



ARMY FIREREYS FIGHT THEIR WAY TO THE TOP

The Army's emergency responders smashed records in a very competitive display of action and grit at the UFBA National Combat Challenge in Wellington at the end of last month.

Team manager Sergeant Daniel Klaassen said national and world records were broken, with the Army team displaying "courage, comradeship, commitment and integrity and pushing themselves to mental and physical limits to produce some amazing feats".

"They interacted well with the other competitors and officials. I was approached throughout the weekend by a number of people including CEO FENZ who were impressed with the way our people conducted themselves and performed."

The team began the competition with tandems and team relays. The female team dominated in their category and the male relay team seeded well, getting into the "elite eight".

Sapper Aidan Grant and Sapper Petra Dye-Hutchinson blazed through the course in their Co-ed Tandem picking up 2nd place with a time of 1.50.72.

On Saturday the personal best times were demolished by nearly everyone in the individual category.

SPR Dye-Hutchinson was aiming for a sub-three

minute time to enter the elite "Lion's Den" (Only 12 people have ever achieved this on New Zealand soil). Her previous time run at the North Island regional event was 3.00.60, only 0.6 seconds off. She smashed this time, running a 2.51.67 placing her for a short period of time as the second fastest female in New Zealand history before ending up in 4th place, less than 30 mins later. She became the 33rd person from New Zealand to enter the Lion's Den.

SGT Klaassen presented SPR Dye-Hutchinson the Lion's Den coin at the on track ceremony following her run. She will be officially inducted during a ceremony at the Scott Fire Fighter Combat Challenge World Championships in Sacramento.

SPR Aidan Grant ran a 1.47 on only his second time competing, and Corporal Tom Grant recorded a 1.41 (1 second short of Lion's Den for the open male category) both runs being in the New Zealand's top 10 fastest times.

SPR Dye-Hutchinson, SPR Grant and CPL Grant will join the New Zealand contingent at the World championships in October.

At lunch time during the competition weekend a relay was organised between the NZ Army female relay team and NZ Police. The women managed to break through and get a sub- 2 minute time. 1.59.17 (a New Zealand record and event goal for them – 16 seconds faster than the next best female team)

The NZ Army team placed first in the 'Team Aggregate' category with a combined run time of 5.39.69 (largely helped by the two Grants).



Emergency responders show their stuff in the combat challenge.

