

In terms of ethical quandaries regarding the NSA and Edward Snowden situation, I have come up with the following grid. Snowden failed to consider the autonomy of others to be their own moral agent; He decided to release government information to the public because he believed it to be morally righteous, without considering that doing so may not be universally accepted as the morally right thing to do. This affects US Citizens as well as the Intelligence community as a whole.

There was also the theft of government data in the first place, because he believed the 'people need to know'. However, by releasing this information, he affects the national security of the US, US citizens, the NSA, intelligence community, and foreign countries by providing them with that classified information.

There was also his breach of duty to his employer, because of their conflicts in morality. He broke his own legal agreements and duties sworn to his employer to release this information. This affects the NSA and all their employees.

Next is the quandary of national security versus individual liberties (privacy). He put the interest of the nation/government in harms way in exchange for the interest of the people in our nation. This affects US national security, US Citizens, the intelligence community, and foreign countries.

By releasing this information, he posed a potential risk of foreign governments, especially police states, using this data to improve on their own systems of surveillance on their citizens. When placed in the wrong hands, releasing this information can essentially have a detrimental impact on the security of other nation's citizen data. This affects US National Security, the NSA, the intelligence community, and foreign countries.