

Wish #8 Assists Air Force Couple Reduced to One Income



December 24, 2009



Taryn Summers presents the Baker's with their wish



Ultrasound of Madison and Damian



SrA Matthew and SrA Jessica Baker met through the Air Force. Matt had already deployed three times since 2003, once to a country in the former U.S.S.R, once to United Arab of Emirates (UAE), and three months later, to Iraq, where he worked as a compound guard for the largest Theater Internment Facility in Iraq (a mission not easily accomplished when out-numbered 100-1).

In August of 2006, just shortly after returning from that deployment, Matt met Jessica, and they were married a year later, in November 2007.

In February 2008, Matt departed for a 13-month remote assignment to South Korea. Being away from a newly formed family for such an extended period of time was hard – harder than his previous assignments. At that same time, Jessica was sent to training in Ft. Dix, New Jersey and left for Ayacucho, Peru in May 2008. She was chosen to participate in a New Horizon's Mission, created solely for humanitarian reasons. She spent six months helping rebuild downtown Ayacucho, handing out food donations, setting up security and ensuring that there were no incidents in the area. She assisted in building 4 schools and 3 clinics, and successfully escorted 7 convoys to Lima, 13 hours away.

In March of 2009, Jessica and Matt were re-united in Eielson AFB Alaska. Not long after, Jessica was tasked to deploy to Iraq on an Advanced Marksmen Team. Their entire first summer together she spent in Guam and Arkansas while Matt was in Alaska. In September, only weeks before Jessica's deployment, they discovered Jessica was pregnant with twins.

Stuck in a lease of a one bedroom apartment, but desperate for more room, the Baker's will be moving to a larger house very near the due date of the babies. With the high cost of daycare in Alaska, Jessica will be getting off active duty to stay home and take care of the babies for 6 months to a year, which will limit them to one income. Matt is projected to deploy in August, so he will probably be leaving for training soon after the babies are born, leaving Jessica to take care of the newborn twins.

THE WISH

After hearing Matt and Jessica's story, we wanted to help in some way. We sent active volunteer, Taryn Summers, now Regional Spokesperson for Alaska, to present the Baker's with a \$600 gift card to Wal-Mart so they could purchase remaining items needed for the babies, Madison and Damian. Taryn was assisted by Eielson's Public Affairs office and base leadership. Additionally, a local woman handmade blankets for the twins, and all the items were presented to Matt and Jessica two days before Christmas.

