

Narrative probability is the assessment of story coherence. The military official's synopsis is fairly probable. It follows a chronological order of his travels. He made it clear that he travelled extensively in the People's Republic of China, visiting several large cities as well as rural areas and coastal regions. The one critique I found is the inconsistency with naming – People's Liberation Army vs Chinese Navy. I would find more coherence if the military branches followed the same naming pattern.

Narrative fidelity is how well the story relates to the "truth" as we know it. To me, the military official's assessments are laughable. The individual was escorted to pre-determined areas and shown what the Chinese government wanted him to see. Even if he was able to roam freely, his random travels required luck or chance to locate a military base as there was no pattern to his travels. In summation, this "assessment" is about as reliable as someone in the early 1940's walking around New Mexico declaring the USA far from achieving nuclear capabilities.