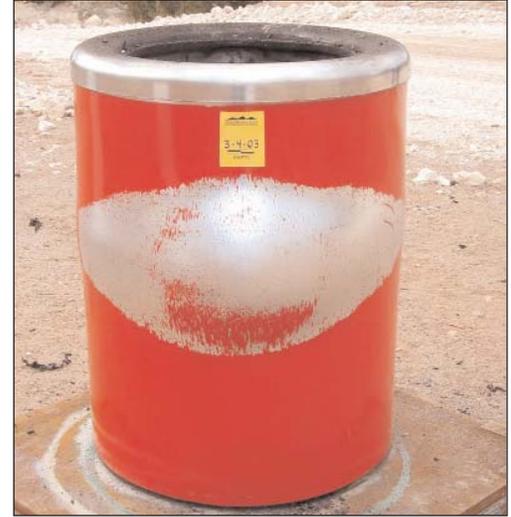


NEW PROJECT ON THE SAVER WEB SITE

Blast Resistant Trash Receptacles

Due to an increased risk of terrorists placing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in public trash receptacles, bystanders become susceptible to harm and injury in public areas. Explosives can cause damage three ways: fireball from the detonation, high-speed fragments—either primary (from the explosive device itself) or secondary (from the container or environment where the device is placed)—and overpressure from the shock wave traveling from the blast. To combat these risks, manufacturers designed trash receptacles to mitigate explosive blast effects resulting from the detonation of explosives inside the receptacles. The manufacturers claim their receptacles limit the damaging effects of the detonation by directing the blast upward and minimizing fragmentation. The less a blast resistant trash receptacle contains or reduces primary and secondary fragments and overpressure, the less effective it is. Additionally, if the container itself produces secondary fragments, it can actually add to the destructive nature of an explosive device.



Blast resistant trash receptacles testing took place during the months of June, July and September 2005 at the Army Research Laboratory testing facility in Blossom Point, Maryland. The purpose of testing was to test the manufacturers' claims for accuracy. The Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NAVEODTECHDIV) tested 15 different models from four vendors: Master Lite Security, American Innovations, Mistral Security Group, and BlastGard International. A total of 75 BRTR tests were conducted. The full technical validation report can be found on the SAVER Web site.

SAVER'S REDESIGNED WEB SITE

In the Beginning

In the fall of 2003, SAVER launched its first Web site with the purpose of delivering the results of its comparative assessment reports to the emergency responder community as quickly and simply as possible. The method of delivery was, and still is, the QuickLook Report, which consists of an easy to read comparative chart and links to all the documents that supported the assessment. When we designed the Web site, we started with the QuickLook Report, then created the general public areas, and finally created a rough bridge to get the user from the public side of the Web site to the "limited access" QuickLook Report. This bridge was our "Project List" page and was simply a listing of our comparative assessments and other documents.

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SAVER'S REDESIGNED WEB SITE

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Adapting and Changing

Throughout the next year, SAVER's Web site grew more in the number of documents it hosted than it did in the number of assessments and it was this disproportionate relationship that required some significant design changes. The "Project List" page kept getting longer, causing the user to scroll through a very long page to find a particular assessment or document he wanted or needed. This issue was noticed rather quickly after the release of the first Web site and it was to be one of our bigger focus points in the new site.

SAVER, through its many partners and associates, generates and publishes many documents. Originally, the decision was made that the documents we released would be in the Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf). While this proved to be ideal for delivering well formatted and attractive documents, it did not do well in regard to providing quick and easy access to users with a slower dial-in internet connection. Depending upon the size of the report, the amount of graphics and tables, and the formatting used by the partner or associate, the file size could vary significantly. Much like the issue of "how do we get to the QuickLook Report and the Assessment Documents," the issue of getting the information to emergency responders faster and more efficiently played a big part in SAVER's new Web site design.

Users gain access to SAVER by first registering with the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) and then using the log in credentials they obtain from RKB to log into SAVER's Web site. This was an important part of our first Web site and something we wished to improve upon and enhance as we developed the new Web site. The questions we hoped to answer with the new site, in regard to user access, were "how can we provide the users with even easier access to SAVER" and "how can we reduce the redundancy of having to login on both RKB and SAVER when flipping from site to site." With the help of RKB's information technology team, these questions as well as a few we didn't know

to ask, were answered and resolved quickly and simply.

The New Site

In response to our "bridging" problem with connecting the public side of our site to the QuickLook Reports and restricted documents, the decision was made to categorize all projects and assessments. First, we separated the comparative assessment reports from the non-comparative assessment projects. These two sections were named QuickLook and Document Library. In both sections, we broke down the projects into categories based upon the Standardized Equipment List (SEL). Under the QuickLook link, users will find links to the categories, under which projects reside. For each project, the user will find a link to the actual QuickLook Report and links to all the assessment's supporting documents. The Document Library is set up the same way but it includes every document we publish, comparative and non-comparative projects.

SAVER's response to the issue of only publishing Adobe Acrobat documents was to start publishing a web version of each document the SAVER Program Support Office (SPSO) produces. This includes but is not limited to the following: Highlights, Summaries, TechNotes, Newsletters, and other documents as they arise. The only documents we do not offer a web version of are the actual reports generated by the partner or associate, unless the partner provides a Web version of their report along with the .pdf version. Responders who browse our site now have the ability to quickly and simply read SPSO documents and then, if they choose, download them.

The third, and far from the last, enhancement of SAVER's Web site is our connectivity with RKB. In the beginning

SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Contact Us:
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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

September 8, 2005

Log In
Logged In As: Public User
Please Login:
RKB Login:
RKB Password:
Submit
Click Here to Register with RKB

News
Come Fighting Gales High-Tech
A Safer State
High-Tech System Lowers Response Times

External Links
Homeland Security
Responder Knowledge Base

SAVER Home - Welcome

Welcome to SAVER
The Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLOCP) has established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program, a national resource that will assist emergency responders in performing their duties. The SAVER Program provides high quality, impactful, operationally relevant evaluations/assessments of critical emergency responder equipment and systems, and provides these results in an operationally useful format.

SAVER and RKB
The Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) is a related Department of Homeland Security-sponsored website that supports the SAVER Program. RKB was created to provide emergency responders, purchasers, and planners with a trusted, integrated, on-line source of information on products, standards, certifications, grants, and other equipment-related information.

Emergency responders who are currently registered through RKB have immediate privileges on the SAVER website. New RKB users will have access to SAVER reports within 24 hours. As the sites are being integrated more closely, RKB equipment items will link to the assessment results published by SAVER.

For information on RKB, please visit their website:
Web Site: <http://www.rkb.msp.gov>

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Log In
Logged In As: Public User
Please Login:
RKB Login:
RKB Password:
Submit
Click Here to Register with RKB

Document Library - CBRNE Operational and Search and Rescue Equipment

Equipment needed to sustain operations and provide general support during WMD response operations. Categories include general equipment, equipment for responsive device remediation, optics, scene control, rope safety, and logistical/administrative support equipment.

Assessments

<p>Circular Concrete Saws</p> <p>Assessment Report (PDF) Market Survey Report (PDF) Project Highlight SAVER Summary</p>	<p>Extraction Devices</p> <p>Assessment Report (PDF) Focus Group Report (PDF) Market Survey Report (PDF) Project Highlight SAVER Summary</p>
<p>Hydraulic Rescue Tools</p> <p>Focus Group Report (PDF) Focus Group Report/Highlight Project Highlight</p>	<p>Night Vision Image Intensifier Assessment</p> <p>Project Highlight Technote</p>

New Documents
Small Bomb Disposal Robot
Project Summary - VANDUARD
Mod T - HTML
Circular Concrete Saws
SAVER Summary - HTML
Level A Anti-Fogging Techniques and Procedures
Project Highlight - HTML
Steel Resistant Trash Receptacles
Project Highlight - HTML
Data Mining and Analysis Tools
Project Highlight - HTML

there was a common user database that SAVER and RKB shared. Now we have the same common user database and the ability to jump from RKB's site to SAVER's and SAVER's to RKB's without logging in to each individual site. While neither of us are willing to call our new login capabilities a true "Single Sign On" system, it is definitely a "Seamless Sign On" system in that transitioning from one system to the other requires no user interaction other than clicking a link to the other's Web site.

From Here On Out

Two years have passed since we welcomed our first visitors to <https://saver.fema.gov>, and we would like to think the site has grown not only in content, but in its usability, design, speed, and most of all, its

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ASSESSMENTS IN PROGRESS

The following projects, among others, are underway by SAVER partners. For a complete list of ongoing projects, log on to the SAVER Web site.

Mobile Communications Centers

Mobile communications centers are essential during a critical incident or a planned event. Numerous vendors provide deployable communications centers in



various forms and with diverse capabilities. However, these centers are not a one size fits all solution. Thus, homeland security and public safety professionals must mix and match communication assets based on their needs and budget constraints. Many already have a sizable investment in their deployable communications capability and are simply looking at purchasing mobile communication center capabilities, but do not know how to turn their operational requirements into an equipment purchase.

In order to provide homeland security and public safety professionals with information on mobile communications centers, mobile communications vehicular packages, and current and emerging interoperable voice communication technologies, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, Charleston is

putting together a comprehensive report on mobile communications centers. The report will assist homeland security and public safety professionals in their decision to acquire mobile communication assets based on their organizational requirements. The report will be available late fall of 2005.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Since emergency responders usually work in positions of close proximity to a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or hazardous materials substance release, it is essential the personal protective equipment (PPE) ensembles used are the safest and most beneficial. Emergency responders wear SCBA as part of Levels A and B PPE as mandated by OSHA 1910.120 or classes 1 and 2 as stated by NFPA 1994 during the early phases of an

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SAVER ASSOCIATE PROFILE

Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division <http://www.navy.com/eod>

Located on 1,100 acres just south of the Indian Head peninsula along the Mattawoman Creek, the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NAVEODTECHDIV) has made its home on the Stump Neck Annex for over 56 years.

The NAVTECHDIV traces its origin back to World War II when the U.S. Navy recognized the need for countering advanced and complex weapons systems being deployed by other nations. In 1941, the Naval Mine Disposal School was established in Washington D.C., and the Naval Bomb Disposal School was established shortly thereafter. In 1945 both schools combined to form the Naval Ordnance Disposal Unit and by 1946 had relocated to the Naval Powder Factory in Indian Head, Maryland. Many years and advancements later, the command was renamed the NAVTECHDIV in 1995 and currently reports directly to the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

Today, NAVTECHDIV's mission is more relevant than ever before, representing the largest concentration of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) knowledge in the world. The ongoing war on terrorism and the evolving threats of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) has reemphasized how critical NAVTECHDIV's mission is to homeland defense. The command has focused all efforts on ever increasing efficiency and effectiveness in which state-of-the-art EOD technology and information solutions are provided to Joint Service EOD warfighters in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

Past Accomplishments

The NAVTECHDIV's EOD Technical Support Center (TSC) provides EOD technicians worldwide with the real-time

information essential to countering rapidly evolving sophisticated explosive threats.

Based on the requirements put forth by EOD technicians returning from Afghanistan, the NAVTECHDIV developed the EOD Expeditionary Pack. This system allows EOD technicians to safely carry a supply of C-4 and blasting caps along with a variety of EOD tools when on expeditionary missions with limited logistical support.

Personnel from the NAVTECHDIV deployed to support operation Iraqi Freedom. The team's mission was to support the Combined Joint Captured Material Exploitation Center that was formed to provide battlefield technical intelligence recovery for Central Command.

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SAVER'S REDESIGNED WEB SITE

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utility. SAVER wanted to develop a "dynamic" Web site, capable of adapting to the needs of our emergency responders and our partners. It was our intention to put this site into the hands of the emergency response community and ask them how we can make it better. With the release of our second Web site, SAVER has organized its data in a more efficient and standardized way, streamlined its coding to make the Web site faster and more efficient, made the connection between RKB even more solid with our "Seamless Sign On," and left the door open for further enhancements. Some of the new features we will be adding to the site include a search engine, user feedback forms, polling mechanisms, and more ways for the emergency responder to interact with SAVER so that we can continue to provide top quality

assessments and information to the users. Speaking of feedback, we would like to invite you to visit our Web site and give us your comments. Please go to

<https://saver.fema.gov> and click on the "Let Us Know" link on the right side of the page.

QuickLook Report

A QuickLook gives a condensed score, represented by full and half stars, to each of five SAVER assessment categories. The scores are then weighted according to the criteria developed during the project's initial focus group. A composite score is obtained by averaging the equipment's category scores. Emergency responders are given the ability to adjust the weight of each category by a series of adjustable sliders that correspond to the five SAVER categories. Once the responder has selected his desired weights for each category, he is able to re-sort the list of products based upon his own preferences and produce a new composite score.



SAVER ASSOCIATE PROFILE

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The Counter Bomb/Counter Bomber Advance Concept Technology Demonstration provides improved force protection against terrorist improvised explosive devices, including suicide bombs, leave behind bombs, and vehicle bombs.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the NAVEODTECHDIV has provided personnel to the Combined Explosive Exploitation Cell (CEXC), which is a joint agency team tasked with collecting and exploiting IEDs from Iraq.

An example of database-driven information is the Iraq Ordnance Identification Guide (Iraq OIG). The Iraq OIG supports the DOD humanitarian mine action program. This OIG includes images and ordnance information for over 1200 ordnance items used or found in Iraq, and provides information to facilitate international unexploded ordnance (UXO) awareness and identification.

Source:
http://www.dcmilitary.com/baseguides/navy/indianhead/ih_disposaltech.html

ASSESSMENTS IN PROGRESS

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incident. It is in these critical moments that the atmosphere, oxygen level, toxicity or IDLH level, and radiation level are unknown, increasing the need to wear proper SCBA.

The objective of a comparative assessment of SCBA for emergency responders is to improve the responder's ability to protect himself from super lethal chemical and biological materials designed to kill or injure persons coming into contact with these agents, especially when used by terrorists. The Center for Domestic Preparedness will perform a scenario driven field assessment of NIOSH CBRN approved SCBAs to evaluate preoperational requirements, employment, durability, usability, and fitting issues when used by responders wearing Class 1 PPE. Assessment results will be available to the emergency response community on the SAVER Web site in late fall of 2005.

2006 CONFERENCES

- Fire-Rescue Med – International Association of Fire Chiefs, April 24–26 in Las Vegas, Nevada
- National Sheriffs' Association, June 17–21 in Orlando, Florida
- Fire-Rescue International, September 14–16 in Dallas, Texas
- International Association of Chiefs of Police, October 15–17 (exhibit dates) in Boston, Massachusetts