

KIWI FIRE FIGHTERS COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

Four emergency responders from 2nd Engineer Regiment, Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers represented the New Zealand Army in the New Zealand team at the World Fire Fighter Combat Challenge Championships in Sacramento, California. Team leader Sergeant Dan Klaassen described it as an amazing experience.

“For us to compete alongside the 16 other Kiwis showing the world’s best what New Zealand is made of was amazing.

“New Zealand Army proved to be an asset for the Kiwi contingent as we faced off against 300 other

competitors from more than 16 different countries.”

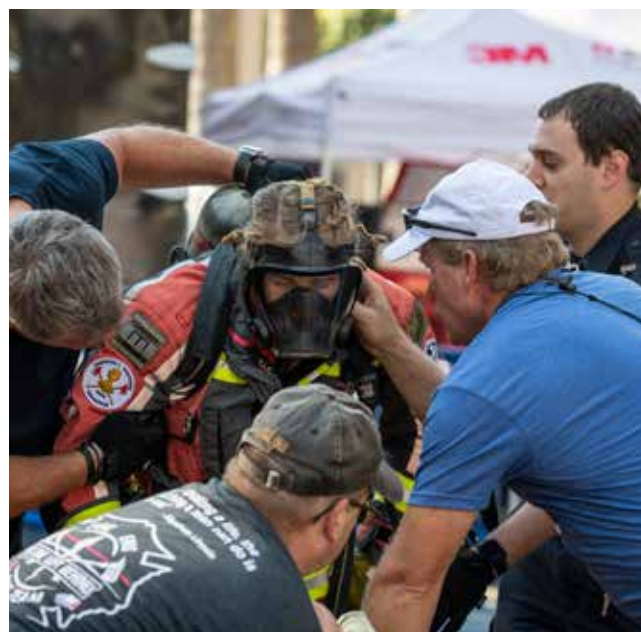
He said the biggest take away for himself was being able to bench mark on what “the best” actually looks like.

“This perspective will be invaluable for future competitors taking on the regional, national and international competitions.”

Sapper Aidan Grant ran a time equivalent to that of the top ranked NZ competitors putting him in a good position leading into next year’s regional and national events. Sapper Petra Dye-Hutchinson and Corporal Thomas Grant were on the verge of smashing Lion’s Den runs, but due to an unfamiliar course they were unable to find the fault free run they had trained so hard to achieve.

“However they have also positioned themselves in a great place leading into next season.”

SGT Klaassen said the international bonds that were made over the competition have increased exposure to the New Zealand competition platform and should see international competitors visiting New Zealand to compete over the coming years.



Confirmed results for the week long competition:

Category: Open Male

Aidan Grant
Placing: 54th Overall Time: 1:38.59

Thomas Grant
Placing: 76th Overall Time: 1:41.55

Dan Klaassen
Placing: 144th Overall Time: 2:00.08

Category: Open Female

Petra Dye-Hutchinson
Placing: 15th overall Time: 3:02.85

Category: Tandem Female

The Blondies (Amelia Wood & Petra Dye-Hutchinson)
Placing: 7th overall Time: 2:15.76

Category: Tandem Male

Mrs Grants Boys (Aidan Grant & Tom Grant)
Placing: 15th overall Time: 1:24.90

Category: Co-Ed Tandem

Who Wears the Pants (Petra and Aidan)
Placing: 17th Time: 1:51.82

Category: Team Relay Open

NZ Army Relay Team (Daniel, Petra, Thomas, Aidan)
Placing: Not placed Time: 1:24.69

Category: Team Relay Female

New Zealand Female Relay Team (Kiwi Chicks) Including Petra Dye-Hutchinson
Placing: 3rd Overall Time: 1:50.56
(Fastest ever by an NZ Female relay team)