

Appendix B

Source and Information Reliability Matrix

Body of Appendix—same as chapter, except for Main Heading Style

SOURCE RELIABILITY

B-1. Reliability ratings range from "Reliable" (A) to "Unreliable" (E) as shown in [Table B-1](#). In every instance the rating is based on previous reporting from that source. If there has been no previous reporting, the source must be rated as "F". [NOTE: An "F" rating does not necessarily mean that the source cannot be trusted, but that there is no reporting history and therefore no basis for making a determination.]

Table B-1. Evaluation of Source Reliability.

A	Reliable	No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability
B	Usually Reliable	Minor doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of valid information most of the time
C	Fairly Reliable	Doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency but has provided valid information in the past
D	Not Usually Reliable	Significant doubt about authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency but has provided valid information in the past
E	Unreliable	Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information
F	Cannot Be Judged	No basis exists for evaluating the reliability of the source

INFORMATION CONTENT

B-2. The highest degree of confidence in reported information is given to that which has been confirmed by outside sources, "1". [Table B-2](#) shows evaluation of information content. The degree of confidence decreases if the information is not confirmed, and/or does not seem to make sense. The lowest evaluated rating of "5" means that the information is considered to be false. [NOTE: A rating of "6" does not necessarily mean false information, but is generally used to indicate that no determination can be made since the information is completely new.]

Table B-2. Evaluation of Information Content.

1	Confirmed	Confirmed by other independent sources; logical in itself; Consistent with other information on the subject
2	Probably True	Not confirmed; logical in itself; consistent with other information on the subject
3	Possibly True	Not confirmed; reasonably logical in itself; agrees with some other information on the subject
4	Doubtfully True	Not confirmed; possible but not logical ; no other information on the subject
5	Improbable	Not confirmed; not logical in itself; contradicted by other information on the subject
6	Cannot Be Judged	No basis exists for evaluating the validity of the information