



Business Threat Awareness Council

Awareness to Strengthen America's Commerce

Notes from Second Meeting of the Business Threat Awareness Council (BTAC)

April 21, 2005
Offices of BDO Seidman, LLP
New York City

Attending:

George Karshner
Arising Group

John R. Kessler
Communications Consultant

Thomas Kuras
Department of Homeland Security

Eric Levine
Prudential Global Security

Shawn Lewis
ESL International

Joe Macchiaroli
Department of Homeland Security

Bill Manning
Prudential Global Security

Felix P. Nater
Nater Associates

Tim Powell
The Knowledge Agency

Frances Rosato, Esq.
Security Consultant

John Roshala
Anonymizer, Inc.

George Karshner chaired the meeting. He read the BTAC mission statement. He offered a correction to the previous notes—that the ONCIX outreach effort was initiated before the attacks of 9/11/01, not following.



Review of Current Progress

George reported significant progress on several organizational issues:

- that a letter of endorsement of BTAC's efforts is forthcoming from the National Counterintelligence Executive, Michelle Van Cleave;
- that Arising Group has donated customized artwork (which he presented, and which is incorporated into the header hereto) for an emblem to be used for BTAC;
- that Arising Group has secured on BTAC's behalf the domain name www.btac.us ; and
- that Arising has completed a preliminary web sitemap (which he presented for comment). Launch of the site is expected by Q1 2006.

For further background on the mission of BTAC, George recommended that current and prospective BTAC members read the BTAC Operations plan, as well as the latest National Counterintelligence Strategy and Ms. Van Cleave's recent speech (both available at www.ncix.gov).

Tim Powell reviewed the notes from the previous meeting. Regarding the schedule of items to be accomplished, on most of the items there has been substantial progress made.

BTAC Awards Event

A discussion was held on BTAC's potential sponsorship of an awards event that would celebrate individuals and organizations with best practices in threat avoidance and mitigation. This would recognize and bring to the fore best practices, as well as recognizing (as judges) outstanding individuals in the field.

A BTAC recognition event would also be an opportunity to publicize BTAC's mission and goals, as well as to network with potential corporate sponsors. The discipline of creating criteria for such an award would in itself add momentum to our mission, as well as providing some guidelines for organizations in developing threat awareness programs.



BTAC Scope and Membership

A brief discussion was held of BTAC's geographic "reach", which at this point is defined as the tri-state area. Future meetings may be held in New Jersey and/or Connecticut. Since BTAC is something of a pilot program for the ONCIX outreach effort, ONCIX will probably want to define geographic jurisdictions at some point in the future.

There is currently no restriction on BTAC membership, and BTAC meetings are open to anyone with responsibility for security, legal affairs, business intelligence, or other fiduciary matters.

There was discussion that "vetting" of BTAC members might be necessary at some point, given the sensitive nature of the majority of members' project and client portfolios. It was also mentioned that an adversary might try to recruit from the BTAC membership. Since such vetting is currently not feasible, all BTAC members are advised to use the usual caution and discretion in presenting materials and/or networking at meetings.

BTAC Resources

There was discussion of BTAC resource needs, including for a server for the upcoming web site, and any number of program activities that could in the future become more resource-intensive. Much of the current support has been in the form of donations from the Arising Group and BDO Seidman. There are no dues or fees at moment, though this could need to change.

We do need organizational sponsors, particularly in the form of meeting space. Each of our next several meetings is expected to feature a speaker, and this could draw an audience that would need larger space. *If you are able to offer such a meeting space, or know of someone who may be able to, please contact George Karshner. George would also like to hear you ideas for potential BTAC speakers and topics.*



Intelligence Sharing

Members shared current events stories, techniques and tools, and information about related organizations. These included:

- International Organization of Black Security Executives (www.iobse.com)
- InfraGard (www.infragard.net)
- Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (www.atapusa.org)

Next BTAC Meeting will be held:

Tuesday 24 May 2005 at 8:00AM

Location: TBD

Respectfully submitted by Tim Powell.