Security vs. rights

There is no purpose in the existence of rights in a government if its people are unprotected. The amendments are a set of rights that protect the people from the abusive power of the government. The fourth amendment prevents the government from doing unreasonable searches without a warrant on a citizen’s property. This limits how far the government police can go when handling crime investigations. We believe that the government should be able to invade a portion of an individual’s privacy if there is a probable cause. The government has the right to locate citizens using GPS because it isn’t a violation of the fourth amendment. However, they don’t have the right to access emails that are older than one hundred and eighty days because it violates the fourth amendment.

Privacy is the state of belonging to a particular individual, not the public. Rights are laws that are given to an individual that protect them from the government. The controversy revolves around people’s complaint of the government invading their rights, when they are followed or located by them. It is acceptable for the government to locate citizens using GPS because it invades their privacy not their rights. Not only is privacy invasion not against the law, but the government are involved in it for probable causes. They can trace suspected terrorists and criminals to prevent crimes and deaths. The fourth amendment is meant to prevent government oppression. Nowadays people use it to prevent the government from protecting them.

However, the government violates the fourth amendment by accessing emails that are older than one hundred and eighty days. The government, performing that action is the same as them going to a resident’s house that he/she has lived in for a hundred and eighty days and checking their mail. That completely violates the fourth amendment because they are searching a citizen’s property without a warrant. Therefore our democracy-based government has no purpose if the government can use oppressive action on its people.

United States v. Warshak is a case that included the SCA (Stored Communications Act) against the fourth amendment in a court of law. The United States Court of Appeals concluded that the government violated the defendant's Fourth Amendment rights by convincing his Internet Service Provider to give them his emails without a warrant with probable cause. The court further declared the action taken by the SCA unconstitutional because the government was able to obtain emails without a warrant. This supports us saying that the SCA is unconstitutional by breaching our security.

In conclusion we believe that when it comes to email the SCA is unconstitutional but the tracking of our GPS is acceptable. We as a people have to realize that whatever our government does, we are their first priority. It is understandable to desire privacy. However, it is insane to desire privacy over the protection and security of our country.