

Here are some of the events that defined 1947.

The Year the Air

In 1947, the US was poised to take on post-war leadership of the free world. It was also the year Jackie Robinson (right and below) broke the major league baseball color barrier. Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in a Bell X-1 (shown at right under the belly of a B-29). The House Un-American Activities Committee held hearings on Communist influence in Hollywood, drawing a protest from stars (l-r) June Havoc, Humphrey Bogart, and Lauren Bacall.



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Present at the swearing in of Stuart Symington (left) as the first Secretary of the Air Force were (l-r) Army Secretary Kenneth C. Royall, Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal, Chief Justice Fred Vinson (administering the oath), and Navy Secretary John Sullivan. Background photo: Immigrants to the US gaze at New York City's skyline.

Background photo: Hulton Getty

Force Was Born!

THE NATION



UPI/Corbis/Bettmann

- January 21: The White House announces that the War and Navy Departments have agreed to merge the armed forces and create a separate Air Force. President Harry S. Truman calls it "an admirable compromise."
- February 18: Congress of Industrial Organizations accepts invitation from American Federation of Labor to discuss a merger, a move that eventually results in the AFL-CIO.
- February: Blizzard of 1947 drops 25.8 inches of snow on New York City in 20 hours.
- April 9-23: Congress of Racial Equality sponsors interstate bus ride to test 1946 Supreme Court ruling that black passengers could not be forced to ride in back.
- April 10: Jackie Robinson, 28, breaks color line and joins the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black baseball player in the major leagues in modern times. Robinson later is voted Rookie of the Year.
- April 10: Manix Earthquake, 6.4 on the Richter Scale, rocks southern California.
- June 23: Congress, overriding the veto of President Truman, enacts the Taft-Hartley Act restricting union activity, a serious defeat for organized labor.
- June 30: At the end of Fiscal 1947, US possesses only 13 atomic weapons, having demobilized and permitted its arsenal to dwindle.
- September 18: Federal government formally establishes the Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency.
- October 20: The House Un-American Activities Committee begins hearings on Communist influence in Hollywood. Nineteen Hollywood personalities are subpoenaed to testify about knowledge of possible Communist activities.

THE WORLD



Top to bottom, fascinating figures from 1947: industrialist Henry Ford (and grandson Henry Ford II), gangster Al Capone, author Jack Kerouac, Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi, and newlyweds Elizabeth Windsor and Philip Mountbatten.

March 12: President Truman announces a program of economic and military aid to Greece and Turkey to fend off Soviet-backed revolts. US willingness to assist such embattled nations later becomes known as the Truman Doctrine.

April 1947: Daily German food intake falls to about 1,000 calories, one-third less than the minimum for sustaining life. Workers collapse at their jobs for lack of food.

June 5: In a speech at Harvard, Secretary of State George C. Marshall launches aid program, later to be called the Marshall Plan, through which US eventually provides a total of \$13 billion to revive Western Europe.

July 1947: George Kennan, in a famous *Foreign Affairs* article written under the pseudonym "X," proposes a policy of "containment" toward the Soviet Union.

August 15: India, led by Mohandas Gandhi, and Pakistan gain independence from Britain. India becomes the world's largest democracy; Pakistan becomes the world's largest Muslim nation.

Fall 1947: Soviet spy Klaus Fuchs begins providing to Soviet intelligence agent Col. Alexander Feklisov, his case officer, a theoretical outline for creating a hydrogen bomb, plus initial drafts for its development at the stage that then prevailed in Britain and America.

November 29: UN General Assembly votes for partition of Palestine and preservation of unified Jerusalem under UN administration. Zionist representatives reluctantly accept, but Palestine and the Arab nations do not, and war breaks out within months.

Late December 1947: *Time's* 1947 Man of the Year is George C. Marshall.



1947 BIRTHS

- January 19: Dolly Parton, singer.
- January 31: Nolan Ryan, pitcher, all-time strikeout leader.
- February 4: Dan Quayle, former US Vice President.
- March 19: Glenn Close, actress.
- March 25: Reginald Dwight (Elton John), musician.
- April 12: David Letterman, TV talk show host.
- April 16: Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), basketball great.
- June 19: Salman Rushdie, author.
- July 2: Luci Baines Johnson, Presidential daughter.
- July 9: O. J. Simpson, football star, defendant of the century.
- July 30: Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor, muscle man.
- August 14: Danielle Steel, author.
- September 21: Stephen King, author.
- October 26: Hillary Rodham, lawyer, First Lady.
- December 17: Johnny Bench, baseball Hall of Famer.
- December 18: Steven Spielberg, director/producer.

DEATHS

- January 25: Al Capone, gangster, suffering from syphilis and mentally incapacitated, dies of a combination of stroke and pneumonia at his home on Palm Island near Miami.
- April 7: Henry Ford, automobile giant.
- August 21: Sen. Theodore G. "The Man" Bilbo of Mississippi, one of the twentieth century's most notorious segregationists.
- September 20: Fiorello La Guardia, former World War I US Air Service pilot, New York Congressman, and mayor of New York City.

LITTLE NOTED AT THE TIME

QUOTES



Secretary of State
George C. Marshall

"I'm very much afraid that we're going to be given a pair of eyebrow tweezers with which to hunt elephants. . . . A second-best defense is only as good as a second-best poker hand."—Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, AAF deputy commander, speaking to the Wings Club in New York in early 1947 about military unpreparedness.

"I never could be drafted."—George C. Marshall, forty-ninth Secretary of State, definitively ruling out any possibility that he might be talked into a 1948 Presidential bid.

"In some sort of crude sense, which no vulgarity, no humor, no overstatement can quite extinguish, the physicists have known sin, and this is a knowledge they cannot lose."—J. Robert Oppenheimer, leader of the US World War II atomic bomb effort, claiming the Manhattan Project team members felt both proud of their scientific achievement and appalled by the destructive force they had unleashed.

- Flatbush National Bank in New York comes up with first known universal third-party credit card.
- Term "flying saucer" used to describe unidentified flying objects reported in Washington state.
- Object crashes in the desert on July 2 outside Roswell, N. M. First announcement by military is that a flying saucer has crashed, but it is later determined that it had been a weather balloon.
- John D. Rockefeller, Jr., donates land on New York City's East River for the United Nations headquarters building.
- Ajax cleanser introduced to US consumers.
- Abraham Levitt and his two sons, William and Alfred, break ground on Long Island, N. Y., for development called Levittown. The Levitts eventually mass-produce 17,400 affordable homes in the opening shot of the postwar suburban housing boom.
- Gibson markets first Les Paul electric guitar, which would become standard equipment for rock musicians.
- Col. William Hendricks founds the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program in Los Angeles, collecting some 5,000 toys during a two-week campaign before Christmas.



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Happy trails for "Hap" Arnold, in retirement at his ranch (above). In 1947, land was donated for a United Nations headquarters in New York City; groundbreaking (above right) began in 1948.

1947 PASSAGES

- Elizabeth Windsor, daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of England, marries Phillip Mountbatten.
- Sugar rationing, initiated at the start of World War II, comes to an end.
- The last trolley car in New York City retires as diesel buses enter service.
- Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady take the first of the many cross-country trips that provide grist for Kerouac's *On the Road*, classic novel of the beat era.
- Barbara Walker of Memphis, Tenn., Miss America 1947, receives her crown while wearing a swimsuit—the last honoree to do so.
- Cuban secret police in Havana arrest Charles "Lucky" Luciano, the former New York vice overlord and Mafia murderer, shortly after he leaves his luxurious home in the Miramar residential area.
- US Patent Office issues patent on Norden bombsight to inventor Carl L. Norden—17 years after his first application was filed.
- AAF designator "P" for "pursuit" was changed to "F" for "fighter."
- Gen. Henry H. "Hap" Arnold is retired, living on a 40-acre ranch, "El Rancho Feliz," near Sonoma, Calif.

GREAT DISCOVERIES

Bedouin shepherd searching for a stray goat in caves on the northwest coast of the Dead Sea stumbles upon jars containing ancient Hebrew and Aramaic texts. The Dead Sea Scrolls become the most sensational archaeological find of the century.

Edwin Colbert and a team from the American Museum of Natural History make a spectacular find at Ghost Ranch, N. M.—more than a dozen complete skeletons of *Coelophysis*, a previously little-known Triassic dinosaur.

Bell Labs physicists invent the transistor, which will radically transform global electronics and communications. Later, Nobel Prize goes to physicists William Shockley, John Bardeen, and Walter Brattain. Dennis Gabor, a Hungarian engineer working in England, invents holography.



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Counterclockwise: The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947. Radio airs first 30-minute episodes of "Sky King" (here portrayed by actor Grant Kirby with actress Gloria Winters in a later TV version). Groundbreaking took place for Levittown (shown in 1949). Schoolchildren pledge allegiance at a rural school, and a local newspaper notes a curious event in Roswell, N. M.



Korbi Ruohomas from Black Star



ANNUAL SALARIES

Average auto worker in 1997 dollars \$20,410 (now \$39,540).
 Average teacher in 1997 dollars \$19,450 (now \$37,850).
 President Truman in 1997 dollars \$552,570 (now \$200,000).
 Chairman of General Motors in 1997 dollars \$1.7 million (now \$3.3 million).
 Member of Congress in 1997 dollars \$92,090 (now \$133,600).
 Starting mail carrier in 1997 dollars \$15,470 (now \$26,060).
 Average Social Security payment in 1997 dollars \$2,640 (now \$8,640).
 Masters Golf Tournament winner in 1997 dollars \$18,420 (now \$450,000).

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WHAT THINGS COST

A pair of blue jeans in 1997 dollars \$22 (now \$40).
 Annual Harvard tuition in 1997 dollars \$3,870 (now \$19,770).
Compton's Encyclopedia in 1997 dollars \$700 (now \$50 on CD-ROM).
 Washing machine in 1997 dollars \$1,770 (now \$380).
 Automatic clothes dryer in 1997 dollars \$1,620 (now \$270).
 Refrigerator in 1997 dollars \$1,470 (now \$700).
 Black-and-white TV in 1997 dollars \$3,280 (now \$300 for color).
 Computer in 1997 dollars \$3.7 million (now \$2,500).
 Pair of stockings in 1997 dollars \$74 (now \$4).
 Day in intensive care hospital unit in 1997 dollars \$260 (now \$2,300).
 Round of golf at Pebble Beach in 1997 dollars \$15 (now \$225).
 One gallon of milk, one loaf of bread, a dozen eggs, a pound of butter, and a pound of ground beef in 1997 dollars \$23 (now \$8).
 Pack of Camel cigarettes in 1997 dollars \$1.50 (now \$2.90).
 Fifth of Jim Beam in 1997 dollars \$37 (now \$11).
 Median home in 1997 dollars \$49,330 (now \$131,500).

1947 VITAL STATISTICS

US population 144.1 million (now 267.6 million).
 Percent of work force in unions 33.7 (now 14.9 percent).
 Percent of population 25 and over with high school degree 33 (now 80 percent).
 Percent of population 25 and over with college degree 5 (now 22 percent).
 Percent of homes with TV 9 (now 98 percent).
 Number of US farms 5.9 million (now 2.1 million).
 Number of grocery stores 529,000 (now 128,000).
 Median family income in 1997 dollars \$19,700 (now \$41,910).
 Federal budget in 1997 dollars \$254 billion (now \$1.6 trillion).
 Federal budget surplus in 1997 dollars \$29 billion (now \$164 billion deficit).
 Top Social Security tax for employees in 1997 dollars \$220 (now \$4,710).

Roswell Daily Record

RECORD PHONES
 Business Office 2388
 News Department 2387

ROSWELL, N.M., MONDAY, JULY 9, 1947

Claims Army Is Stacking Courts Martial

Indiana Senator Lays Protest Before Patterson

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—Sen. James H. Doolittle, Indiana Republican, today laid a protest before the War Relocation Authority, charging that the War Relocation Authority is stacking courts martial against Japanese-Americans.

Doolittle's protest was directed to the War Relocation Authority, which is in charge of the relocation of Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

Doolittle said that the War Relocation Authority is stacking courts martial against Japanese-Americans, and that this is a violation of the War Relocation Authority's duty to provide for the welfare of the Japanese-Americans.

Doolittle said that he would continue to protest until the War Relocation Authority stops stacking courts martial against Japanese-Americans.

RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region

House Passes Tax Slash by Large Margin

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—The House today passed a bill to slash taxes by a large margin, 377-10.

The bill would reduce the top marginal rate on income tax from 94 percent to 70 percent.

The bill would also reduce the top marginal rate on estate tax from 77 percent to 55 percent.

The bill would also reduce the top marginal rate on gift tax from 50 percent to 35 percent.

The bill would also reduce the top marginal rate on capital gains tax from 35 percent to 25 percent.

Security Council Paves Way to Talks On Arms Reductions

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—The Security Council today paved the way for talks on arms reductions, after a vote of 11-0.

The council adopted a resolution that calls for a general and complete disarmament.

The resolution also calls for a ban on nuclear weapons.

The resolution also calls for a ban on chemical weapons.

The resolution also calls for a ban on biological weapons.

No Details of Flying Disk Are Revealed

ROSWELL, N.M., July 8 (AP)—The Roswell Hardware Man and Wife Report Disk Seen.

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ellites



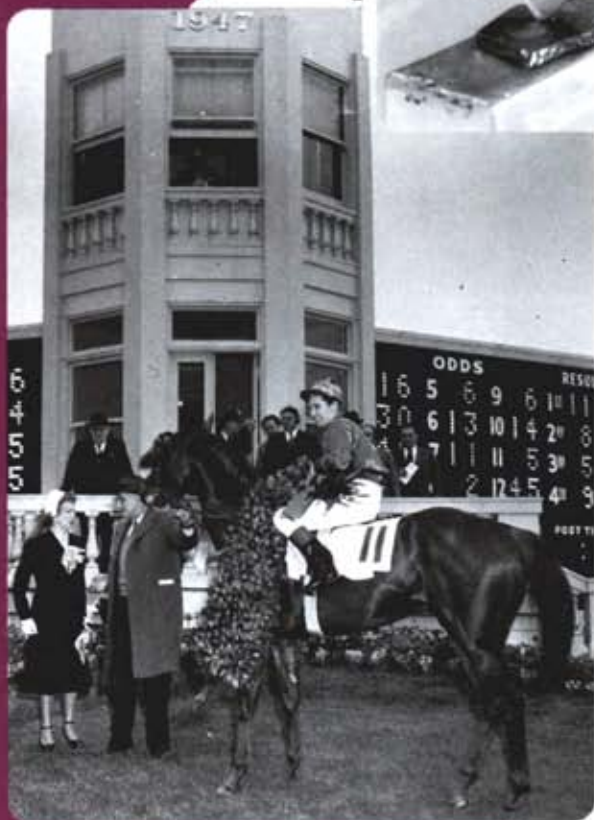
Former King Carol of Romania and Mme. Elena Lupescu

www.untel-vista.com/foraweb

Background photo: UPI/Corbis-Bettman



Lucient Technologies Bell Labs Innovations



SPORTS

New York Yankees, led by Joe DiMaggio, defeat Brooklyn Dodgers in a seven-game World Series. DiMaggio, the "Yankee Clipper," also becomes American League Most Valuable Player—his third time to win the award. Chicago Cardinals win the NFL championship, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles 28-21. Jimmy Demaret shoots a seven-under-par 281 to win the Masters tournament, defeating both Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan.

"Jet Pilot" wins the seventy-third running of Kentucky Derby. Ted Williams wins Major League batting title with a .343 average.

Mildred "Babe" Didrickson Zaharias, former Olympic gold medalist, dominates women's golf. Joe Louis outpoints "Jersey Joe" Walcott to retain the heavyweight boxing title. Notre Dame repeats as college football national champion. Notre Dame quarterback Johnny Lujack wins Heisman Trophy. Maynard team of Williamsport, Pa., defeats team from Lock Haven, Pa., 16-7, to win the first Little League World Series.



Top to bottom: Christian Dior's "New Look," Joe DiMaggio, Bell Labs' first transistor, scene from "Miracle on 34th Street," and Kentucky Derby winner "Jet Pilot."

RADIO-TV

For the first time, television covers the World Series and, again for the first time, uses a zoom lens. ABC radio begins airing twice-weekly, 30-minute program, "Sky King," featuring "America's Favorite Flying Cowboy," plus sidekicks Penny and Clipper. Philco Radio House with Bing Crosby becomes the first taped-and-delayed broadcast of a radio program. TV show debuts: "Meet the Press" and "Howdy Doody."

MUSIC IN 1947

Mahalia Jackson, 34-year-old gospel singer, records "Move On Up a Little Higher," one of the first gospel songs to sell a million records. Singer Roy Brown records "Good Rocking Tonight," what some consider the first rock-and-roll song, on the Deluxe label. "Smoke! Smoke! Smoke! (That Cigarette)," recorded by Tex Williams, becomes first million-seller for Capitol Records. (A heavy smoker, Williams later dies of cancer.) Decca releases nine Al Jolson records, which include such songs as "Alexander's Ragtime Band" (with Bing Crosby), "I'm Sitting on Top of the World," "For Me and My Gal," "Waiting for the Robert E. Lee," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," "When the Red, Red, Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along," and "Toot, Toot, Tootsie!" "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" (from "Song of the South"), by Ailie Wrubel and Ray Gilbert, wins the Academy Award for Best Song.

CINEMA, ARTS, LETTERS, FASHION

"Out of the Past," one of the greatest films noir, stars Robert Mitchum and Jane Greer.

Popular films: "The Bishop's Wife," "Body and Soul," "Crossfire," "Gentleman's Agreement," "Miracle on 34th Street," and "Odd Man Out."

Movie musicals: "It Happened in Brooklyn," "The Perils of Pauline," "Down to Earth," and "Song of Love."

Broadway opening of "A Streetcar Named Desire," by Tennessee Williams, directed by Elia Kazan. Marlon Brando stars as Stanley Kowalski.

"Gentleman's Agreement" wins Academy Award for Best Picture. Stars Gregory Peck, director Elia Kazan, producer Darryl F. Zanuck.

Jackson Pollock introduces abstract expressionism.

Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* wins Pulitzer in fiction category.

James A. Michener's *Tales of the South Pacific* is published and wins Pulitzer the following year.

In the Netherlands, Otto Frank publishes a book called *Het Achterhuis (Secret Annex)*, a collection of the writings of his late daughter, Annelies Marie Frank. Book later becomes famous as *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank.

Christian Dior opens what becomes France's most famous fashion house and creates an international fashion sensation with his "New Look." The full-skirted dresses and cinched waist reflected the return of women to the roles of wife, mother, and homemaker after the rigors of the war. According to Dior, he aimed to counteract the wartime style in which women "looked and dressed like Amazons."

GETTING THERE

Pan American Airways offers a ticket for a flight around the world for \$1,700 (about \$12,000 in 1997 dollars).

Flight from Kansas City, Mo., to Paris costs \$674 (\$4,770 in 1997 dollars).

Major US civilian airlines include Northwest, Braniff, United, American, Eastern, TWA, Pan American Airways, and Chicago and Southern Air Lines.

Packard autos offer the first power seats and windows.

Enzo Ferrari of Italy produces the first automobile that bears his name.

A new Chevrolet retails for \$1,220 (\$8,990 in 1997 dollars).

A gallon of gas cost 23 cents (\$1.70 in 1997 dollars).



Stars of the stage and screen (clockwise): Rita Hayworth and Orson Wells en route to film "The Lady From Shanghai" (completed in 1947, released in 1948); Greta Garbo (in hat), who along with the Air Force celebrated a September 18 birthday; and Marlon Brando, Kim Hunter, and Jessica Tandy in "A Streetcar Named Desire," which opened on Broadway in 1947.

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LIFE AT HOME

15.8 million households (about 40 percent) lack complete indoor plumbing.

9.3 percent of households are made up of persons living alone (today, 25 percent).

55 percent of householders own their homes (today, 64 percent).

22 percent of households are officially deemed "crowded" or "severely crowded" (today, seven percent).

Nearly a quarter of all households have no flush toilet—either public sewer or septic tank.

Two-thirds of all households are heated with kerosene, coal, or wood fuels (today, 16.5 percent). Only 0.7 percent of households use electricity for heating.



Black Star

MEN AND WOMEN

Percent of women 25 years and older in the work force 29.9 (58.7 percent now).

Average age of US women at marriage 20.5 years (24.5 now).

Average age of US men at marriage 23.7 (26.9 now).

Percent of adult men (15 and older) who are married 67.5 (59.1 percent now).

Percent of adult women who are married 65.8 (56.2 percent now).

Divorces total about 483,000 nationwide (about 1.2 million now). The rate of divorce is 3.4 per 1,000 persons (now 4.7).



First flights in 1947 (starting clockwise at left): the Aerobee, Spruce Goose, YB-49 flying wing, XP-86 sweptwing jet, and XB-45. In the background photo, President Harry Truman proclaimed August 1 as "Air Force Day" with (l-r) Air Force Association National President Jimmy Doolittle, Lt. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, Maj. Gen. Lauris Norstad, and Assistant Secretary of War Symington present.

AERONAUTICAL FEATS

March 17: North American XB-45, USAAF's first multiengine jet bomber, flies for the first time at Muroc Dry Lake, Calif.

September 21: USAF C-54 with a preset, push-button control flies from Newfoundland to an airport near London with a complete crew on board serving as observers only. This first transatlantic, robotic flight covered 2,400 miles.

October 1: North American XP-86 Sabre flies for the first time at Muroc Dry Lake, Calif.

October 14: USAF Capt. Chuck Yeager becomes the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

October 21: First flight of Northrop's YB-49 flying wing, the distant ancestor of the B-2.

November 2: Howard Hughes's *Spruce Goose* makes first and only flight, over Long Beach harbor.

November 24: Air Force makes first successful launch of an Aerobee rocket, which achieves altitude of 190,000 feet over White Sands Proving Ground, N. M.

December 17: Prototype Boeing B-47 Stratojet bomber makes first flight at Seattle.

December 30: First flight of jet-powered Soviet MiG-15 fighter.

INSIDE USAF



Pay charts (see below). In 1947, generals, lieutenant generals, and major generals make \$8,800 a year. Brigadiers make \$6,600 a year. The Air Force R&D request for 1947 is \$230.5 million. Congress actually appropriated \$78.8 million.

The AAF restarts the Aviation Cadet program, which had been suspended since the war. AAF strength falls to postwar low of 303,614 on May 1. Gen. Carl A. "Tooney" Spaatz says rapid demobilization has left AAF without a single squadron immediately capable of combat with wartime efficiency.

Percent of USAF aircraft kept in combat readiness falls to about 18 percent.

At the end of 1947, Strategic Air Command has 319 B-29s, 230 F-51s, and 120 F-80s. ■

USAAF Aircraft Inventory June 30, 1947

Type	Number
Very heavy bombers	2,983
Heavy bombers	657
Medium bombers	1,474
Light bombers	1,678
Fighters	6,427
Reconnaissance	636
Transports	3,796
Trainers	6,047
Liaison aircraft	1,390
Total	25,088



USAF Monthly Officer Base Pay, 1947

Grade	<3 years	3 years	6 years	9 years	12 years	15 years	18 years	21 years	24 years	27 years	30 years
O-8, 9, and 10	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33	\$733.33
O-7	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
O-6	366.67	385.00	403.33	421.67	440.00	458.33	476.67	495.00	513.33	531.67	550.00
O-5	320.83	336.88	352.92	368.98	385.00	401.04	417.08	433.13	449.17	465.21	550.00
O-4	275.00	288.75	302.50	316.25	330.00	343.75	357.50	371.25	449.17	465.21	481.25
O-3	230.00	241.50	253.00	264.50	276.00	287.50	357.50	371.25	385.00	398.75	412.50
O-2	200.00	210.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	250.00	299.00	310.50	322.00	333.50	345.00
O-1	180.00	189.00	220.00	230.00	240.00	250.00	260.00	270.00	280.00	290.00	300.00

USAF Monthly Enlisted Base Pay, 1947

Grade	<3 years	3 years	6 years	9 years	12 years	15 years	18 years	21 years	24 years	27 years	30 years
MSgt.	\$165.00	\$173.25	\$181.50	\$189.75	\$198.00	\$206.25	\$214.50	\$222.75	\$231.00	\$239.25	\$247.50
TSgt.	135.00	141.75	148.50	155.25	162.00	168.75	175.50	182.25	189.00	195.75	202.50
SSgt.	115.00	120.75	126.50	132.25	138.00	143.75	149.50	155.25	161.00	166.75	172.50
Cpl.	90.00	94.50	99.00	103.50	108.00	112.50	117.00	121.50	126.00	130.50	135.00
PFC	80.00	84.00	88.00	92.00	96.00	100.00	104.00	108.00	112.00	116.00	120.00
Pvt.	75.00	78.75	82.50	86.25	90.00	93.75	97.50	101.25	105.00	108.75	112.50