

The Admiralty Scale

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The Admiralty Scale, also known as the NATO system, is a way to evaluate and express the reliability of the source and the confidence in the obtained information.

Historically the first recorded use of a system to grade the credibility and reliability of information was by the British Admiralty's Naval Intelligence Division from 1939.

Reliability of Source		Credibility of information	
A.	Completely reliable: No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, has a history of complete reliability	1.	Confirmed by other sources: Confirmed by other independent sources; consistent with other information on the subject
B.	Usually reliable: Minor doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, has a history of valid information most of the time	2.	Probably True: Not confirmed; logical in itself; consistent with other information on the subject
C.	Fairly reliable: Doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency but has provided valid information previously	3.	Possibly True: Not confirmed; reasonably logical in itself; agrees with some other information on the subject
D.	Not usually reliable: Significant doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, has provided valid information in the past	4.	Doubtful: Not confirmed; possible but not logical; no other information on the subject
E.	Unreliable: Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, history of invalid information	5.	Improbable: Not confirmed; not logical in itself; contradicted by other information on the subject
F.	Reliability cannot be judged: No basis exists for evaluating the reliability of the source	6.	Truth cannot be judged: No basis exists for evaluating the validity of the information