

FOR RELEASE

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**Lee Woodruff Speaks about Her Husband's Injury and Recovery
An Interview with RainbowVisions Magazine**

YPSILANTI, Mich., September 14, 2007—Lee Woodruff, spouse of ABC Journalist Bob Woodruff, never anticipated that her husband's overseas assignment in Iraq in January of 2006 would turn her family's life upside down.

When an improvised explosive device (IED) was detonated by Iraqi insurgents near the tank in which ABC "World News Tonight" anchor Bob Woodruff was riding, he sustained a traumatic brain injury and was in a coma that lasted over a month.

In a recent interview with RainbowVisions magazine, a publication of Southeast Michigan-based Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc., both Lee Woodruff and ABC producer Vinnie Malhotra share their first-hand account of Bob Woodruff's tragic injury and recovery.

Malhotra, who was on assignment with Bob at the time, recounts the terrifying moments immediately following the blast. The news crew had been trying to get a shot of Bob standing up through the tank's hatch. At the time of the explosion, Bob and cameraman Doug Vogt were both injured.

"[The blast] shook the entire tank and stopped it in its tracks," said Malhotra. "I remember trying to get Bob to open his eyes and wake up. There was a gaping hole in Bob's neck, and I put my hand over it to stop the bleeding. The gunfire was all around us because our convoy was hit with an ambush after the blast."

In the initial weeks following the accident, Lee confides that she was not ready to explore the seriousness of the damage to her husband's brain. It was a defense mechanism that helped her cope with the overwhelming situation.

"I didn't want to google brain injury," said Lee. "I didn't want to read articles or hear stories. Until Bob woke up from his coma and until I knew what deficits we were dealing with, I didn't want to make assumptions."

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After awakening from his coma in March of 2006, Bob's recovery was remarkable but not without challenges. His injury was in the left temporal lobe, affecting his speech and word recall — requiring months of speech and language therapy.

In her interview with RainbowVisions Lee discusses some of the challenges Bob has faced returning to work following his brain injury. While his recovery has been nothing short of miraculous, Lee notes that certain adjustments may be required in order to accommodate Bob's increased need for rest. Malhotra echoes this.

"Bob himself will tell you that nobody gets back 100 percent after a severe TBI," said Malhotra of his colleague, "but his recovery has been more than I could have ever hoped for. He's a great inspiration to anybody who has survived a brain injury ... Nobody should ever be fooled if they are having a conversation with Bob Woodruff. He may slip on a word here or there, but he is still very sharp and knows exactly what's going on."

Since his return to ABC News, Bob has covered a broad range of topics including stories about brain injury rehabilitation and recovery. He and Lee now advocate for brain injury services for U.S. military members and recently established the Bob Woodruff Fund for Traumatic Brain Injury to provide resources for cognitive rehabilitation to servicemen who have sustained a traumatic brain injury.

He and Lee also speak about brain injury to audiences throughout the United States. On September 28, Bob will address medical professionals, brain injury survivors and family members at the 27th Annual Conference of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan held in Lansing.

To learn more about Bob's injury, recovery and return to work as a journalist for ABC News, log on to www.rainbowrehab.com. For a free e-subscription, select Education & Publications > Subscriptions.

About RainbowVisions Magazine

RainbowVisions magazine is a quarterly publication that covers all aspects of brain injury from clinical news, current technology, rehabilitation techniques, behavioral information and medical articles for industry professionals, patients and their families. It addresses both adult and pediatric issues.

About Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc.

Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Inc. headquartered in Ypsilanti, Michigan has been a provider of rehabilitation services for children, teens and adults with brain injuries since 1983. With more than 30 residential locations, two treatment centers, a NeuroRehab Campus and a vocational center, our organization offers services that span nearly every aspect of brain injury recovery and rehabilitation. Our residential settings include adult homes, child and adolescent homes, townhouses and semi-independent living apartments. Day treatment and outpatient services are also available.

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