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Immediate Release

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ACTSES do battle in the bush

ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) volunteers will tomorrow race against the clock in a navigational training exercise in bushland at Blue Range Hut.

“Navigation Canberra, (NAVCAN) is an opportunity for our ACTSES volunteers to test their navigational skills near the settlement of Uriarra Village,” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“A new location is chosen every year for the exercise,” he said.

“Teams are provided with a map and a list of checkpoints to mark across a wide area in a given time frame.

“NAVCAN is an opportunity for volunteers to use their skills in the field of navigation and search which are sometimes called upon.

“On occasions ACTSES are called to assist ACT Policing during various search and rescue operations. As land searches are usually done on foot, exercises like NAVCAN are vital to improving the skill and fitness level needed for future searches.”

Participants from other emergency services will also compete in the exercise including staff from the ACT Emergency Services Agency, the ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT Parks and Conservation Service.

“A total of 63 competitors will form into 15 teams for tomorrow’s exercise which will see some cover an area of up to 20 kilometres,” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“Members have trained hard for the event to ensure they meet the fitness level required.

“All will be briefed on potential hazards, weather conditions, time constraints as well as terrain and environmental information.

“The past two summers have seen ACTSES volunteers kept busy with storm and flood operations and tomorrow’s annual exercise will be an opportunity to show what other skills are required in being an ACTSES volunteer.”

The exercise will commence from 10am to 5pm tomorrow.