



# News Release

# United States Air Force

4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY: 4 FW WILL LAUNCH 70 AIRCRAFT TO HONOR WWII HISTORY**

**SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.** -- The 4th Fighter Wing will pay homage to WWII history on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. by launching 70 F-15E Strike Eagles in a training mission to destroy more than 1,000 targets on bombing ranges across North Carolina.

During World War II on April 16, 1945 the 4th Fighter Group destroyed 105 enemy aircraft as part of an 8th Air Force mission involving 1,252 bombers and 913 fighters. This mission catapulted the 4th Fighter Group to 1,016 enemy aircraft destroyed, more than any group or wing in U.S. Air Force history.

On the same day, nearly 70 years later, the 4th Fighter Wing will launch 70 aircraft to achieve this same objective. In 1945 it took thousands of aircraft to destroy 1,016 targets: the 4th Fighter Wing will achieve the same goal in 2012 with only 70 F-15Es. U.S. Air Force Col. Patrick Doherty, 4th Fighter Wing commander, will lead the launch.

The 4th Fighter Wing is home to four fighter squadrons, three of which were part of the original Eagle Squadrons, American volunteers who flew as part of the Royal Air Force in the early days of the war.

“We proudly carry on the legacy of the 4th Fighter Group’s victory today with the F-15E Strike Eagle,” said Doherty. “Even though today’s fight is different, the dedication of our Airmen has not wavered and we are still Fourth but First.”

Media agencies are requested to RSVP no later than Friday, April 13 at 12:00 p.m. if interested in attending this event. Agencies must provide contact information to receive the most up-to-date information in the event of changes. Doherty will be available for a 10-minute news conference as he steps to the lead jet at approximately 8:45 a.m.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the 4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at (919) 722-0027 or [4fw.pa@seymourjohnson.af.mil](mailto:4fw.pa@seymourjohnson.af.mil).