

## **Case Study 11: Loyalty**

An engineer who works at a company which specialises in data conversion and signal conditioning technology worries about uses of the technology that she sees as negative or detrimental to human welfare. The positive effects of the technology developed have a significant importance in the design of medical devices, and are directly responsible for saving many lives. However, the company works closely with military organisations to develop products which enhance the functionality of weapons systems.

The engineer writes letters to her political representatives, to the local papers and even speaks on a local radio station, to state her opposition to the use of this technology in the military context. She often uses her engineering expertise to make her case. Other employees at her company find her behaviour questionable. The company's military connection is extraordinarily lucrative. Eventually someone suggests that she is being disloyal.

### Discussion

1. Do you think she is failing to show the appropriate 'loyalty' to her company?
2. Is she doing something wrong?
3. Would her actions damage your trust in her?