



# Business Threat Awareness Council

*Awareness to Strengthen America's Commerce*

## Notes from June 2005 Meeting of the Business Threat Awareness Council (BTAC)

June 23, 2005  
Offices of BDO Seidman  
New York City

### ***Attending:***

Lee Mason  
WABC Radio Network

Tim Powell  
The Knowledge Agency

Rob Garber  
The Knowledge Agency

Shawn Lewis  
ESL International

Debbie Henry  
Anonymizer

George Oxley  
MeadWestvaco

Jonathan Blumberg  
MeadWestvaco

Paul Capellini  
McGraw-Hill

Richard Horowitz  
Attorney at Law

Joe Macchiaroli  
Dept. of Homeland Security



## Administrative Matters

Tim Powell chaired the meeting. He opened by reading the BTAC mission statement. Notes from the previous BTAC meeting were reviewed.

## Speaker – Richard Horowitz, Attorney at Law

We were honored to have a distinguished speaker, Mr. Richard Horowitz. Mr. Horowitz is a New York City attorney concentrating in corporate, security, and international matters. He holds a private investigator's license and served in the Israel Defense Forces, where he was involved in national security projects and attained the rank of captain.

Mr. Horowitz addressed two related topics, (1) terrorist threats, and (2) allowable uses of intelligence gathering by corporations. His key points can be summarized as follows:

- Acquiring intelligence on a competitor is inherently legal, provided all the means employed to acquire that intelligence were themselves legal.
- This applies even to a company's confidential information. Do not, therefore, rely solely on your security precautions to protect your information, but be aware of the *legal* measures competitors are entitled to use to acquire business intelligence.
- Proper security precautions against terrorism are themselves a function of the psychological and political will needed to understand the threat we face. It is crucial therefore to understand the mindset of Islamic terrorists.
- The following, though foreign to Western thinking, are part of the mindset of Islamic terrorists. First, the current threat of Islamic terrorism did not begin on September 11th but has a 1,000 year history. Second, Islamic terrorists believe they are fighting a defensive war on behalf of Allah, against our attempts to promote freedom, liberty and democracy worldwide. Third, killing as many people as possible is an integral, strategic component of their planning and attacks.

Mr. Horowitz answered questions from those attending, and there was discussion.