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Self-Reflection #3

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Service has always been an important value to me. This value grew from doing a lot of community service during my childhood with Girl Scouts. I enjoyed knowing that I helped to brighten someone's day and potentially changed their lives for the good. Ever since middle school, I knew that I wanted to live a lifestyle that is always helping someone in need. I decided then that joining the military would be the right choice for me to fulfill my passion to serve others.

Since I've made the decision, I have developed a passion towards helping those who were once in shoes I will fill one day. I have been drawn to doing service projects that help current military members and veterans. For example, in high school I worked with the Salisbury VA to start a drive at school to collect donated supplies that they give out to veterans in need. With that specific project, I have learned that there is a common misconception that retired military service members are provided with substantial care when out of the service. When in reality, many of our veterans struggle with job insecurity due to mental and physical injuries. The VA does try to provide the care to help these veterans, but they lack financial support from our government, so they have become reliant on volunteers. With that being said, I believe that structural power has influenced the outcomes of these veterans' lives. Without the assistance from the government, veterans are found in need of help to get back to a normal life. From

learning this, I have dedicated my time to find ways to serve veterans and current military members that are in need.

With this topic, I believe it connects with my “Ethical Philosopher Selector” results to an extent. Based on my results, my ethical framework is closely related to the philosopher Thomas Hobbes’. Thomas Hobbes believed by human nature, all of man's voluntary actions are aimed at self-pleasure and self-preservation, and that we must live under a social contract to have peace. In other words, everyone has the right to everything and it is natural for people to give up some liberty in order to gain security of self-preservation. It could connect to my topic to sense that some military members give up their freedoms to benefit themselves. This philosophy, however, does not relate to my ethical framework. My “social contract” is that if people are able, they should consider giving up their goods to benefit others to give them the opportunity to get where the giver is now. Once, those in need are at a place to where they could also give back to another person in need which creates a cycle of giving.

My ethical framework relates to my “Clifton Strengths”, by creating a possible explanation on why I think the way I do. My top five strengths are as follows: restorative, responsibility, harmony, arranger, and futuristic. I typically can find issues in situations and look for solutions (restorative), and with this information I dedicate myself to get it fixed (responsibility). If I am able to fix a situation, I will try to work with who I am helping to see where my assistant is needed (harmony). I believe that if I am able to provide the resources needed to help someone else get to where I am then I will do everything in my power to do so (arranger). I understand that not everyone with the resources is willing to give up their time and money to help another person, but I believe that could change with time (futuristic). Most people

need all the information about a situation to understand how their resources could actually benefit another person and not go to waste. I believe once people are informed on why there are many people in need and where their assistance is going, then it increases their chances of giving.

With all of this information, I can implement this in my service action proposal. I am interested in working with an organization that helps veterans and current service members. How I view ethics has framed how I will go about doing this project. I found that it is my social responsibility as a leader to help those get to where I am now. I am privileged enough to say that I am in a place where veterans struggle to get back to, and by partnering with an organization, I can help our veterans get back on their feet. I want to develop a project that helps veterans and informs others of why they are in need to stop the misconceptions that they are fully taken care of when they leave the service. This service action proposal will allow me to develop the skills needed to develop this project and bring an impact to our current service members and veterans' lives.