Personnel Location Systems

A personnel location system (PLS) is defined as a networked system of sensors or other devices that, at a minimum, determine and relay an individual responder’s location information to a central command node such as a dispatcher or incident commander. An initial study of PLS was conducted and documented for the SAVER Program by the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston. This study’s publications included a PLS Requirements Analysis Report and a PLS Product and Vendor Matrix, which are available on the SAVER Web site.

As follow-on to the initial study, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Grants and Training tasked SPAWARSYSCEN with conducting a comparative assessment of current PLS products.

As part of the comparative assessment, a focus group was held to identify the responder community’s criteria for selecting PLS, to establish the potential mission impact of common product feature and technology issues, to discuss potential scenarios for usage depending on response level, and to identify likely infrastructure degradation as a result of the incident level. Key findings of the focus group are documented in the PLS Focus Group Report.

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