Ballistic Shields

Ballistic shields provide law enforcement personnel, especially members of tactical entry teams, with additional ballistic protection. While most officers currently wear ballistic vests and helmets, these usually only cover the head, chest, and other vital organs, leaving the arms and legs exposed. Ballistic shields—which vary by type, size, shape, coverage area, function, and protection level—are invaluable in situations where officers have little to no cover or where officers are required to approach potentially armed individuals.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a comparative assessment of the operational use of ballistic shields for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the Market Survey Report on Ballistic Shields. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the Focus Group Recommendations on Ballistic Shields report.

All reports in this series, including the Assessment Report on Ballistic Shields, will be located in the SAVER section of the RKB Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.