The American *Glass*man

The Department of Homeland Security specializes in preventing terrorist attacks and minimizing the damage from attacks that do occur. DHS is built of a diverse group of agents who bring different skills to the table, ranging from cyber security to military experience. Looking at all of their profiles, each are unique, some coming from made up ethnicities and others with redacted black ops history, but one stands out: the man wearing Google Glass in his picture. This agent, Paul Hummel, has trained with the Air Force and has provided cyber security for the private military weapons corporation Raytheon. Agent Paul Hummel shows a patriotic streak in his military history, but poses a liability to the U.S. from his hotheadedness to react with military action to situations.

Agent Hummel was born into an obviously patriotic family as shown by his location of birth at the Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany. Growing up in a family that supports the military probably spurred Paul to join the United States Air Force immediately after college. Unfortunately, his dreams, along with his leg, were shattered during a training exercise, which brought an end to Hummel’s military career. Over the next six years he sought a higher education in Computer Engineering at Cornell and graduated with a Ph.D. After he received his Ph.D., he got a job in the private sector with Raytheon, a military weapons provider that, from revenue alone, is the 4th largest military contractor in the U.S. There he provided cyber security to prevent its susceptibility to attack. In 2010, Agent Hummel brought his skills and immense knowledge to the NSA, where he could help protect the US directly. Throughout his entire professional career, he has devoted himself to defending the U.S.

This devotion, though, is a liability. In our own personal encounters with Hummel, he was found to be hotheaded and sprung at the faintest whisper of military action. In the first briefing, he constantly suggested that North Korea be held directly accountable for its assassination attempt and be bombed in consequence. This attitude can almost be perceived as hawkish, where he is seeking to pick a fight with anyone he perceives to attack America. Anyone tasked with minimizing damage on the homeland should not be seeking revenge with foreign countries but be more concerned with minimizing the vulnerability of the nation.

Although Agent Hummel shows high levels of patriotism and intelligence, his rash nature could possibly endanger the safety of the American people by rushing into situations that require a more in depth and considerate response. This attitude could be attributed to his failed military career, and his attempt to live the fight vicariously through the fighting soldiers by calling out foreign nations and defending America’s honor. While his patriotism and love for the U.S. is a great motivation to protect, his hotheadedness and aspirations to pursue Military action may cause America to jump the gun, and therefore is a liability to the United States.