



Melissa Stockwell was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Colorado. Upon graduation in May 2002, she was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. In 2004 Melissa deployed with her unit to Iraq. On April 13, 2004, just three weeks after arriving in country, a blast from a roadside bomb struck Melissa's Humvee causing the loss of her left leg above the knee. Melissa's injury resulted in numerous infections and required 15 surgeries.

Melissa was medically retired from the Army on April 20, 2005. Shortly thereafter she and her husband Dick moved to Minneapolis, MN where she enrolled in a prosthetics program at Century College. Graduating in May 2007, Melissa entered a rewarding profession as a prosthetist, allowing her help other amputees the way she had been helped.

With help from CAF, Melissa was able to get back into sports. She completed her first triathlon in October 2005 and has since completed four others.

Melissa Stockwell U.S. Army

Melissa has also twice completed the New York City Marathon and has learned how to ski again. Since her injury, Melissa has become a highly competitive swimmer and is among the top swimmers in her class in the world. She represented the United States as a member of the U.S. Paralympic Swim Team at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and was chosen by her teammates to carry the American Flag during the closing ceremonies. Melissa is also a member of the U.S. National Paratriathlon team and an ITU Paratriathlon World Champion.

*"I gain so much through sports. Being involved with them makes me feel as though I am whole again and can accomplish anything I put my mind to."-
Melissa Stockwell*

The generosity of supporters like you gives Melissa the chance to feel whole again.

How Does Operation Rebound Help?

Operation Rebound provides unparalleled sports opportunities and support to our troops and veterans of any branch of service and first responders who have served honorably and have suffered permanent physical injuries. Grants are awarded for event travel, lodging, entry fees, coaching and equipment.

How Can You Help?

Make a tax-deductible contribution to Challenged Athletes, Inc., (dba Challenged Athletes Foundation) a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. To make a donation, please call (858) 866-0959, send a check to the address listed below, or make a secure payment through our website: www.challengedathletes.org.

**Challenged Athletes Foundation
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Nonprofit Tax ID #33-0739596**