



**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 assessments and validations on commercially available equipment and systems, and develops knowledge products that provide relevant equipment information to the emergency responder community.

SAVER Program knowledge products provide information on equipment that falls under the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL), focusing primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?" These knowledge products are 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 the assessment and validation activities and develop knowledge products. This highlight provides an overview of one such project.

For more information on this and other technologies, contact the SAVER Program Support Office.

E-mail: [NUSTL@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:NUSTL@hq.dhs.gov)

Website: [www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER](http://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER)

## Hearing Protection with Integrated Radio Communications

(AEL reference number 01ZA-04-HEAR)

Hearing protection with integrated radio communications refers to tactical headsets that are designed to fit under, or attach to, a ballistic helmet. These devices combine electronic hearing protection, radio communication, and the ability to maintain peripheral hearing in a tactical environment.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, Oak Ridge National Laboratory conducted a comparative assessment of hearing protection with integrated radio communications to assist responders with procurement decisions. Prior to the assessment, a focus group was conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. A market survey was also conducted to provide a snapshot of the commercial marketplace.

As they become available, all reports in this series, including the *Hearing Protection with Integrated Radio Communications Assessment Report* and *Market Survey Report*, will be placed in the SAVER section of the DHS Science and Technology website, [www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER](http://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/SAVER). Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.

