

## THE VALUE OF INFORMATION

Each professional and responsible manager in the comprehensive area of security is searching for an evaluation of information on a daily basis to create and implement a minimum required level of security within her/his organization. A lot of useful information can be obtained from internet sources and technical/electronically observation devices. But at the end, and as proven throughout centuries, one needs the information from “the man in the field”; in other words human input.

Gathering information is a profession itself and once information is available, analytic skills are absolutely needed to evaluate the information. There are many methods to gather information and “judging” the value thereof. Such “judgment” is essential before one should use that information as an element of the foundation of security regulations and measures.

Each time a security manager receives information she/he should first judge the value of that information and the trustworthiness of the source before using the information. To this end, a certain internationally used method of evaluation could be a useful tool. The current most common valuation method is hereafter outlined.

### Intelligence source and information reliability

The system employed rates of the reliability of the source as well as the information. The source reliability is rated between **A** (history of complete reliability) to **E** (history of invalid information), with **F** for a source without sufficient history to establish reliability level. The information content is rated between **1** (confirmed) to **5** (improbable), with **6** for information whose reliability cannot be evaluated.

**Example:** Confirmed information from a reliable source has rating **A1**; unknown-validity information from a new source without reputation is rated **F6**; inconsistent illogical information from a known liar is **E5**; confirmed information from a moderately doubtful source is **C1**.

### Source Reliability

	Rating	Description
A	Reliable	No doubt about the source authenticity or competency; history of complete reliability
B	Usually reliable	Minor doubts; history of mostly valid information
C	Fairly reliable	Doubts; provided not always valid information in the past.
D	Not usually reliable	Significant doubts; provided more than ones invalid information in the past.
E	Unreliable	Lacks authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information.
F	Cannot be judged	Insufficient information to evaluate reliability; may or may not be reliable

### Information Reliability

	Rating	Description
1	Confirmed	Logical, consistent with other relevant information; confirmed by independent sources
2	Probably true	Logical, consistent with other relevant information; not confirmed
3	Possibly true	Reasonably logical, agrees with some relevant information; not confirmed
4	Doubtfully true	Not logical but possible, no other information on the subject; not confirmed
5	Improbable	Not logical, contradicted by other relevant information
6	Cannot be judged	The validity of the information can not be determined