Sheela Ahmed

Professor McKinzie

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In my opinion, the main ethical issue is whether or not government offices hire people based on personal education or family history. My main confusion has always been how the CIA and NSA even thought of hiring Snowden. With the lack of education, it surprises me that they overlooked potential candidates who were well educated and would actually follow government rules for an Army veteran who has a history of family members in the military. Don’t get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with Army veterans, and Snowden did have knowledge about the job, but simply hiring them for that reason shows the level of judgement and criticism certain government officials make towards hiring other people. I wouldn’t want to follow government rules, so I wouldn’t be a good person to hire, but I obviously wouldn’t show that if I applied for the job position. I would want the job, and if I was in the Army, my application would immediately be taken into consideration despite my lack of admiration for the American government.

It’s clear that Snowden violated the privacy section of the Code of Ethics, because he certainly didn’t access private information only when necessary (unless “necessary”, according to Snowden, is revealing the information to the public). Besides that, I don’t think there is another section Snowden thoroughly violated. He may have gone against the Ethical Responsibility at the end of the Code of Ethics, since he didn’t really maintain a “degree of professionalism” in the workplace.

I think Snowden is both a hero and a traitor. This is a debate that can go on forever because it depends on how people define “hero” and “traitor”. In my opinion. Snowden did reveale something about the government that shouldn’t have been occurring, and for that reason, I think he did help fellow Americans by informing them, and that makes his a hero. He helped the country by releasing something about the government that isn’t democratic. On the other hand, his actions did go against his own job’s code of ethics and he did violate numerous areas of privacy and that could make him a traitor. Specifically for government jobs, respect of privacy and confidential information is critical, and releasing this information without any warning violates all of that respect. For that reason, Snowden could be called a “traitor’ but I wouldn’t go to that extent. I do think he did more good than harm, because he did show that the government was taking actions that weren’t democratic, but I do think it could have been handled better.