

MEET GIL NEUMAN

He might be the head of a large security outfit and have access to fancy, high-tech gadgets, but Kent Security Services CEO Gil Neuman seems most impressed with the new gym he has installed for employees.

'We try to give perks,' he says, smiling while scanning the gym. Security jobs, he admits, tend to be low paying.

Born in Israel, Neuman, 37, is the youngest of three siblings, the son of a principal/schoolteacher mother and a union-worker father.

He has little use for pretension and doesn't even put his title on his business cards — Just his name and how to get in touch with the company.

Schooled as an engineer, Neuman got his degree from Florida Atlantic University and joined Kent 13 years ago. He is responsible for pushing the company toward electronic gadgetry. Although his sister and brother-in-law established Kent, Neuman was all too happy to join the family business.

Married with two children, Neuman believes strongly in family at home and in the office.

Neuman says he and his sister, Orly Alexander, the Kent CFO, and her husband Shlomo, the chairman, always eat together on Fridays. They refer to the dinners as 'board meetings.'

With homeland security and terrorism the new buzzwords of an apprehensive nation, Kent Security Services is gearing up for more business.

The North Miami Beach security firm specializes in guard services, as well as investigations and electronic security — including alarm systems and gadgets that range from retinal and hand scanners to nanny cams that monitor how well baby sitters are doing their jobs.

Kent began as a guard provider in the 1980s, but after the Sept. 11 attacks, Gil Neuman, the chief executive officer of the family-owned business, tried a new approach — adding employees experienced in counterterrorism. He recruited the director of security for the Israeli Consulate in Miami as well as security personnel from the Israeli national airline El Al.

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Gil Neuman, CEO of Kent Security Services



PHOTOS BY MARICE COHN BAND/HERALD STAFF

UNDER WATCHFUL EYE: Dispatcher April Manning monitor's the situation at distant buildings from the Kent Security Services' building at 14600 Biscayne Blvd.

KENT SECURITY SERVICES

meets challenges in an insecure world

STORY BY WENDY DOSCHER-SMITH

Neuman said. "We can no longer go about our business [as usual] because we know that security means training and preparing and building programs."

Currently about a dozen Kent employees — some experienced in embassy protection — provide project management, security planning and management, and anti-

terrorism consulting and training to schools, places of worship, exclusive gated communities and high-end condominium buildings.

Now more than ever, he said, synagogues and high-profile buildings want protection. Kent, for example, offers "preventive security" such as high-tech cement and ballistic-grade wallpaper that do a better job of absorbing bomb blasts than conventional materials. Special window panes that shatter in a single piece are also part of the preventive technology that Kent provides.

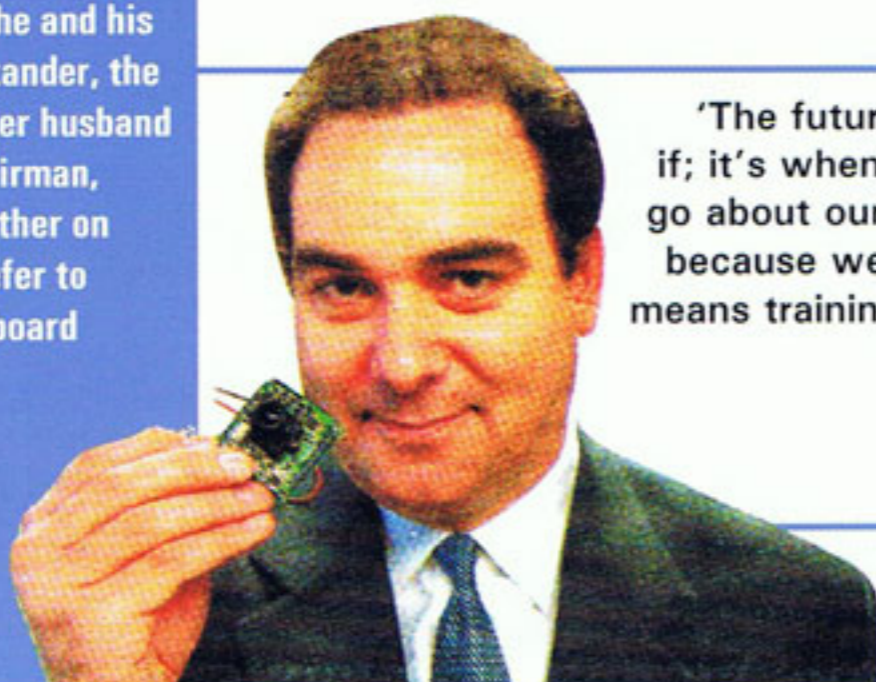
Among the local customers for preventive security are the Aventura-

Turnberry Jewish Center and a large office building, home to a REIT, where a central monitoring system that can be checked from Kent's headquarters has been installed.

The company — founded by Neuman's sister and brother-in-law, Orly and Shlomo Alexander, the chief financial officer and chairman, respectively — began small. In addition to guard services, it specialized in the installation of security gates at homes and condos.

But the North Miami Beach company has ridden the crest of a wave of security-consciousness.

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SOPHISTICATED GADGETRY: Gil Neuman, CEO of Kent Security Services, holds up a small security camera similar to the ones his company has hidden in clocks, sprinklers and exit signs.