



**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>

## Handheld Language Translators

Many Emergency Medical Services and law enforcement agencies rely on interpreters or responders that are multilingual to communicate with non-English speaking individuals. However, a victim may experience delays in receiving time-critical aid while waiting for an interpreter to reach the scene. Hand-held language translation devices offer responders an accelerated method to convey information, translate commands, and gather on-site data.

As a SAVER Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Charleston, has conducted a comparative assessment of speech-to-speech hand-held language translators to provide emergency responders with information on currently available technologies. In preparation for the assessment, SPAWARSYSCEN conducted a focus group to obtain assessment criteria recommendations. Results can be found in the *Hand-held Language Translators Focus Group Report*. The *Hand-held Language Translators Market Survey Report* identifies five commercial-off-the-shelf products for evaluation in the assessment. All reports in the series, including the *Hand-held Language Translators Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER Program website at <https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>, as they become available. Reports on other technology being assessed in the SAVER Program are also available on the Web site.



**Handheld Language Translator**