

4th FIGHTER WING



LINEAGE

4th Fighter Wing established, 28 Jul 1947
Organized, 15 Aug 1947
Redesignated 4 Fighter-Interceptor Wing, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 4th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 8 Mar 1955
Redesignated 4th Fighter-Day Wing, 25 Apr 1956
Redesignated 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jul 1958
Redesignated 4th Wing, 22 Apr 1991
Redesignated 4th 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
Kimp'o 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
39th Air Division, 8 Mar 1955
Ninth Air Force, 8 Dec 1957
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1960
Ninth Air Force, 1 Jan 1962

833rd 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
26th Air Division, 20 Feb 1950-19 Nov 1950
314th Air Division, 22 Dec 1950-7 May 1951
Fifth Air Force, 28 Nov 1950-7 Mar 1955
39th Air Division, 1-7 Mar 1955
2nd 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

BG 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
BG 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
BG Joseph H. Moore, 28 Feb 1959
Col Albert L. Evans Jr., 18 Oct 1961
BG 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
BG Jeffrey R. Grime, 16 Jul 1993
Col George R. Hindmarsh, 8 Feb 1994
BG Lance L. Smith, 30 Jun 1995
BG Randall K. Bigum, 11 Jul 1997
BG Norman R. Seip, 27 Apr 1999
BG David M. Edgington, 10 May 2001
BG 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

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

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

None

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 4th Operations Group prior to 15 Aug 1947

Service Streamers

None

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

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 4th Fighter Group and the three divisions of the shield are representative of the three original squadrons - 334th, 335th, and 336th. 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 4th Fighter Group was formed in 1942. (Approved for 4th Group, 26 Sep 1949 and for 4th Wing, 7 Oct 1952)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

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 4th 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 4th FIW moved in stages to Korea, with all

elements rejoined by May 1951.

Pilots of the 4th, 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 4th'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 4th 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.

Returned to the United States in Dec 1957.

Participated in tactical evaluation of the F-105 aircraft, May 1958-Oct 1961.

Deployed in Florida during the Cuban missile crisis, 21 Oct-29 Nov 1962.

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

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.

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.

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

Continued deployments to Denmark and Germany in 1987 and 1989.

Began conversion to F-15E in Dec 1988. 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.

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.

Added A-10 group in mid-2000.

In October 2001, in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States, the 4th 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 4th 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.

In March 2002, A-10s assigned to the 23rd Fighter Group from Pope AFB, N.C., arrived in Jacobabad, Pakistan, and later became the first fixed winged aircraft to enter Afghanistan to fight the war on terrorism.

In January and February 2003, the 4th Fighter Wing joined other operational units in Southeast Asia. Two F-15E fighter squadrons deployed to Southwest Asia in support of OSW, which would later transition into support for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. On April 18, 2003, members of the 4th Fighter Wing returned heroically to Seymour Johnson AFB.

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 4th Fighter Wing Commander Col. Mark Slocum. The flexibility of both the 4th 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.



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

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