



**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:

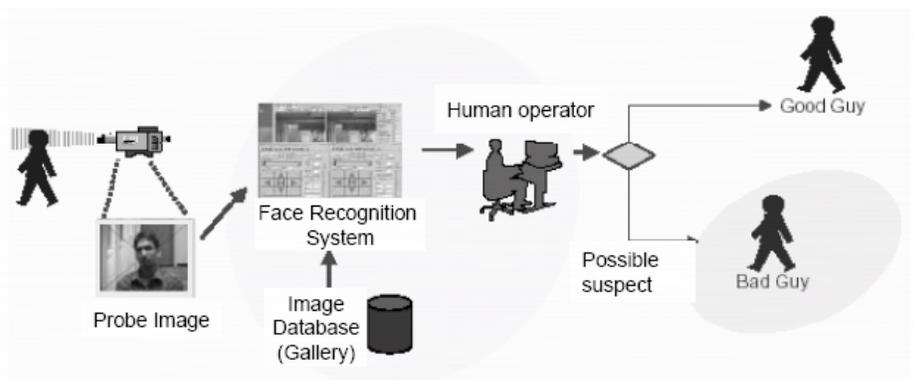
<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Facial Recognition Technology

Facial recognition technology (FRT) is a contemporary security solution which automatically identifies and verifies the identity of an individual from a digital image or video frame. FRT can be compared to other biometric technologies, such as fingerprint or eye iris recognition systems, and can be used for a number of different tasks. Traditional FRT includes algorithms that normalize a gallery of face images and then compress the face data, saving only the image data that is useful for face detection. A newly emerging trend of FRT is three-dimensional face recognition and skin texture analysis.

In an effort to provide information on FRT to the law enforcement community, the Center for Catastrophe Preparedness & Response (CCPR) developed a report entitled *Facial Recognition Technology: A Survey of Policy and Implementation Issues*. The report addresses various aspects of FRT including performance, installation, operation, maintenance, and known limitations. The report also contains policy concerns and highlights the moral and political considerations of adopting, implementing, and operating FRT.

The CCPR FRT report will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) once it becomes available. Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



Overview of a Facial Recognition System