

ASSESSMENTS IN PROGRESS

The following projects, among others, are underway by SAVER partners and associates. For a complete list of ongoing projects, log on to <https://saver.fema.gov>.

Automated Video Surveillance

Automated Video Surveillance (AVS) technologies assist security forces by continually monitoring video feeds to detect security incidents or potentially threatening events. Simple systems detect motion in a camera's field of view. More advanced systems offer features such as object identification, tracking and analysis, perimeter intrusion detection, and abandoned/removed object recognition.



There is considerable interest in robust AVS technologies. The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, a SAVER Program partner, is assessing AVS technologies and applications with the goal of publishing a report that will guide the reader through this complex and sometimes confusing technology. The program will identify up-to-date product characteristics, assess and validate AVS technologies, and document equipment standards and guidelines. In addition, field assessments of AVS technologies will be conducted and documented.

Handheld Search Camera Systems

Search cameras are necessary tools for almost all emergency responders including rescue organizations, law enforcement special operations units, and other homeland security associated departments. Currently there are no qualitative and quantitative comparative tests results available to aid emergency responders in the equipment selection process. Technical and operational specifications are available from commercial vendors, but the field user has no comparative data on performance under actual operating conditions. The Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) recognizes that a comprehensive, comparative study is needed to identify the flexibility, robustness, effectiveness, and user-preference for these search devices. Texas A&M Engineering, a SAVER Program partner, has been tasked by SGLCP with executing this project. The objective of this project is to evaluate and assess the performance of handheld search camera systems using subject matter experts (SMEs) in actual field test scenarios.



As part of the assessment process, Texas A&M Engineering will organize a focus group of SMEs from the emergency-responder community to 1.) identify the search cameras to be assessed

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based upon selection criteria that are of relevance to the response community; 2.) identify the performance factors that are important to the emergency-response community; 3.) identify the specific scenarios that would be of greatest importance to the response community. A market survey of commercially available search camera systems will also be developed and made available to the emergency-responder.

Class 3 Personal Protective Equipment Ensembles

The Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) has tasked the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) and its Responder Assessment and Validation of User Equipment (RAVUE) program with conducting a comparative assessment of impermeable Class 3 personal protective equipment (PPE) ensembles. The project will seek to validate their employment and effectiveness when used by emergency responders in a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) environment.

Class 3 ensembles are intended for use long after the release of a harmful substance or agent has occurred and at a relatively large distance from or in the

peripheral zone of the release scene. They are used for such functions as decontamination, patient care, crowd control, perimeter control, traffic control, and clean-up.

The Class 3 ensemble consists of a full body suit, gloves, and footwear. It can be designed for use with self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) or air purifying respirators (APR) with the APR being the typical Class 3 setup. The ensemble is designed to minimize the inward leakage of liquids, though the suit and components do not protect from gases, vapors, or aerosols. The suits should only be used when there is little potential for vapor or gas exposure, when exposure to liquids is expected to be incidental, and when dealing with patients or self-evacuating victims.

The objective of the Class 3 PPE comparative assessment is to identify comparable PPE capabilities, identify durability and wearability issues, assess ensemble capabilities and limitations in a WMD environment, and produce a report that assesses ensemble usability in realistic scenarios. The assessment will provide emergency responder and procurement decision makers with information about impermeable Class 3 ensembles that may be procured using federal grants.

Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles

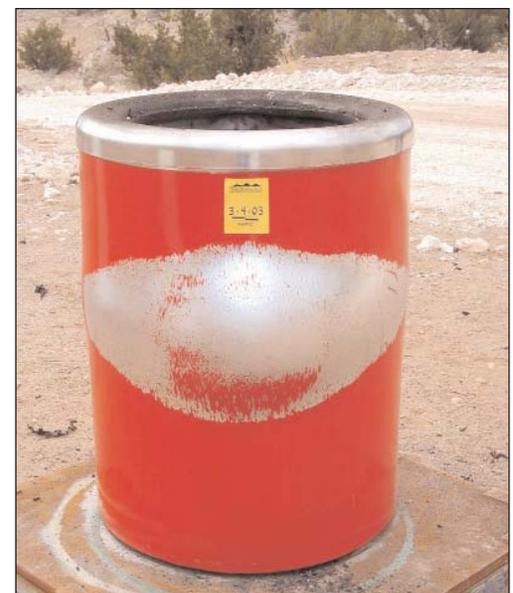
The Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NAVEODTECHDIV), Indian Head, Maryland, has been funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness, Systems Support Division, to evaluate blast resistant trash receptacles. The program's objectives are to:

1. Gather comprehensive market information on the various manufacturers, configurations, and testing completed to date of blast resistant trash receptacles;

2. Determine the ability of each receptacle to withstand a single, internal detonation of a non-fragmenting explosive charge located at various points within the container;
3. Determine the ability of each receptacle to withstand a single, internal detonation and fragmentation of an improvised explosive device (IED);
4. Determine blast pressures at various distances from the containers; and
5. Determine if the receptacles create secondary hazards (e.g., by fragmenting or tipping over).

The NAVEODTECHDIV is responsible for the overall program management as well as conducting the IED testing. Current plans are for the NAVEODTECHDIV to evaluate a total of 13 different models of commercially available blast resistant trash receptacles from three different companies – American Innovations, Inc.; Mistral Security, Inc.; and Master Lite Security, Inc. The containers range in size from 30 to 40 gallons and are rated to withstand blasts from approximately two to twelve pounds of TNT.

Results are expected in late Fall 2005.



NEW PROJECTS ON THE SAVER WEB

Guide for the Selection of Chemical Agent and Toxic Industrial Material Detection Equipment for Emergency First Responders

The Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLEs) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG), the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center (ECBC), and the Interagency Board for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability (IAB), has developed chemical and biological defense equipment guides that focus on chemical and biological equipment in areas of detection, personal protection, decontamination, and communication. This document focuses specifically on chemical agent (CA) and toxic industrial material (TIM) detection equipment and was developed to assist the emergency responder community in the evaluation and purchase of detection equipment. The information contained in the guide was obtained through literature searches and market surveys. Vendors were contacted multiple times during the preparation of the guide to ensure data

accuracy, and that the information is supplemented with test data from other sources (e.g., Department of Defense) if available. The guide is an update of the *Guide for the Selection of Chemical Agent and Toxic Industrial Material Detection Equipment for Emergency First Responders*, NIJ Guide 100-00, published in June 2000.

The primary purpose of the guide is to provide emergency responders with information to aid them in the selection and utilization of chemical agent (CA) and toxic industrial material (TIM) detection equipment. The guide is intended to be more practical than technical and provides information on a variety of factors that should be considered when purchasing and using detection equipment, including sensitivity, detection states, and portability to name a few. Due to the large number of chemical detection equipment items identified in the guide, it is separated into two volumes. Volume I

represents the actual guide and Volume II serves as a supplement to Volume I since it contains only the detection equipment data sheets.

The long range plans continue to include two goals: (1) subject existing chemical detection equipment to laboratory testing and evaluation against a specified protocol, and (2) conduct research leading to the development of a series of documents, including national standards, user guides, and technical reports. It is anticipated that the testing, evaluation, and research processes will take several years to complete; during which time, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will continue to maintain this guide for the emergency responder community in order to facilitate their evaluation and purchase of chemical detection equipment.

For more information on this document visit the SAVER Web site or contact the SAVER Program Support Office.

PARTNER PROFILE



The Texas A&M University System is one of the most complex and promising systems of higher education in the nation. With headquarters in College Station

and a presence in every county in the state, the A&M System consists of nine universities, eight state agencies and a health science center that serve over 97,000 students and reach more than four million people each year through its service mission. Research projects under way today by system universities and research agencies total roughly \$400 million.

The A&M System headquarters is located about 90 miles northwest of Houston. The

system employs more than 23,000 faculty and staff members located throughout the state and serves all 254 Texas counties. The annual budget for the A&M System is approximately \$2.0 billion.

SAVER has partnered with Texas A&M Engineering, which comprises the Dwight Look College of Engineering and three state engineering agencies: Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), and Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

World renowned for its hands-on, customized training, the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) offers a wide range of technical skills training programs aimed at employed workers and those entering the labor force. In 2004, TEEX trained more than 176,000 individuals from all 50 states, six U.S.

territories, and 46 countries through more than 8,800 classes, which were conducted across the nation and the world.

TEEX has been at the forefront of preparing emergency responders to combat terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction prior to the events of 9/11. TEEX also led the initiative to form Texas Task Force 1, both a state and national urban search and rescue team, and established the first swift water rescue strike team. Texas Task Force 1 has been selected by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as one of six teams in the United States to respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. Divisions of TEEX include the following:

- Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI)

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- Center for Marine Training and Safety
- Engineering, Utilities and Public Works Training Institute (EUPWTI)
- National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC)
- Professional & Regulatory Training (PRT)
- Public Safety & Security (PS&S)
- State Domestic Preparedness (SDP)
- Technology and Economic Development (TED)
- Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), home to Texas Task Force 1 and the state water strike team.

Training Facilities include the following:

- Brayton Fire Training Field, College Station
- Center for Marine Training and Safety, Galveston
- Disaster City™, College Station
- Emergency Operations Training Center, College Station

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

As part of our outreach efforts, SAVER will be participating in the following conferences:

- Fire/Rescue International 2005, August 12-13 in Denver, CO
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), September 24-28 in Miami, FL
- Department of Justice/ Department of Homeland Security (DOJ/DHS), October 31-November 2 in San Diego, CA

Be sure to locate our booth for the latest information on assessment projects and awesome SAVER products!

COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT DIRECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Emergency responder agencies will now be able to acquire specialized commercial equipment through a direct assistance program initiated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP). A Congressional mandate, the new DHS program will transfer technologies directly to smaller jurisdictions and eligible metropolitan areas. CEDAP will complement SLGCP grant programs such as the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) and the Urban Security Initiative (UASI) program.

CEDAP Equipment

The CEDAP program offers equipment and equipment training in the following four categories: personal protective equipment (PPE), detection and sensor devices, law enforcement information sharing software, and communications interoperability. The equipment available through this program is proven, reliable equipment from a variety of sources including the DHS Prepositioned Equipment Program (PEP) caches and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP's) Technology Transfer Program. Equipment will be added to the catalog periodically.

Training

Training and technical assistance are provided at the time technologies are delivered and transferred under the program. Representatives from the successful applicant agencies and departments must attend a training conference. At this mandatory training, SLGCP will confirm that the systems and devices will be utilized fully and correctly.

The next round of CEDAP applications will be accepted in the fall and more information on the application process will be available at that time.

PROJECT UPDATE

Small Robot Operational Evaluation Project

The Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) is assessing a number of different small robots in select Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) identified regions. The first robot evaluated was the Vanguard MKII-T, made by Allen-Vanguard. The latest robot evaluated was the Mesa Matilda Block II. Bomb squad members from the Minneapolis Police Department received training on the robot and then were asked to evaluate and rate the capabilities and characteristics of the remote-controlled vehicle in performing basic mission tasks. Results from this latest equipment evaluation are posted on the SAVER website. As more robots are assessed, the reports and interactive selection mechanism will be updated.

