

## 4<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP



### LINEAGE

4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group established, 22 Aug 1942  
Activated, 12 Sep 1942  
Inactivated, 10 Nov 1945  
Activated, 9 Sep 1946  
Redesignated 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Group, 20 Jan 1950  
Redesignated 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group, 8 Mar 1955  
Redesignated 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Day Group, 25 Apr 1956  
Inactivated, 8 Dec 1957  
Redesignated 4<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 4<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> Air Defense (later, 65<sup>th</sup> Fighter) Wing, 1 Jul 1943-Nov 1945  
Fifteenth Air Force, 9 Sep 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 31 Mar 1947  
4<sup>th</sup> Fighter (later, 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor  
4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber; 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Day) Wing, 15 Aug 1947-8 Dec 1957  
4<sup>th</sup> Wing (later 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing), 22 Apr 1991

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

Spitfire V, 1942-1943  
P-47C, 1943  
P-47D  
P-51B, 1944  
P-51D  
P-51K  
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  
LTC James A. Clark, Jr., 7 Sep 1944 (acting)  
LTC Clairborne H. Kinnard, Jr., 15 Sep 1944 (acting)  
Col Donald J. M. Blakeslee, 20 Oct 1944  
LTC Clairborne H. Kinnard Jr., 3 Nov 1944  
LTC Harry J. Dayhuff, 7 Dec 1944  
Col Everett W. Stewart, 21 Feb 1945  
LTC William E. Becker, Sep 1945-unkn  
Col Ernest H. Beverly, 9 Sep 1946  
LTC Col Benjamin S. Preston, Jr., 10 Aug 1948  
Col Albert L. Evans, Jr., 1 Jun 1949  
Col John C. Meyer, Sep 1950  
LTC Glenn T. Eagleston, 8 May 1951  
LTC Bruce W. Hinton, 1 Jul 1951 (acting)  
LTC Glenn T. Eagleston, 10 Jul 1951  
Col Benjamin S. Preston, Jr., 26 Jul 1951

Col Walker M. Mahurin, 18 Mar 1952  
LTC 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  
LTC 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

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **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**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

France, 5 Mar-24 Apr 1944

Korea, 22 Apr-8 Jul 1951

Korea, 9 Jul-27 Nov 1951

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**

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

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 4th Group, 26 Sep 1949, and for 4th Wing, 7 Oct 1952)

## **MOTTO**

FOURTH BUT FIRST

## **NICKNAME**

## **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. Served in combat in Korea Dec 1950-Jul 1953; 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 4th 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 4th 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.



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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit history *4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing. Fourth But First.* @1952.