

4 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

4 Fighter Wing established, 28 Jul 1947
Organized, 15 Aug 1947
Redesignated 4 Fighter Interceptor Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 4 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Mar 1955
Redesignated 4 Fighter-Day Wing, 25 Apr 1956
Redesignated 4 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 4 Wing, 22 Apr 1991
Redesignated 4 Fighter Wing, 1 Dec 1995

STATIONS

Andrews AFB, MD, 15 Aug 1947
Langley AFB, VA, 26 Apr 1949
New Castle County Aprt, DE, 8 Sep-19 Nov 1950
Johnson AB, Japan, 28 Nov 1950
Suwon AB, South Korea, 7 May 1951
Kimpo AB, South Korea, 23 Aug 1951
Chitose AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1954-8 Dec 1957
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 8 Dec 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

Strategic Air Command, 15 Aug 1947
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1948

Ninth Air Force, 23 Feb 1949
First Air Force, 1 Aug 1950
Eastern Air Defense Force, 1 Sep 1950
39 Air Division, 8 Mar 1955
Ninth Air Force, 8 Dec 1957
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1960
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan 1962
833 Air Division, 1 Oct 1964
Ninth Air Force, 24 Dec 1969

ATTACHMENTS

First Air Force, 15 Jan-22 Feb 1949
Eastern Air Defense Force, 10 Nov 1949
26 Air Division, 20 Feb 1950-19 Nov 1950
314 Air Division, 22 Dec 1950-7 May 1951
Fifth Air Force, 28 Nov 1950-7 Mar 1955
39 Air Division, 1-7 Mar 1955
2 Air Division [Provisional], 21 Oct-29 Nov 1962
Fifth Air Force ADVON, 29 Jan-29 Jul 1968

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P (later, F)-80, 1947-1949, 1954
RB-26, 1949-1950
B-45, 1949-1950
FP-80, 1949-1950
RF-80, 1949-1950
F-86, 1949-1957, 1957-1958
F-100, 1957-1960
F-105, 1958-1966
F-4, 1967-1991
F-15, 1988
KC-10, 1991-1995
T-38, 1993-1995
A-10, 2000

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen Yantis H. Taylor, 15 Aug 1947
Col Arthur C. Agan Jr., 17 Feb 1949
Col Robert W. C. Wimsatt, 26 Apr 1949
Col Henry B. Fisher, 14 Jun 1949
Col Albert L. Evans Jr., 13 Aug 1949
Col Bela A. Harcos, 22 Aug 1949
Brig Gen George F. Smith, 3 Oct 1949
Col Herman A. Schmid, May 1951

Col Harrison R. Thyng, 1 Nov 1951
Col Charles E. King, 2 Oct 1952
Col James K. Johnson, 11 Nov 1952
Col Donald P. Hall, 9 Aug 1953
Col Neil A. Newman, 30 Jun 1954
Col Alvin E. Hebert, 10 Aug 1954
Col Grover C. Brown, 1 May 1955
Col Robert P. Montgomery, 17 Aug 1956
Col Earle R. Myers, 6 Jun 1957
Col James M. Smelley, 2 Jul 1957
Col Robert C. Richardson Iii, 8 Dec 1957
Col Timothy F. O'keefe, 5 Jan 1958
Brig Gen Joseph H. Moore, 28 Feb 1959
Col Albert L. Evans Jr., 18 Oct 1961
Brig Gen Gordon M. Graham, 15 Jul 1962
Col John R. Murphy, 16 Oct 1963
Col William E. Bryan Jr., 4 Jan 1965
Col Homer C. Boles, 27 Jan 1966
Col William R. Eichelberger, 30 May 1966
Col Robert V. Spencer, 1 Jul 1966
Col William R. Eichelberger, 28 Jan 1967
Col Paul C. Watson, 17 Feb 1967
Col Everett N. Farrell, 6 Jan 1968
Col Jack W. Hayes Jr., 26 Jan 1968
Col Charles E. Yeager, 23 Mar 1968
Col Marion L. Boswell, 30 May 1969
Col Walter P. Paluch Jr., 16 May 1970
Col James R. Hildreth, 19 Feb 1971
Col John E. Ralph, 21 Apr 1972
Col Len C. Russell, 21 May 1973
Col James N. Portis, 11 Feb 1974
Col Robert D. Russ, 7 Aug 1975
Col Robert S. Beale, 6 Jun 1976
Col Craven C. Rogers Jr., 2 Jun 1978
Col Peter T. Kempf, 19 Jun 1980
Col Lawrence E. Huggins, 24 May 1982;
Col Gerald A. Daniel, 29 May 1984
Col William J. Ball, 19 Mar 1986
Col John O. Mcfalls Iii, 18 Mar 1988
Col Hal M. Hornburg, 23 Apr 1990
Col James C. Wray, 10 Aug 1990 (Acting)
Col Hal M. Hornburg, 15 Mar 1991
Mg Eldon W. Joersz, 31 Jul 1992
Brig Gen Jeffrey R. Grime, 16 Jul 1993

Col George R. Hindmarsh, 8 Feb 1994
Brig Gen Lance L. Smith, 30 Jun 1995
Brig Gen Randall K. Bigum, 11 Jul 1997
Brig Gen Norman R. Seip, 27 Apr 1999
Brig Gen David M. Edgington, 10 May 2001
Brig Gen Eric J. Rosborg, 28 Aug 2002
Col James M. Holmes, 16 Aug 2004
Col Steve Kwast, 8 Sep 2006
Col Patrick Doherty, Apr 2010
Col Jeannie Leavitt, June 2012
Col Mark D. Kelly
Col Robert S. Beale,
Col Kurt C. Helphinstine

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea Summer, 1953

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Jun 2008-30 Apr 2009

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968
16 Sep 1973- 15 Apr 1974
22 Nov 1974-31 Dec 1975
2 Feb 1976-18 Apr 1977
1 Jun 1982-31 May 1984
1 Jan 1987-30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1989-22 Apr 1991
23 Apr 1991-31 Mar 1993
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003
1 Jun 2011-31 May 2012

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

1 Nov 1951-30 Sep 1952
1 Oct 1952-31 Mar 1953

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 4 Operations Group prior to 15 Aug 1947

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, 5 Mar-24 Apr 1944

EMBLEM



4 Fighter-Bomber Wing patch



4 Fighter Interceptor Wing patch



4 Tactical Fighter Wing patch



4 Tactical Fighter Wing patch



4 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem



4 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem: Azure, on a bend Or, a spear garnished with three eagle feathers and shaft flammant to base all proper, all with a diminished bordure Or. The spear symbolizes the 4 Fighter Group and the three divisions of the shield are representative of the three original squadrons - 334, 335, and 336. The flames at the base of the shaft are symbolic of jets. The three eagle feathers attached to the head of the spear represent the three eagle squadrons of the Royal Air Force from which the 4 Fighter Group was formed in 1942. (Approved for 4 Group, 26 Sep 1949 and for 4 Wing, 7 Oct 1952)

MOTTO

Fourth But First

OPERATIONS

Performed tactical operations as part of air defense in the United States, 1947-1948. Flew air defense with own components, and reconnaissance and bombardment with attached 363d Tactical Reconnaissance Group (which itself had two fighter-bomber squadrons attached), 1948-1950. Moved to Japan in Nov 1950. The tactical group moved to South Korea for combat in Dec 1950, but the wing remained in Japan, performing air defense operations. Moved to South Korea in May 1951 and primarily conducted air superiority operations, 7 May 1951-27 Jul 1953. Wing components accounted 502 air-to-air kills, and produced 25 aces. Also performed bomber escort and interdiction missions.

The 4 FIW, moving from the United States, arrived in Japan in late November with its F-86 Sabres aboard aircraft carriers. The primary mission of the wing was air superiority, and the F-86 was capable of battling the Soviet-built MiG-15 on equal terms. From Johnson AB, Japan, detachments deployed in mid-December to bases in South Korea, rotating between South Korea and Japan through February 1951. Then, the 4 FIW moved in stages to Korea, with all elements rejoined by May 1951.

Pilots of the 4, again scored another of their outstanding, victorious, one day performances on 30 November 1951. Thirty-one F-86s spotted 12 TU-2 bombers just south of the Yalu River, escorted both by LA-9 propeller driven fighters and MIG 15 jets. Soon, the sky was filled with burning and exploding Communist planes. At the close of battle, the Sabers had shot down 8 TUs, damaged 3, destroyed 3 of the LA-9s, and 1 MIG without losing a single F-86.

This date, 13 December, was also a red-letter day for the Wing as a whole. In their greatest victory day against the MIGs, the 4's pilots, with 50 F-86s, met more than 100 MIGS in two blazing aerial battles. The results: 12 enemy planes completely "clobbered", 1 probable, and 3 damages.

The Wing, on 4 May 1952, demonstrated the extreme versatility of the F-86 by dive-bombing, with half-ton high explosive bombs, the Communist airstrip at Sinuiju and the marshalling yard at Kunu-ri.

The 4 joined forces with aircraft of other wings and other services, on 23 June 1952, to stage

the biggest joint operation of the war in the destruction of the North Korean hydro-electric power dams. The results of this raid caused a loss of ninety percent of the electrical power in the industrial sections of North Korea.

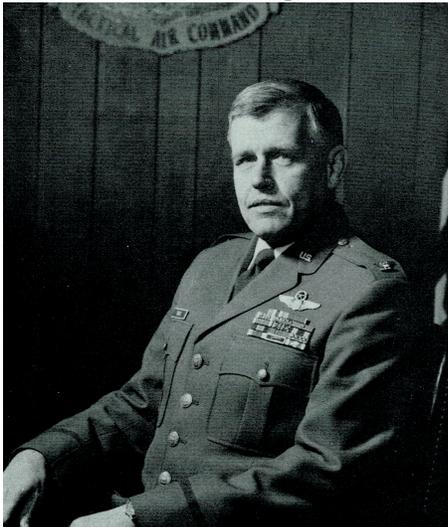
After a comparatively slow month in July, the MIG pilots, in August, took to the air in greater numbers than had been observed in several months. The Fourth's pilots took full advantage of the situation to destroy in the first 8 days of August a total of 17 MIGs. In this same period, only one F-86 was lost although several minor battle damages were sustained.

Provided air defense and reconnaissance in Korea, Japan, Formosa, and the Philippines, 1953-1957.

The unit moved to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFB) in North Carolina, 8 December 1957, picking up a fourth tactical fighter squadron (the 333rd "Lancers" who remained with the wing until reassignment to Pacific Air Forces 4 December 1965) and was redesignated as the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) in July 1958. Aircrews of the 4 TFW flew F-100 Super Sabre aircraft at the new location and, within two years, the wing became the first Air Force unit to convert to F-105 Thunderchief aircraft.

Some of the more significant events of the 1960s included the deployment of the fighter squadrons to McCoy AFB, Florida, during the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962; tours to Southeast Asia in 1965; and transition to F-4D Phantom II aircraft beginning in early 1967.

Operated an F-105 replacement training function, Mar-Nov 1966. Deployed at Kunsan AB, South Korea, following the Pueblo crisis, Jan-Jul 1968.



Col Robert D. Russ



Col Robert S. Beale

In early 1968 when the North Koreans seized the Pueblo, an American ship, elements of the 4th moved to Korea within 72 hours. The 4 TFW engaged in multiple deployments to Southeast Asia beginning in April 1972.

Rotated tactical squadrons to Ubon RTAFB, Thailand, as augmentees of the 8th TFW for combat operations, Apr 1972 until the end of the Southeast Asian conflict.

Operating from Ubon Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, as the first F-4 wing to augment elements of Pacific Air Forces, aircrews of the 4 TFW flew more than 8,000 combat missions, many into the very heart of North Vietnam. The 4 TFW executed Peace Echo operations in October 1973, a response to critical events in the Middle East.

Following on the heels of Constant Guard operations in Southeast Asia, the Fourth executed Peace Echo operations in October 1973, an almost instantaneous response to critical events in the Middle East, which helped restore a balance of power in that troubled part of the world.

Elements of the wing deployed to Norway in 1974 and to Spangdahlem AB, Germany in 1975. The highlight of 1976 came when the wing took first place in the William Tell world-wide weapons competition at Tyndall AFB, Florida. The wing executed short-term deployments to Korea and Japan during 1977 and assumed a dual-based mission (with Ramstein AB, Germany) that year.

Executed short-term deployments to Korea and Germany during 1977 and assumed a dual-based mission that required annual deployments to Europe through 1985.

In late 1980, the wing converted to ARN-101-equipped aircraft. In September 1981 and in October 1983, the wing won the prestigious Gunsmoke meet in the F-4 ARN-101 category. With the assignment of the 337th "Falcons" on 1 April 1982, the 4 TFW was recognized as one of the Air Force's largest operational tactical fighter units. The 337th was inactivated 1 July 1985.

Continued deployments to Denmark and Germany in 1987 and 1989.

In 1988 the 4 TFW began transitioning to the F-15E Strike Eagle. The transition from the F-4E to the F-15E was completed 1 July 1991, making the 4 TFW the first operational F-15E wing in the Air Force. At the height of transition training, deployed 335th and 336th squadrons and support personnel to Saudi Arabia, to participate in the Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, beginning in Aug 1990. The 4 TFW was one of the first units tasked to react to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 2 August 1990. Two F-15E tactical fighter squadrons were deployed to Southwest Asia. The unit earned another first by spearheading nighttime strikes against Iraqi forces 16 January 1991, helping to achieve victory in Persian Gulf War on 28 February 1991.

Continued rotating squadron elements to Southwest Asia during the 1990s, taking part in enforcement of the no-fly zones in Iraq.

Controlled two air refueling squadrons equipped with KC-10, 1991-1995.

In 1994 and 1995 the F-15E formal training unit moved to Seymour Johnson. The 333rd Fighter Squadron returned to Seymour Johnson to accommodate the training mission. To train more F-15E aircrews, the 334th Fighter Squadron became a training squadron on 1 January 1996. The 4 FW is one of two on-call rapid response aerospace expeditionary wings. The 4 FW was the first to assume this mission on Oct. 1, 1999. In response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, the Fourth provided coastal protection missions for Homeland Defense. In October, the 335 FS and 336 FS began flying Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE) sorties, the first of its kind for the wing. The 4 FW received the tasking of providing 12 F-15E aircraft in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), in December. The 335 FS provided the aircraft and aircrew bound for Kuwait.

Added A-10 group in mid-2000.

In October 2001, in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States, the 4 Fighter Wing began flying OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE sorties, the first of its kind for the wing, providing coastal protection for Homeland Defense.

In January 2002, the 4 Fighter Wing arrived in Kuwait in support of OPERATIONS SOUTHERN WATCH and ENDURING FREEDOM, flying missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. On March 1, 2002, OPERATION ANACONDA was launched, and the wing's mission was to provide close air support into Afghanistan. OPERATION ANACONDA ended March 21, 2002. The operation ended 21 March 2003 with the members of the 4 FW greatest highlight being their performance at Roberts Ridge. On 1 September 2002, the 4 FW transitioned into its final on-call AEW. Though the 4 FW will continue as a lead wing when deployed, it will now assimilate into the more predictable 120-day 10 AEF schedule.

Two KC-135Rs and more than 50 F-15Es which evacuated Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., in the wake of Hurricane Arthur, returned to the base on July 4. The aircraft fled to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as the storm prepared to touch down in eastern North Carolina. "The storm passed and our combat assets are safe," said 4 Fighter Wing Commander Col. Mark Slocum. The flexibility of both the 4 FW and the 916th Air Refueling Wing personnel exemplified "what 'one team, one fight' means in our Air Force" and displayed "the remarkable flexibility of our service and the exemplary professionalism of our airmen," he added.

In September 2007 the 336th Fighter Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia, to provide the air power needed to fight Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In January 2008 the 335th Fighter Squadron deployed to continue the OEF mission. Overcoming tremendous obstacles, including a determined enemy, harsh climate and mountainous terrain, both squadrons performed magnificently.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit history. *4 Fighter Interceptor Wing. Fourth But First.* @1952.

Unit yearbook. *Seymour Johnson, Bicentennial.* 1976.