# Scope of military Service and how it relates to children and families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DID YOU KNOW?</th>
<th>Discussion Ideas</th>
<th>Key Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| That every person in the military counts on support from their family, friends and community while on active duty? | • Discuss how families and friends are asked to support soldiers on active duty in the military?  
• Can you think of ways that your community supports members of the US armed forces? | Supporting members of the military is an important and shared responsibility |
| That members of the military reserve live and work in their own communities, but are subject to a call to duty at any time. | • How would a family be affected when a father or mother is called to duty on short notice?  
• Do you know of someone who lives in your neighborhood who is serving in the military? | The heavy use of part time, reserve forces in current military |
| That approximately 20% of members of the active military are stationed outside of the continental US. | What are some of the advantages and disadvantages for American children who are raised in foreign countries because their mother or father are serving in the military? | The impact of mobility and deployment |
| That on average a member of the military can expect to relocate every 3 to 6 years, while serving in the Armed Forces. Do you know what they call these relocations? PCSing (Permanent Change of Station) | What are some of the hardships associated with moving from one place to another  
• For the soldier?  
• For their husband or wife?  
• For their children? | The impact of mobility and deployment |
| That over 50% of military members are married, 43% have children and there are **1.8 million children** being raised in military families. | • Do you have friends or family members who serve in the military? What do you admire about them?  
• What special challenges do you think they might encounter? | Impact of military service on family members |
| That members of the US military are stationed in 75% of the countries of the world | Have you known friends are relatives who have served in other countries? | |

---

**Impact of military service on family members**

- Members of the US military are stationed in 75% of the countries of the world.
- Approximately 20% of members of the active military are stationed outside of the continental US.
- On average, a member of the military can expect to relocate every 3 to 6 years while serving in the Armed Forces. What do they call these relocations? PCSing (Permanent Change of Station).
- Over 50% of military members are married, 43% have children, and there are **1.8 million children** being raised in military families.

---

**Supporting members of the military is an important and shared responsibility**

- Discuss how families and friends are asked to support soldiers on active duty in the military.
- Can you think of ways that your community supports members of the US armed forces?

---

**The heavy use of part time, reserve forces in current military**

- How would a family be affected when a father or mother is called to duty on short notice?
- Do you know of someone who lives in your neighborhood who is serving in the military?

---

**The impact of mobility and deployment**

- What are some of the advantages and disadvantages for American children who are raised in foreign countries because their mother or father are serving in the military?
- What are some of the hardships associated with moving from one place to another?
  - For the soldier?
  - For their husband or wife?
  - For their children?

---

**Impact of military service on family members**

- Do you have friends or family members who serve in the military? What do you admire about them?
- What special challenges do you think they might encounter?
### The Traditional Values Associated with Military Service

#### DID YOU KNOW? | Discussion Ideas | Key Concept
--- | --- | ---
That the US Military responds to people in distress all over the world by providing humanitarian aide following natural disasters | Name places across the world where the military has provided assistance in time of great need (Haiti, Japan/tsunami; Gulf Coast/hurricanes;) | Humanitarian mission of the military
That the American Flag is displayed, protected, highly honored by the US Military as a symbol of American Freedom and sacrifice |  | Importance of the American Flag to military
Since 1973, the US military has been an entirely “volunteer” military? | Why do young men and women choose to join the US Armed Forces? | Willing to provide service to Country? A career path in a difficult economy?
Throughout American history, citizens have found creative ways to express gratitude for those who serve in the military | How have citizens honored members of the military in your community? (Sending mail and parcels; saluting the military at public events; visiting military cemeteries and memorials; donating money to groups that help military families.) | Tangible visible evidence of the sacrifices made so that no-one should forget
That the Veterans Day and Memorial Day holidays were established to recognize the contributions of our veterans. | Can you think of other ways that citizens have shown their appreciation to Veterans? | National Military holidays
That communities, throughout the 50 states have established tributes and memorials honoring members of the military, past and present. | Can you identify tributes to the military in your community? | Ongoing efforts to honor and military service