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4-1AD “Highlanders” Family Portrait Day - Free Family Photos for Deploying Soldiers

El Paso, Texas, 26 February 2009 - Operation: Love ReUnited and the 4-1AD Family Readiness Group are hosting a weekend of free family portraits for the deploying 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Armored Division, known as the Highlanders. On 4 and 5 April 2009, photographers from across the country will be photographing the families of approximately 4,000 Soldiers on Ft. Bliss, in El Paso TX. Screaming Light Studios, through Operation: Love ReUnited, is coordinating the outpouring of photographers, who are donating all of the time for the family portrait sessions. Each deploying Soldier will receive images of his or her family to carry during the upcoming deployment, free of charge.

Operation: Love ReUnited is a charity organization which matches local photographers with military families who are deployed, or will be deploying overseas. Deployed or deploying troops and their families are given up to two photography sessions, and a small album at no cost. The album is shipped to the Soldier's duty station overseas, keeping family memories close while stationed far away. It's all made possible by artists giving something back to the dedicated men and women who make the United States what it is. When the soldiers come home, a second free session captures the emotional homecoming.

“Operation: Love ReUnited is very special. The web site brings me to tears each time I view it. I appreciate everything they are doing for our soldiers and their families. I know that when you hear numbers like 4000 soldiers, with 2000 of them married with families, it can be overwhelming. This gift means so much to all of us. One of the things I was adamant about doing the last time my husband deployed to Iraq was ensuring that we got family photos. I love that Op Love photos are patriotic in nature and that they show not only the soldier's service, but the family's mission as well.” - Vianne Newell, 4BCT/1AD FRG Leader

Operation: Love ReUnited was started by Tonee Lawrence in Denver, Colorado after her husband returned home from his tour of duty in Operation: Iraqi Freedom. For additional information on Operation: Love ReUnited, contact Tonee Lawrence (303-917-6030) or visit www.oplove.org.

Contact Jean Offutt, Ft. Bliss PAO (915-568-4505), for information about media attendance during the portrait weekend.



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Supporting Photographers:

Screaming Light Studios	Las Cruces, NM	www.screaminglight.com
Lisa Lee Photography Studio	Fort Carson, CO	www.lisaleephotographynkreations.com
Ali Mocabee Designs	Saint George, KS	www.alimocabee designs.com
Emotion Portrait Design	Mountain Home, ID	www.emotionportraitdesign.com
AM/PM Photography	Colorado Springs, CO	www.ampmphoto.net
Tonee Lawrence Photography	Denver, CO	www.toneelawrence.com
Duckling Photography	Collegeville, PA	www.ducklingphoto.com
Hitchcock Photography	Green Mountain Falls, CO	www.hitchcockphotography.webs.com
Glen Navarra Photography	Morrisville, PA	
ABC Photography	Edmond, OK	www.abcphotography.net
Diana Ornes Photography	Norwalk, WI	www.dianaornesphotography.com
Bernard Rosenblum Photographer	El Paso, TX	www.photographicstudio.com
Photo Pros	El Paso, TX	www.photoelpaso.com
Vaboom Studios	El Paso, TX	www.vaboom.com
Armando Martinez Photography	El Paso, TX	www.armandomartinezphotography.net
Toni Marie Studio	El Paso, TX	www.tonimariestudio.com
Debra Gulbras Photography	El Paso, TX	www.debragulbas.com
Patricia G Photography	El Paso, TX	www.patriciagphotography.smugmug.com

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