Ben is assigned by his employer, Cartex, to work on an improvement to an ultrasonic range-finding device for use in domestic oil exploration. While working on the improvement, he gets an idea for a modification of the equipment that might be applicable to military submarines. If this were successful, it could be worth a lot of money to his company as well as provide a technical advantage to our Navy's submarines. However, Ben is a pacifist and does not want to contribute in any way to the development of military hardware. His employers are aware of his antimilitary sentiments and refrain from assigning him to military projects.

However, Ben has signed an agreement that all inventions he produces on the job are the property of the company. Is he justified in concealing his idea from his employers, or does he have a duty to tell someone about it? Do intellectual property rights apply to the right to deny the development of new ideas as well as to rights to benefit from marketing or selling one's ideas and inventions?

1) (25 pts) Use either the Analysis of Issues (factual, conceptual, and ethical) or the Line Drawing technique to justify your answer.

2) (25 pts) Use one of the accepted codes of ethics (either the NSPE or IEEE) OR one of the moral theories that we studied (Utilitarianism, Rights Ethics, Duty Ethics, or Virtue Ethics) to support your answer. Identify any conflicting issues and discuss how you would resolve them.

Assume you are also an employee with Cartex and despite your disagreement with Ben's pacifist stand, you and he are good friends. During a conversation after work, Ben reveals his basic idea on how to adapt the ultrasonic technique for submarine use. Since you are a supporter of a strong military, you decide to convince Ben to share his idea with the management at Cartex.

3) (25 pts) Outline your argument to Ben, using at least one basic concept that we covered in class this semester such as notions of responsibility, ethical theories, or codes of ethics. (NOTE: State explicitly what concept you are using - don’t make us guess!)

4) (25 pts) Assume your arguments were not successful in convincing him to share his idea with the company. Do you reveal Ben's idea to the management at Cartex? Again, justify your argument through the use of at least one basic concept that we covered in class this semester such as notions of responsibility, ethical theories, or codes of ethics. Also, regardless of your argument, assume you reveal Ben's idea to management and comment on whether this is a form of Whistleblowing. Why or why not?