Societal Impacts

As the P.E.T.E.R.S. is a system designed to enhance a user’s awareness of his/her equipment as well as the location of all team members, it is a natural progression of thought to imagine a future iteration of this product potentially being utilized by the military or in a civil service capacity to include firefighters, police officers, and paramedics. These jobs all witness situations where time is a key factor and being able to quickly assess your equipment and location of nearby personnel could potentially avert disaster. Conversely, there do exist various groups of people who will insinuate that the game of paintball itself, and the P.E.T.E.R.S. by extension, will instigate or contribute to a culture of violence; this product is not making a claim to lessen or increase the current level of violence that exists in today’s society. The intention behind the P.E.T.E.R.S. is simply to enhance the game of paintball as it exists today; it is not being utilized to push an agenda of war-mongering or instigate violent behavior. That being said, of course there exists the possibility that any individual or group of individuals could utilize this system for nefarious, unintended purposes (i.e. coordinated terrorist attacks), but this could be said of virtually any communications device. While it can be said that future implementations of P.E.T.E.R.S. could absolutely include civil or military applications, the current version of P.E.T.E.R.S. being developed is ideally suited for paintball. To this end, we are currently not extremely concerned with securing the network communication between users, whereas this would certainly be a concern in some future iteration utilized within a civil or military area of interest as the location of personnel could easily be accessed by some outside entity.