



Tactical Air Squadron 21 (TACRON 21)

To the Beach, and Beyond!

The Tactical Air Squadron (TACRON) mission is involved in every aspect of amphibious air operations, including real-time close air support, air defense, ship-to-shore troop movement by air, airborne medical evacuations and long-range planning. It is responsible for airspace management and control, as well as general coordination of operations in an amphibious objective area or other assigned airspace. In addition, joint air expertise resides within the detachment, from coordinating requests for nonorganic air assets in a joint environment to supporting an ongoing amphibious operation.

The TACRON mission does not end at the beach. As expeditionary units, TACRONs maintain the capability to man and operate existing air traffic control facilities ashore or to establish remote facilities at landing zones, temporary airfields or forward air refueling points. TACRON personnel train alongside their fellow Marine Corps air controllers at remote airfields near Camp Lejeune, N.C., setting up expeditionary airfields and exercising field equipment and techniques. Dressed in camouflage, wearing helmets, body armor and carrying 9mm pistols, personnel carry their field gear, radios and charts ashore to augment the air support elements of the Marine Air Control Group. They provide airspace structure and safely guide the fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft from all services and nations in support of the ground commander's scheme of maneuver.

TACRONs 21 and 22 deploy two detachments per squadron, each with 16 enlisted personnel, including 12 air traffic controllers, 2 operations specialists, an information technology specialist and an intelligence specialist. Detachment support personnel provide administrative and messing assistance. Each detachment deploys with five officers. The officer in charge (OIC) is an O-5 aviator, referred to as the Tactical Air Officer, who also serves as a member of the amphibious squadron (PHIBRON) staff. The OIC leads three Naval Aviators and one Marine Corps officer with a variety of helicopter, fixed-wing and forward air controller experience.

Detachments need a variety of aviation community experience to handle the numerous contingencies encountered during amphibious operations.

TACRON 21 Facts



Chain of Command:

Commanding Officer: Cmdr. Craig M. Wevley, USN
Executive Officer: Cmdr. Jeffrey T. Jatzcak, USN
SEL: OSCS (SW) Kevin W. Duncan, USN

Mission Statement:

TACRON 21 trains, deploys and supports combat-ready TACRON detachments providing centralized planning, control, coordination and integration of amphibious and expeditionary combat air operations.

Command Vision:

Air expeditionary operations are a critical component of America's defense and a reflection of America's resolve in the Global War on Terrorism. TACRONs have a special and unique mission that serves as force enabler and integrator for all expeditionary air operations. TACRON 21 will train and equip its personnel to be the best possible expeditionary air space experts and controllers in the U.S. Navy.

