



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

Integrated Night Vision Systems

Night vision systems use various technologies to allow users to see in low or no light scenarios. Each of these technologies has inherent advantages and disadvantages. Integrated night vision systems combine image output from two or more different types of night vision sensors—most commonly image intensifier and thermal imaging sensors—into one composite image in order to take advantage of the strengths of each sensor.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic has conducted a comparative assessment of integrated night vision systems for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Integrated Night Vision Systems Market Survey Report*. 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 *Integrated Night Vision Systems Focus Group Recommendations* report. The *Integrated Night Vision Systems TechNote* provides a technology overview and discusses fusion methods, performance considerations, and emerging trends.

All reports in this series, including the *Integrated Night Vision Systems Assessment Report*, 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.



Digital Image Fusion: Image Intensification (left), Fused Image (center), Thermal Image (right)