

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 and the frequency 89.7.

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.

13 February 1989 -- KAFA, the cadet radio station, returns to the air after a long absence.

31 May 2006 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station, broadcasts live from graduation for the first time.

23-30 June 2006 -- KAFA, the Air Force Academy radio station, changes its frequency from 104.3 to 97.7, where it remains to this day.

1 May 2008 -- KAFA, the Academy radio station broadcasting at 97.7 FM, begins streaming on-line. The Association of Graduates funds the streaming.

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.

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 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 KAFM begins broadcasting from its new studios in Fairchild Hall. The station moved from Vandenberg Hall, where it had been located since its inception in 1971. During the transition, which lasted from 18 July until 10 August, the station never went off the air.