

# Earth Caste Drone Regiment [Fio'vesa]

**Points: 50 + models**

The Tau Empire has long relied upon a wide range of drones, but it was during the Damocles Crusade that the Gun Drone rose to prominence. It quickly became apparent that the Fire caste could greatly benefit from the expendable firepower and pinning capabilities provided by the standard Gun Drone. Ever since then Gun Drones have been tasked with tying down enemy troops, recon and flanking attacks designed to break enemy moral. But as has been the cause with all Tau technology under the influence of the Empire's rapid expansion the Gun Drone has undergone a series of improvements and adaptations. Under the supervision of Earth Caste scientists of the Fal'shia Sept a series of new

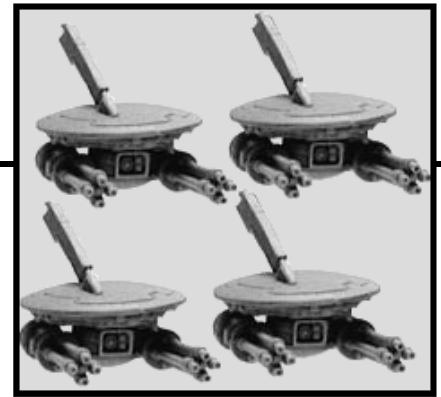
Drones have been developed. These include the Shield Drone, the Marker Drone, the Remora Drone Fighter as well as the still experimental Command-link Drone. Though normally used in support of Tau combat units, some outposts and Septs have gone as far as building full Drone Regiments. Guided by advanced artificial intelligence they can be thrown into battle without concern for Tau life and are as such often used to delay enemy troops while citizens are evacuated from combat zones. In addition the Fio'vesa formation has seen frequent use at times when the Fire caste faced the Imperial Guard, the Drones proving priceless in dealing with the standard Imperial attrition method of war.



0-2 Markerlight Squadrons



1 Command-link Drone



0-4 Heavy Gun Drone Squadrons



2+ Gun Drone Squadrons



**FORMATION:**

- 1 Command-link Drone
- 2+ Gun Drone Squadrons
- 0-4 Heavy Gun Drone Squadrons
- 0-2 Marker Drone Squadrons

**NOTE:** Marker Drone Squadrons consist of 4 Markerlight Drones. See Codex – Tau Empire for details on Gun Drones (p.38) and the Markerlight Drone (p.31).

The Command-link Drone is explained to the right.

Heavy Gun Drone Squadrons consist of 4 Gun Drones with twin-linked Burst Cannons. See Imperial Armour III (p.182) for details.

**OPTIONS:** Marker Drone Squadrons may upgrade 2 Drones with Target Locks at +5 points per Marker Drone.

**FORMATION RULES**

**Command-Link Drone:**

Taking the Gun Drone's normal networking capacity to the next level, Fio scientists have used the experimental Command-link Drone to link all the Drones in the regiment. This has proven instrumental in both making the regiment very reactive and relaying battlefield information to other Tau units.

The Command-link Drone's cost is included in the formation cost, it uses the profile of a standard Drone. However, its advanced artificial intelligence grants it Ld 10. Any Tau unit within 18" of the Command-link Drone (including Vespids with a Strain Leader, but not Kroot) may use the Drone's Leadership value for any Moral, Pinning or Target Priority tests.

**Advanced Artificial Intelligence:**

The Command-link Drone may join other Drone Squads of the formation, in addition any Markerlight Drone Squadron within 12" of the Command-link Drone that is part of the same formation counts as having the Slow and Purposeful universal rule.

**Deep Strike:**

The entire formation may Deep Strike but must do so within either 18" of the Command-link Drone or a markerlighted enemy unit.