Right now, the U.S. military is made up of approximately 1.2 million service members across all branches. That's less than 0.5% of the U.S. population! That has not always been the case. Try the touchscreen to see how the number of U.S. military personnel has gone down while the number of countries with a U.S. military presence has gone up, with some exceptions.

Use the prompts below to guide your interaction with the touchscreen.

★ Where were the most U.S. military personnel stationed during the year of your birth?
   ✯ How many were afloat or enroute that year?
★ How many U.S. military personnel were in South Vietnam in 1970? Why is that number so high?
★ Compare the numbers in 1970 to the numbers in 2013. Why do you think the number of military personnel is lower but the countries with a U.S. military presence is higher?
★ How many people served in the Marine Corps in 1995?
★ Why isn’t the Coast Guard included in the total number of U.S. military personnel (check the tab on the right side of the screen)?
★ Are there other years that might have higher numbers of military personnel?