



# The Return



*Above, an Oregon Air National Guard F-15C from the 142nd Fighter Wing launches an AIM-120 AMRAAM during a live weapons-fire event.*

*At left, Capt. Brad Ertmer, 325th Fighter Wing, Tyndall AFB, Fla., signals to crew chiefs after returning from a William Tell sortie.*

USAF's top air-to-air competition showcased the F-15 in air dominance and air sovereignty missions.

# of William Tell

Photos by USAF photographers

*The Air Force in November staged William Tell, its premier air-to-air weapons meet, at Tyndall AFB, Fla. Named for the legendary Swiss archer, the competition tested aircrew performance in the air dominance and air sovereignty missions, while evaluating weapons employment and tactics. The meet, which ran from Nov. 8 through Nov. 19, 2004, also featured competition in weapons loading, maintenance, and weapons direction. Because of USAF's high operations pace, it was the first William Tell in eight years.*

*In the photo at right, an unidentified aircrew member in an F-15C ascends from Tyndall for a live weapons-fire exercise. Below, CMSgt. Mike Cannon, a judge from PACAF, observes as SSgt. Kevin Skaggs (left) and A1C Matt Baker, both of the 95th Aircraft Maintenance Flight at Tyndall, review weapon documentation in a flight-line load event.*



USAF photo by SSgt. Tanika Bell



**Air Force officials decided to hold William Tell, which first ran in 1954, in 2004 to help spread new air superiority tactics. The competitors were members of: 1st Fighter Wing (Air Combat Command), Langley AFB, Va.; 3rd Wing (Pacific Air Forces), Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; 48th FW (US Air Forces in Europe), RAF Lakenheath, UK; 142nd FW (Air National Guard), Portland Arpt., Ore.; and 325th FW (Air Education and Training Command), Tyndall.**

**“Adversaries” included members of the 64th Aggressor Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev., flying F-16s.**



USAF photo by A1C Daniel DeCook

USAF photo by SSgt. Colette Bennett



USAF photo by TSgt. Ben Bloker

**Above, Capt. Jonathan Gration, a pilot of the 1st Fighter Wing, grabs his helmet for a sortie designed to pit four USAF F-15Cs against multiple enemy aircraft at varying levels and distances.**

**William Tell 2004 pitted F-15C pilots, maintainers, and weapons directors and loaders against live and simulated “enemies” in realistic combat scenarios. Action included sorting bandits from friendlies on a combat air patrol, air-to-air live fire against drones, air interdiction of various enemy aircraft, and a scramble for Noble Eagle, the domestic air defense operation.**

**Above, crew chiefs from PACAF’s 3rd Wing marshal their F-15Cs.**

**At right, SrA. Nick Hofmann, with Lakenheath’s 48th Fighter Wing, conducts an aircraft exhaust inspection.**



USAF photo by SSgt. Colette Bennett

## William Tell Scorecard

Major Command	Top Team	Top Aircrew	Top Element	Top Weapons Director Team	Top Maintenance Team	Top Weapons Load Team
ACC	37,595.5	15,304	8,195	11,200	8,905	2,186.5
AETC	36,349.0	13,294	7,683	10,750	10,345	1,960.0
ANG	37,790.5	14,579	9,007	9,275	11,390	2,546.5
PACAF	39,834.5	13,931	9,418	11,150	11,160	3,593.5
USAFE	36,914.0	13,308	7,926	9,900	11,315	2,391.0

  

Top Team PACAF	Top Aircrew ACC	Top Element PACAF	Top Gun Capt. Pete Fesler, PACAF			
Profile I PACAF Two F-15s vs. four aggressors	Profile II ANG Two F-15s attack a drone, firing live AIM-120 and AIM-9 missiles	Profile III ACC Four F-15s vs. an unknown aggressor force	Profile IV ANG Each F-15 fires 20 mm gun at a towed target	Profile V AETC Operation Noble Eagle scenario, two F-15s scramble to intercept an intruder		
Top Weapons Director Team ACC		Top Scope Capt. Daniel Wrazien, ACC				
Top Maintenance Team ANG		Top Weapons Load Team PACAF				

USAF photo by TSgt. Ben Bloker

*Each weapons director team has two directors. They normally work aboard surveillance aircraft such as the E-3 Sentry or E-8C Joint STARS and direct fighters to enemy aircraft. During William Tell, the directors work in a computer-packed building at Tyndall.*

*In photo at right, TSgt. Adam Melerski (left), a weapons director with the Oregon ANG, directs Air Guard F-15C pilots to targets. To his right, SrA. Jonathon Dennis monitors the action, serving as a safety observer. Dennis is with the test support squadron at Tyndall. Below, Melerski continues the action.*



USAF photos by SSgt. Joset Cole



*During the meet, each team's designated weapons directors compete in every flight profile except Profile IV Combat Banner, in which pilots fire their guns at a 40-foot-by-8-foot banner towed by a Learjet.*

**Officers and enlisted members of Tyndall's Tabulation and Verification Office review computerized score sheets used during the competition. The office then posts all scores.**

**To determine the Top Team, the evaluators total the points from Profiles I through V as well as those awarded to maintainers and weapons directors and loaders.**



USAF photo by SSgt. Josef Cole

USAF photo by SSgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.



**Below, SrA. Mike Raimondo, SSgt. Jacob Watson, and A1C Joseph Ragadio, weapons loaders with the 1st Fighter Wing, carry an AIM-9 missile to a waiting F-15.**



USAF photo by TSgt. Ben Bloker

**The weapons load competition consists of two static munitions loads. The teams begin with 5,000 points, from which evaluators deduct points for violations of safety procedures, noncompliance with technical orders, and so forth.**

**Above, SSgt. Jason Phillips, TSgt. Mark Pyle, and MSgt. Ken Harris, a team from ANG's 142nd Fighter Wing, lift a missile off a fighter.**

**At right, SMSgt. James Dean, a competition judge, marks his evaluation of the 1st Fighter Wing.**



USAF photo by A1C Daniel DeCook



USAF photo by SSgt. Kenney Kennemer

**Above, during Profile V—a simulated Operation Noble Eagle nighttime scramble—a pilot climbs into his F-15C as crew chiefs get the fighter ready for takeoff.**

**The five flying profiles rely heavily on aircraft maintainers, who are judged daily on their procedures and aircraft performance. Individual maintenance teams can earn a total of 2,500 points per profile.**

**At right, members of Tyndall's 95th Aircraft Maintenance Flight work on a wing aircraft for the competition.**



USAF photo by TSgt. Lisa M. Zunzanyika

USAF photo by SSgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.



**At left, CMSgt. Pete Romeo, a judge, discusses rules with ANG team members before the live ammunition load competition.**

**At right, SSgt. Nick Pomonis, a 95th AMF crew chief, preflights an F-15.**



USAF photo by TSgt. Lisa M. Zunzanyika



*At left, one of the “bad” guys, flying an F-16 from the 64th Aggressor Squadron at Nellis, prepares to take off.*

*Below, one of the QF-4 “aggressors” from Tyndall’s 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron takes off.*



USAF photo by SSgt. Tanika Bell

*At right, Capt. Kevin Wenger, from USAFE’s 48th Fighter Wing, signals to crew chiefs before brake release.*

*Teams from USAFE and PACAF were the only ones to employ the AIM-9X, the latest version of the Sidewinder missile.*

*PACAF’s 3rd Wing was the first operational unit to receive the AIM-9X and its accompanying helmet cueing system and the new V2 electronically scanned radar array.*



USAF photo by SSgt. Colette Bennett



*At left, an F-15C pilot from Lakenheath launches an AIM-120A AMRAAM at a subscale drone during a live weapons-fire event.*

*Arranging the 2004 competition was the task of Tyndall’s 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, whose commander, Col. Derek Hess, said the unit’s airmen pulled it together over the past year “all without skipping a beat doing our normal mission.”*





USAF photo by TSgt. Ben Bloker

**Above, an F-15D that collects telemetry data returns from a live weapons-fire exercise.**

**During Profile II, a live-fire test, two-ship F-15C teams were judged on their ability to launch AIM-120A and AIM-9M missiles at subscale drones.**

**At right, TSgt. Michael Long, a crew chief with ANG's 142nd Fighter Wing, prepares his fighter for launch.**

**Below, 1st Fighter Wing pilots check score posting via a video feed.**

**At right, below, ANG F-15s await takeoff.**



USAF photo by SSgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.



USAF photo by TSgt. Ben Bloker



USAF photo by SSgt. Dennis J. Henry Jr.

**Competition director Lt. Col. Edward Nagler said the meet has "left its roots as an air intercept event to become an air superiority event," representing "operations today." ■**