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?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752
E-mail: saver@dhs.gov
Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:
https://www.rkb.us/saver

## Night Vision Devices

Night vision devices use image intensification ($I^2$) technology—amplification of available light to produce a visible image—to provide imaging in poorly lit situations, permitting recognition of objects and people that would normally be unrecognizable to the unaided human eye. Night vision devices are typically used in nighttime surveillance, search and rescue, navigation, and covert operations.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic has conducted a comparative assessment of night vision devices equipped with green and white phosphorous $I^2$ tubes 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 *Night Vision 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. Results can be found in the *Night Vision Devices Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Night Vision Devices 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.

**Images from White and Green Phosphor Night Vision Devices**