



**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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## Stabilized Binoculars

Binoculars are often used in law enforcement for long distance surveillance, search and rescue operations, evidence gathering, and to observe and assess situations. Holding the binoculars steady during these tasks can be difficult, even when using two hands. Wind, muscle fatigue, and excitement can contribute to shakiness leading to problems such as eye fatigue, distraction, and inability to clearly focus the device. Many binoculars are equipped with internal image stabilization optics to minimize the effects of shaking which broadens their usefulness to law enforcement.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, conducted a comparative assessment of stabilized binoculars for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SPAWARSYSCEN conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Enhanced Binoculars and Scopes Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Focus group recommendations can be found in the *Stabilized Binoculars Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Stabilized Binoculars*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**Stabilized Binoculars**