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Legendary Rock Band Kansas visits Schofield Barracks

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS—Waiting patiently in line, members of the Warrior Transition Battalion, their family members and family members of deployed Soldiers, best known as blue star card holders, arrived at the Tropics, Schofield Barracks on the Fourth of July for a meet and greet with the legendary rock band Kansas.

As band members took their seats, the excitement level rose and those in line became anxious to get an autograph and thank the band for their support.

Infantryman Spc. Dennis Smith, a member of the WTB, who attended the event with his wife and children, spoke of his appreciation.

“Every person serves our country one way or another,” he said. “By Kansas being here, they are serving our country by supporting the troops and keeping morale up. This is them doing their part and we are grateful.”

Taking the time to speak with each person as he autographed band photos, Phil Ehart, drummer and original member of the band, spoke of their excitement at the opportunity to meet those who serve our country.

“We’ve done a lot of work with the troops over the years, a lot of work with the USO,” said Ehart. “Anytime we get an opportunity to do something for the troops, we’ll step up and do it. We appreciate what they do for us, so we are here to show them that.”

Echoing Ehart’s words yet going a step further, was fellow band-mate David Ragsdale.

“We are here to entertain those without whom we could not entertain. If we didn’t have the freedom to do what we do, we couldn’t do it,” he said. “This is the American thing to do because we have the freedom to do it,” Ragsdale said.

Recently arrived at the Warrior Transition Battalion, Pfc. Anthony Vandegrift felt fortunate to be able to attend the visit with Kansas.

“I obviously didn’t expect to be in Hawaii for the Fourth of July, so even under the circumstances, being home is great. But having Kansas here showing their support, makes it even better,” Vandegrift said.

In summing up the day’s events, to include the Kansas concert scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Sills Field, Ron Locklar, chief of the Community Recreation Division Morale had these words.

“Bringing Kansas here to perform in concert for the Soldiers – for the wounded warriors, for the blue star card holders that will be up front and for everyone – them coming, showing that they care, giving something back, really celebrating the Fourth of July,” Locklar said. “People here understand what the Fourth of July means, more than most, and it’s just a great opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate a great thing with great people.”



Kansas band members autographed photos during a meet and greet with members of the Warrior Transition Battalion, their family members and blue star card holders during Fourth of July activities. Photo by Jan Clark, Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs.