

4 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

4 Fighter Group established, 22 Aug 1942
Activated, 12 Sep 1942
Inactivated, 10 Nov 1945
Activated, 9 Sep 1946
Redesignated 4 Fighter Interceptor Group, 20 Jan 1950
Redesignated 4 Fighter-Bomber Group, 8 Mar 1955
Redesignated 4 Fighter-Day Group, 25 Apr 1956
Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957
Redesignated 4 Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 4 Operations Group, 17 Apr 1991
Activated, 22 Apr 1991

STATIONS

Bushey Hall, England, 12 Sep 1942
Debden, England, 29 Sep 1942
Steeple Morden, England, 23 Jul-4 Nov 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 9-10 Nov 1945
Selfridge Field, MI, 9 Sep 1946
Andrews Field (later, AFB), MD, 26 Mar 1947-11 Apr 1950
Langley AFB, VA, 30 Apr 1949-11 Apr 1950
Langley AFB, VA, 6 May 1950
New Castle County Aprt, DE, 14 Aug-10 Nov 1950
Johnson AB, Japan, 13 Dec 1950
Suwon AB, South Korea, 30 Mar 1951
Kimpo AB, South Korea, 23 Aug 1951
Chitose AB, Japan, 25 Nov 1954-8 Dec 1957
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 22 Apr 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Fighter Command, 12 Sep 1942
4 Air Defense (later, 65 Fighter) Wing, 1 Jul 1943-Nov 1945
Fifteenth Air Force, 9 Sep 1946
Strategic Air Command, 31 Mar 1947
4 Fighter (later, 4 Fighter Interceptor
4 Fighter Bomber; 4 Fighter-Day) Wing, 15 Aug 1947-8 Dec 1957
4 Wing (later 4 Fighter Wing), 22 Apr 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Spitfire V, 1942-1943
P-47, 1943
P-51, 1944
P-47, 1947
P-80, 1947-1949
F-51, 1948-1949
F-86, 1949-1957
F-15, 1991
KC-10, 1991-1995

COMMANDERS

Col Edward W. Anderson, 27 Sep 1942
Col Chesley G. Peterson, 20 Aug 1943
Col Donald J. M. Blakeslee, 1 Jan 1944
Lt Col James A. Clark, Jr., 7 Sep 1944 (Acting)
Lt Col Clairborne H. Kinnard, Jr., 15 Sep 1944 (Acting)
Col Donald J. M. Blakeslee, 20 Oct 1944
Lt Col Clairborne H. Kinnard Jr., 3 Nov 1944
Lt Col Harry J. Dayhuff, 7 Dec 1944
Col Everett W. Stewart, 21 Feb 1945
Lt Col William E. Becker, Sep 1945-Unkn
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 9 Sep 1946

Lt Col Benjamin S. Preston, Jr., 10 Aug 1948
Col Albert L. Evans, Jr., 1 Jun 1949
Col John C. Meyer, Sep 1950
Lt Col Glenn T. Eagleston, 8 May 1951
Lt Col Bruce W. Hinton, 1 Jul 1951 (Acting)
Lt Col Glenn T. Eagleston, 10 Jul 1951
Col Benjamin S. Preston, Jr., 26 Jul 1951
Col Walker M. Mahurin, 18 Mar 1952
Lt Col Ralph G. Kuhn, 14 May 1952
Col Royal N. Baker, 1 Jun 1952
Col Thomas D. Dejarnette, 18 Mar 1953
Col Henry S. Tyler Jr., 28 Dec 1953
Lt Col Dean W. Dutrack, 19 Jul 1954
Col William D. Gilchrist, 9 Aug 1954
Col George I. Ruddell, 4 May 1955
Col Lester J. Johnsen, 22 Aug 1956-25 Oct 1957
None (Not Manned), 25 Oct-8 Dec 1957
Col David W. Eberly, 22 Apr 1991
Col George R. Hindmarsh, 3 Jan 1992
Col Mark C. Masters, 10 Dec 1993
Col David M. Edgington, 14 Jul 1995
Col M. Tim Cantwell, 24 Jan 1997
Col Dennis C. Carel, 1 Dec 1997
Col Ralph J. Jodice, 14 Dec 1999
Col John W. Hesterman Iii, 7 May 2001
Col Darryl Roberson, 9 Jul 2002
Col Michael Duvall, 6 Aug 2004
Col Eric L. Nelson, 21 Jul 2006
Col John T. Hruba, 12 Jun 2008
Col Brian W. Kirkwood, 30 Jul 2010
Col Michael Koscheski, 8 Jun 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

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

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
France, 5 Mar-24 Apr 1944
Korea, 22 Apr-8 Jul 1951
Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951

Meritorious Unit Award: 1 Jun 2008-30 Apr 2010

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

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

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

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

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. (Approved for 4 Group, 26 Sep 1949, and for 4 Wing, 7 Oct 1952)

MOTTO

FOURTH BUT FIRST

OPERATIONS

Activated in England in Sep 1942; initial flying cadre were former U.S. members of RAF Eagle Squadrons. Served in combat over Europe from Oct 1942 to Apr 1945. Destroyed more enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground than any other fighter group of the Eighth Air Force. First group to escort U.S. bombers over Berlin on 4 Mar 1944. Earned Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for aggressiveness in attacking enemy aircraft and air bases, 5 Mar-24 Apr 1944. Escorted bombers in the first shuttle bombing mission from Britain to Russia on 21 Jun 1944. Supported the airborne invasion of Holland in Sep. Participated in the Battle of the Bulge, Dec 1944-Jan 1945. Covered the airborne assault across the Rhine in Mar 1945. Returned to the U.S. and inactivated on 10 Nov 1945.

First Mission, 2 Oct 1942

Last Mission, 25 Apr 1945

Aircraft missing in action, 241

Enemy aircraft claims 583½, air; 469 ground

Trained for air combat, 1947-1950.

In December 1950, the group (now designated the 4 Fighter- Interceptor Group) was the first

unit to commit F-86 Sabre jets to that conflict. The 4 destroyed 502 enemy aircraft (54 percent of the total destroyed by the USAF), becoming the top fighter unit of the Korean War. Escorted bombers, made fighter sweeps, engaged in interdiction of the enemy's lines of communication, flew armed reconnaissance sorties, conducted counter-air patrols, and provided close support for ground forces. From 1 May to 3 Nov 1951, rotated squadrons to perform air defense missions from Japan.

A portion of the 4 FIG entered combat with F-86s from Taegu AB, South Korea, between December 15, 1950, and January 2, 1951. Another group detachment operated from Taegu, January 17-February 1. The entire group began operations in March 1951 from Suwon AB, South Korea. The 4 FIG's pilots primarily conducted counterair patrols, destroying enemy aircraft whenever possible. During April 1952, they confronted 540 MiG-15s and destroyed twenty. Besides combat air patrol and bomber escort missions, the group's Sabres attacked targets spread across the northwestern Korean landscape, from airfields at Sunuiju and Uiju on the Yalu to marshaling yards farther south at Kunu-ri. Its pilots also flew armed reconnaissance sorties and provided close support for ground forces.

Provided air defense for Japan, 1953-1957. In Feb 1955, shot down two of eight North Korean MIGs that attacked an escort mission.

Elements rotated to Southwest Asia after the first Gulf War to enforce the no-fly zones in Iraq.

Controlled air refueling assets, 1991-1995.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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