanistan and served in Iraq, Kuwait and Kosovo, was immediately evacuated to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland where he was met by his wife Lisa, who, at the time, was eight months pregnant. She has since delivered the couple's first child, a son named Cameron. MSgt. Deslauriers earned the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Joint Service and US Air Force Commendation Medal, US Air Force Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, and National Defense Service Medal

The plan is for the family to return to the our home base of Hurlburt Field/Eglin Air Force Base in the Fort Walton Beach/Destin area of Florida. MSgt. Deslauriers will be medically retired from the US Air Force, and the hope is to settle in this area to raise his son, and for Lisa to continue her employment as a school teacher.



Lisa & Joseph Deslauriers

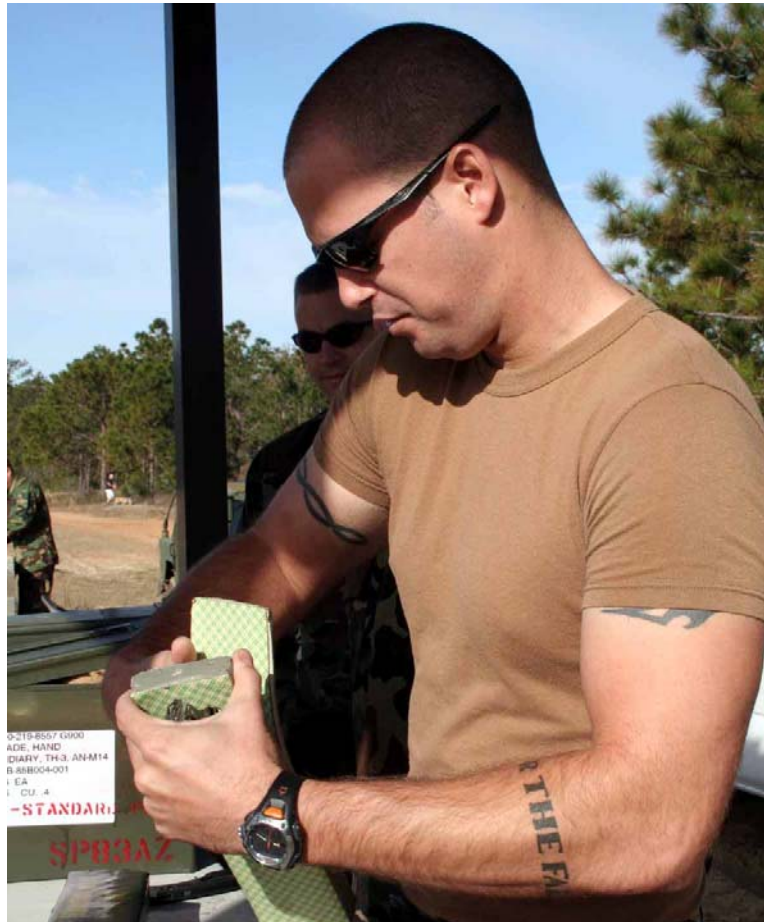




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MSgt. Joseph Deslauriers separates an MK118 demolition charge during a training session.





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MSgt. Joseph Deslauriers (left) and Staff Sgt. Joseph Gorney prepare the area around an old gun barrel for a detonation during a training session.





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Rehabilitation at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.





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Hero Story



Triple-amputee Joseph Deslauriers with new prosthetic arm.





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MSgt. Joseph Deslauriers and wife Lisa play with son Cameron.





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