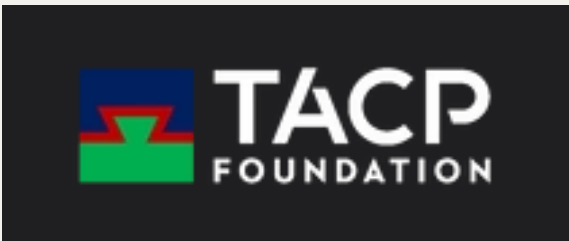


# TACP HISTORY TIMELINE



The US Air Force Tactical Air Control Party has been a cornerstone of American warfighting since WWII.



## 1942

The US Army and US Army Air Forces realize the need for a liaison between the two organizations to provide close air support to ground forces

The Air Support Parties quickly became an essential element in effective close air support at the front lines during the 1942–1943 Mediterranean Campaign

## 1944

The Air Support Parties were so effective in the Mediterranean Campaign that they became central to D-Day planning through the remainder of WWII

## 1946

Key generals like Otto P. Weyland and Pete Quesada realized the need to formalize and standardize the Air Support Party system.

They renamed it **Tactical Air Control Party**

## 1950–1953

The TACP of the Korean War played a pivotal role during various battles during the Battle of the Pusan Perimeter and the mobile phase of the war

The TACP of this time performed the function as an additional duty



## 1955–1975

TACP proliferates explosively due to the close air support-centric nature of the Vietnam War, 10x'ing in number

TACP continued to be an additional duty for 304X4 Radio Maintainers, but they began staying on TACP duty permanently.

**Enlisted TACP began controlling close air support in combat for the first time during the Vietnam War**



## 1977

TACP becomes an official career field under the Air Force Specialty Code 275X0



## 1991

TACP was central to command and control of airpower during the air campaign and to the 100-hour ground invasion

## 2003–2020

TACP become the rockstars of the Global War on Terror. Close air support became the cornerstone of the GWOT, and TACP provided CAS in abundance



## 2020–PRESENT

TACP continues to deploy worldwide to provide CAS and command and control to various units at the front lines in addition to evolving as a unique AFSPECWAR career field

