# Homeland Security
## Science and Technology

# Highlight

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

**SAVER**
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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## Mobile Fingerprint Biometric Devices

Biometrics is the science related to measurable physical and/or behavioral characteristics that can be used to determine or verify the identity of an individual. Biometric technology offers a very secure method of identification of individuals since it relies on an element of whom a person is as opposed to what a person may possess or what a person knows. Physical biometrics include iris, fingerprint, hand, face, voice, and retina. Behavioral biometrics include signature, keystroke, voice, and gait (walking stride).

Fingerprint biometric technology can assist emergency responders by verifying the identities of individuals in criminal, judicial, and public identification applications. Criminal applications include investigations, traffic stops, and identification of registered offenders, juveniles, or deceased persons. Public identification includes identifying people in emergencies, dignitary protection, and mass casualty identification. Justice applications include verifying prisoner identities and tracking prisoner movement in correctional facilities.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, conducted a comparative assessment of mobile fingerprint biometric devices 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 *Mobile Fingerprint Biometric Devices Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. The results can be found in the *Mobile Fingerprint Biometric Devices Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Assessment Report on Mobile Fingerprint Biometric Devices*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available.



**Mobile Fingerprint Biometric Device Process**