



Air force Master Sergeant **Joseph Deslauriers Jr.** is an active duty officer who specializes as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician. His team discovered, disarmed or detonated hundreds of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Iraq in 2006, and he personally handled 14 to 20 IEDs during his first six-month deployment to Afghanistan in 2008. In May 2011 Deslauriers deployed to Afghanistan with the 1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron. He was attached to Marines from the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion and sent to the deadly Sangin district in Helmand province to address a shortfall in EOD techs after several deaths and injuries.

In September 2011, Deslauriers dismounted from his mine-resistant armored vehicle, carrying a handheld mine detector. He cleared a path to a disabled vehicle where he provided medical aid to an injured Marine. He then used his detector to clear a safe path for the medical evacuation helicopter to land and proceeded to help carry the injured Marine out of the danger zone. Unfortunately, he walked over a hidden IED and lost his left arm and both legs. For his valor, he was awarded the Silver Star.

He has been working with Mr. McLoughlin's team, where the technologies that have been developed at the Applied Physics Laboratory (Johns Hopkins University) have allowed him use of his arms, hands, and legs. Specifically, he has been fitted with neuro-prosthetics that allows him to control his arm, hands and legs with just his own thoughts