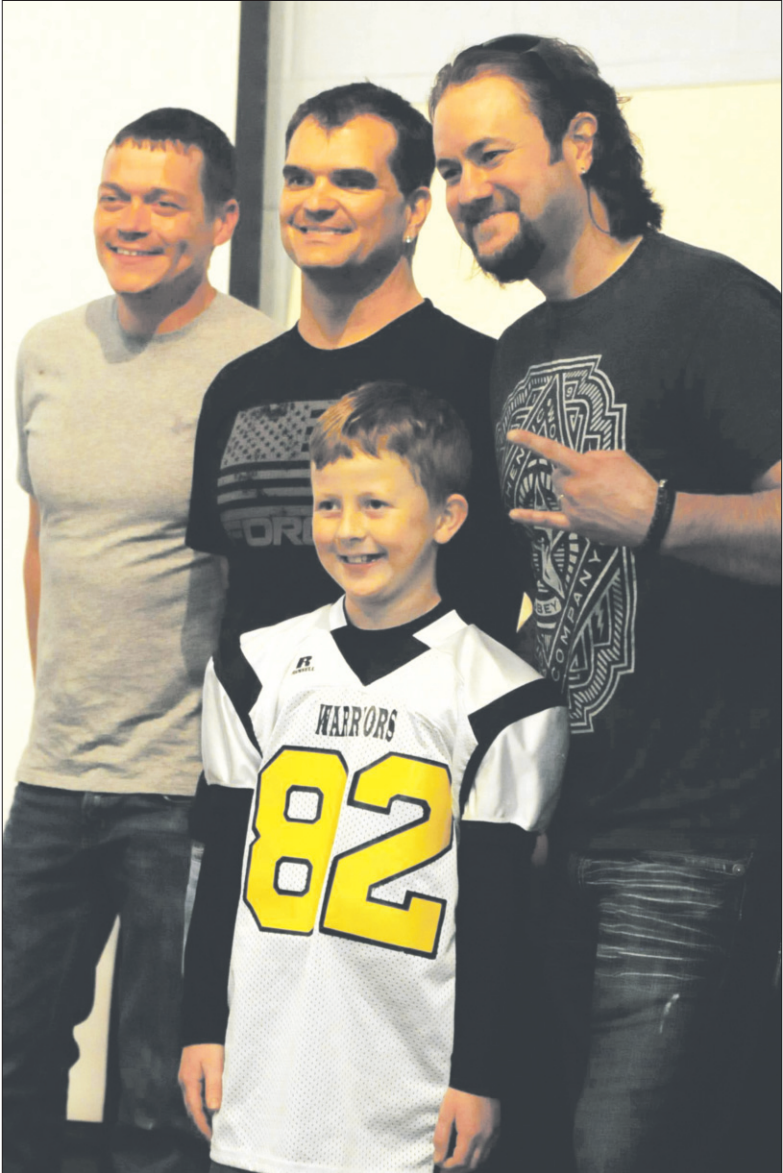




U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nora Stone, CSJFTC Public Affairs
Officer Candidates School Soldiers pose with 3 Doors Down band members April 6 at the 154th Regional Training Institute. The band members visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center to honor Soldiers for their service.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, CSJFTC Public Affairs
Justin Hooper, 9, poses with members of 3 Doors Down at the 154th Regional Training Institute April 6. 3 Doors Down band members visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center to honor Soldiers for their service.

Rock band honors citizen Soldiers

By **STAFF SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS**
CSJFTC Public Affairs

A rock band that wrote a song for citizen Soldiers honored them April 6 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

Four band members of 3 Doors Down honored Soldiers for their service by meeting them face-to-face, taking pictures and signing autographs.

The band, originally formed in Escatawpa, wrote their 2008 hit song “Citizen Soldier” as a tribute to the National Guard.

“We’re happy with all the ways that song has been used and we hope in some way that it motivates

the troops and helps them along in some aspect of their deployment or their training,” said Brad Arnold, lead vocalist.

“It feels great to be out here,” said Todd Harrell, bass guitarist. “We got to come out here and meet you guys and say thank you for what you do for our country. It was really cool for us to come out here.”

The song “Citizen Soldier” is often played at military ceremonies, but can also be used as a recruitment tool.

“Citizen Soldier has really been a real door opener for us,” said Harrell. “It is also used as a tool for enlisting guys. It’s a good thing to

have in a band’s artillery.”

After a tour of Camp Shelby’s facilities, band members met and greeted nearly 60 Soldiers that were gathered at the 154th Regional Training Institute auditorium. While there, they shook hands, gave out autographs and took pictures with Soldiers.

“It actually makes me feel really good to have the support of such well-known individuals who come here and spend some time with us,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mandie Ponder, assigned to 154th Regional Training Institute.

The band visited Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center during a break from touring.

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