



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

# Highlight

## U.S. Department of Homeland Security



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

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Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

## Acoustic Surveillance Devices

Acoustic Surveillance Devices (ASDs) are used by federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in order to gain real-time data necessary for effective agency response to criminal activities or emergency incidents. ASDs are used to assess threats, identify suspects, monitor suspicious activity, evaluate incidents, and make appropriate decisions.

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, a SAVER Technical Agent, facilitated two focus groups to determine operational criteria important to responders when making operational and acquisition decisions relating to ASD equipment. The SAVER Program used these criteria for a comparative assessment of several ASDs. Results of these focus groups are contained in the *Acoustic Surveillance Devices Focus Group Report*.

On behalf of the SAVER Program, SPAWARSYSCEN also released the *Acoustic Surveillance Devices Product and Vendor List*, that identifies available commercial off-the-shelf and government off-the-shelf ASDs. If your agency is considering purchasing an ASD, the product and vendor list may provide your agency assistance with your purchasing process.

All reports will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>), as they become available, including the upcoming *Acoustic Surveillance Device Market Survey Report*, and the *Acoustic Surveillance Device Comparative Assessment Report*. Reports on other technologies being assessed in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.