

## THIS DAY IN AIR FORCE ACADEMY HISTORY - KAFA

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10 January 1969 -- Lieutenant Colonel Howard Hitchens Jr., The Director of Instructional Technology in the Dean of the Faculty's office, sends a letter to Academy agencies addressing the possibility of the Academy having its own radio station and inquiring about their interest in providing educational programming to the station. Responses were due back no later than 17 January 1969. Exactly two years later, on 17 January 1971, KAFA went on the air.

16 October 1970 -- Academy officials apply for a broadcast license for a cadet radio station. The message requested that the call letters be either KAFA or KDET. The license was granted, with the call letters KAFA.

30 October 1970 -- The Office of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force sends a message to the Academy approving the startup of its radio station. In part, the message said, "Call sign KAFA has been assigned by the FCC for use at USAFA FM broadcast facility." The message also relayed the FCC's approval of 89.7 megahertz as the station's frequency. The station would have its first broadcast on 17 January 1971.

17 January 1971 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station, begins broadcasting at 6:57 p.m., under the direction of Cadet John Severski, Class of '71. The station operated with 10 watts of power at the frequency 89.7 on the FM dial. KAFA currently broadcasts at 97.7.

20 November 1971 -- KAFA broadcasts an away football game for the first time. Cadets Gary Dutelle, Class of '73, and Ned Schoek, Class of '74, called the 53-17 loss to the University of Colorado in Boulder.

26 April 1974 -- The Academy radio station, KAFA, kicks off a charity marathon at 1630. The fundraiser ran for two days and raised nearly \$1,400 for a local high school girl who had been seriously injured in an automobile accident. Events included a cadet versus Air Officers Commanding (AOC) basketball game.

28 February 1975 -- KAFA, the Academy's radio station, begins its second annual charity marathon. Cadet disk jockeys stayed on the air the entire 54 ½ hour duration of the event, which raised \$6,500 for a local family.

22 February 1980 -- The *Falconews* reports that KAFA, the Academy radio station, is closed until transition week for renovation and equipment replacement.

13 February 1989 -- KAFA, the cadet radio station, returns to the air after a long absence. The station broadcast at 104.5 FM.

23 October 1993 -- The *Colorado Springs Gazette* reports that KAFA, the Academy's radio station, has changed frequencies, moving from 104.5 to 104.3 on the FM dial.

21 January 2006 -- The *Colorado Springs Gazette* reports that the Academy has agreed to switch the frequency (104.3 FM) of its radio station, KAFA, to accommodate another radio station. Academy Director of Communications, Johnny Whitaker, Class of '73, was quoted in the article as saying finding a new home for the station could take several months. In June 2006, the station moved to 97.7 FM.

31 May 2006 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station, broadcasts live from graduation for the first time. Station manager Dave West and several cadets reported from the Falcon Stadium Press Box, providing general information about and coverage of the ceremony, conducting interviews with parents and senior officers, and updating traffic and weather.

1 May 2008 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station broadcasting at 97.7 FM, begins streaming on-line. The Association of Graduates funds the streaming, which can be accessed through the AOG website, [www.usafa.org](http://www.usafa.org).

26 June 2008 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station, broadcasts live from in-processing for the first time. Station manager Dave West provided listeners with updates and interviewed Academy staff members and parents at Doolittle Hall.

29 October 2013 -- The Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Mark Welsh, Class of '76, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Cody conduct an in-studio interview and town hall meeting that are broadcast on KAFA, the cadet radio station.

23 July 2018 -- At 6:00 a.m., the Academy radio station KAFA begins broadcasting from its new studios in Fairchild Hall. The station moved from Vandenberg Hall, where it had been located since its inception on 17 January 1971. During the transition, which lasted from 18 July until 10 August, the station never went off the air.

#### STILL NEED INFO

Exact date when KAFA went off the air (early 1980s, presumably).