

## **Business Threat Awareness Council**

Awareness to Strengthen America's Commerce

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

March 2, 2005 New York City

## Attending:

Jonathan Blumberg Mead Westvaco

Brad Lynch NYMEX

Ken Damstrom Lehman Brothers

Joe Macchiaroli DHS/Customs

George Karshner Arising Group

Tim Powell

The Knowledge Agency

Shawn Lewis ESL International

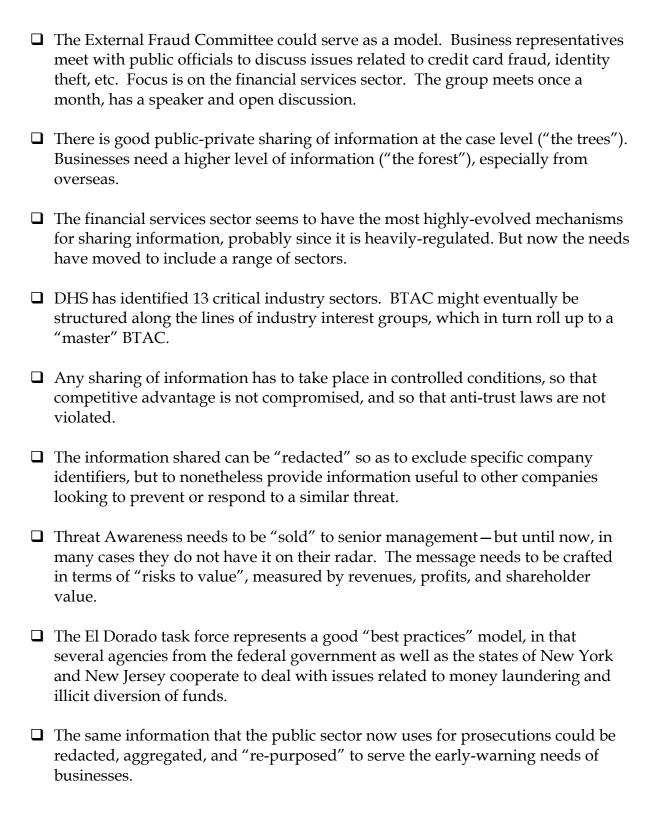
George Karshner chaired the meeting. He first presented a brief overview of ONCIX and its charter. The ONCIX outreach program for the private sector was started after 9/11/01. The November 2004 meeting in New York City was a first step, now this group is ready to explore next steps.

## Key discussion points from the meeting:

How can the public and private sector work together? There is currently a lot c	Эf
lip service, but not much tangible.	

☐ The focus of the BTAC initiative has been expanded from just counterintelligence, to include this as well as many other threats to business. ONCIX supports this change of scope.







	In many (if not most) other countries, there is routine and wide-accepted sharing of intelligence between public and private sectors. This does not currently happen in the US.			
	Where public-private information sharing does occur, it typically happens through informal networks of ex-federal employees now in the private sector. BTAC's mission should include formalizing this process and make it available to people who do not have access to such networks.			
	Process-level information can also be shared (for example, lessons learned; vendors who have specific expertise; checklists and templates; etc.) without adverse consequences.			
	There needs to be a business case built to present Threat Awareness to senior management. Now, when there are "no incidents", the security budget is often cut, rather than sustained or expanded. A "model" business case detailing the economics of Threat Awareness is something that BTAC can create.			
	Even middle-management often does not have a central point of contact for Threat Awareness issues. Sometimes it is Security, sometimes it is Legal—and typically there are several poorly-coordinated points of contact.			
Ideas for what BTAC needs to do:				
	Establish a single point of contact in Central Intelligence.			
	Develop an electronic communication system and information repository for members.			
	Hold "awareness" meetings every 4-8 weeks, each with a speaker and open discussion.			
	Develop relationships with other conferences, for example ASIS.			
	Develop an entry point for corporations – Legal? Security?			
	Get a letter from the National Counterintelligence Executive, Michelle Van Cleave, endorsing the BTAC initiative.			



A two page white paper, or business case, containing the best current statistics on threats, costs to business, etc., that can be used to "sell" BTAC involvement to C-level management and other potential members and could be used to obtain corporate sponsorships and/or in-kind donations. Possible source: Dr. Dean Carver.
Develop a BTAC web site – a virtual "community of interest" for Threat Awareness.
Lobby Washington to look at the "forest" (the whole impact on business), not just the "Trees" (individual case-level information).
Develop other ways to maximize the interactions between NCIX and the private sector.
Possibility of getting a rep/contact person from other agencies in addition to Central and ONCIX
George or Joe planned some follow-up with DHS to inquire about funding

Next Steering Committee Meeting will be held:

Thursday 21 April 2005 at 8:00AM

Location: TBD