

Boddie, Timothy US Airforce

[00:00:15.87] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the 18th of October, 1931.

[00:00:21.06] JOE GALLOWAY: How did you enter the military?

[00:00:23.79] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, I attended Howard University and was commissioned through that source, the ROTC. And from there, I went to pilot training.

[00:00:32.37] JOE GALLOWAY: What year was that, that you were commissioned?

[00:00:35.31] TIMOTHY BODDIE: '54.

[00:00:40.85] The Korean War was over and I had to wait a long time to get a pilot training slot because they were reducing the number of pilots that they needed, as a matter of fact, just during the time I was coming on board. It took me about 18 or 19 months just to get a pilot training slot.

[00:01:00.11] No, I drove a cab in Baltimore until I was called up.

[00:01:03.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Until they were calling.

[00:01:04.01] TIMOTHY BODDIE: In fact, I was called-- I had orders three times before it became official. They were canceled, that is. I was given orders to report, then they were canceled. Yeah. That happened about three or four times.

[00:01:16.86] I trained in Bartow, Florida. Yeah, that was in 1955. January 22, '55. That was back during the time when the Air Force had civilian contractors for primary pilot training. They had about seven or eight civilian bases throughout the country. And I went through the contract school there at Bartow, Florida. And that was about, like, six months worth.

[00:01:44.21] JOE GALLOWAY: What'd they teach you to fly?

[00:01:46.31] TIMOTHY BODDIE: They taught me the Super Cub PA-18, which was militarized at the time, so you had tail brakes and things like that, that you would find in other aircraft. And it was a two-seater. And in fact, I saw that particular airplane in the museum at Lowry in Denver, Colorado last week.

[00:02:04.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Your plane?

[00:02:05.02] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, I thought so. It was very interesting to see that.

[00:02:08.30] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, if they had a 76 mile an hour headwind, that thing could stand still.

[00:02:13.16] TIMOTHY BODDIE: You're about right. Also after Bartow, I graduated in the upper 10% of my class. So I had a choice. You know, bombers or fighters. So I chose fighters, which I always wanted to fly because the Tuskegee Airmen was my influence back in the day. Yes.

[00:02:32.93] In fact, I used to read about those guys in the Afro-American and the Pittsburgh Courier. And I started building airplanes. In fact, I started taking flying lessons when I was 16. So that progressed on until I graduated from college, and I knew I was going into the Air Force to fly.

[00:02:50.81] I forgot to say this, but I graduated from pilot training when I received my wings at Laredo Air Force Base in Texas, right down the road a piece, if you will, from here.

[00:03:01.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:03:01.94] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And from there, I went to Bergstrom, in an F-84 squadron. That was the 560th in the 12th Wing. I've been in the 12th Wing several times during my career, as a matter of fact. I was in it in Korea. I don't want to jump ahead of your questions, but the 12th Wing, I seemed to follow throughout my career.

[00:03:22.76] JOE GALLOWAY: So from the F-84, you transitioned to what plane?

[00:03:28.34] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I transferred to the F-100 at Nellis. What I did when I got to Bergstrom, I decided I wanted to fly a faster aircraft. So I applied through the Air Force channels to go into F-100 training. And sure enough, I received that opportunity about a year and a half after I was at Bergstrom.

[00:03:48.80] JOE GALLOWAY: Isn't that the one they called the "Widowmaker?"

[00:03:50.72] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I don't know about that, but they had to do a heavy modification of that aircraft as far as the stabilizer was concerned, the horizontal stabilizer. It was-- we called it a split tail, where you had an aileron that went up and down. And finally, they changed the whole thing to a slab, so it had a dynamic effect when you were pulling out of a dive. I think it had an engine problem to start with.

[00:04:17.87] Between the stators and the rotors of the-- I think it was the J-65 engine. If you flew through a cloud, you probably had a problem because of the coefficient of expansion between the stages of the rotors and the stators.

[00:04:33.68] JOE GALLOWAY: That ain't good.

[00:04:34.55] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Not at all. I think we lost a few aircraft that way, too.

[00:04:44.28] As I said earlier, I checked out in an F-100 at Nellis. And then there were three of us that were assigned to the 45th Fighter Day Squadron in Sidi Slimane in Africa, in Morocco. And sure enough, when we got to Nouasseur on a MACs aircraft, a sergeant came up the stairs

and called our three names and said, come with me. So we followed him and found out our assignment was changed to Wheelus Air Base, Tripoli, Libya.

[00:05:15.84] So the first question I asked, where is Libya? Because I had never heard of it at that point. But it turned out to be USAFE-- a USAFE, United States Air Forces of Europe, weapons center. And my boss was the famous Robert Olds, and, he checked me out in an F-86. That's what they had there at the time. So I flew the F-86 for about two years, until they got rid of it.

[00:05:40.93] But let me tell you what the big secret was. Three months after we arrived, the three of us, the F-100 from Sidi Slimane came to Wheelus. And the three of us became the instructor pilots for the whole gunnery group.

[00:05:53.32] JOE GALLOWAY: The whole squadron.

[00:05:54.91] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I can't say I checked out Robert Olds, but I can say this-- I chased him while he did his check-out. And he was my boss, and he checked me out in the F-86, both day and night. And it was a pleasure to fly with that guy.

[00:06:11.53] JOE GALLOWAY: I imagine. He was a--

[00:06:12.67] TIMOTHY BODDIE: A super guy.

[00:06:13.71] JOE GALLOWAY: --hell of a guy.

[00:06:14.20] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes, sir.

[00:06:15.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you transitioned from the Widowmaker to the F-4.

[00:06:21.10] TIMOTHY BODDIE: F-86 to the F-4. Now, it turned out that my former boss, Frankie Everest-- he retired as a brigadier general. At the time, he was a colonel. And he was the commander of that training wing of F-4s. And when I left the ROTC program at Tuskegee as the commandant of cadets, I was sort of looking for a job because I-- first of all, I had orders to go to Vietnam, as a FAC, an O-1 I guess it was, in the 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron.

[00:06:54.10] And I didn't think I wanted to do that. So I knew where General Everest was and--

[00:07:00.16] JOE GALLOWAY: You wanted something that flew a little faster.

[00:07:02.41] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And with a little more protection. So sure enough, I implored him to-- in fact, he told me when I visited him at-- where was it-- England Air Force Base that if there was anything he could do for me, just give him a call. So I took him up on it. And sure enough, he hired me as an instructor to go out to-- or, as an instructor, I became out at Davis-Monthan in the 44/53rd Wing, 44/56th Squadron. And that was a good tour.

[00:07:39.40] JOE GALLOWAY: That was in the F-4?

[00:07:41.08] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That was in the F-4, yes. And I think I arrived there in I think it was 1965. Yes, in '65. I left Tuskegee and went right to Davis-Monthan, checked out in the F-4, and after about 10 rides, I became an instructor. And we were all frozen. All the instructors were frozen because we were training other units in the F-4-- folks from England, the 81st Wing, for example.

[00:08:07.51] And then we had the Iranians. We also had the Israelis. So we were training foreign pilots.

[00:08:17.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Americans?

[00:08:18.46] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes, and Americans.

[00:08:19.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Everybody.

[00:08:19.96] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes.

[00:08:20.95] JOE GALLOWAY: How'd you like that F-4?

[00:08:23.62] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, I'll tell you. That was my number one airplane. Of all the aircraft I've ever flown, that was my number one. I flew the C, the D, and the E. And we had the E in Korea, when I was commander of the 51st Wing. And that was the ultimate aircraft of that series, the E, I thought.

[00:08:42.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Beautiful airplane.

[00:08:43.90] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Beautiful and handled well. And it was a fast mover. And as long as you kept-- as we called it, kept your smash up, you could do anything, beat anybody in the air. But don't slow down.

[00:08:55.92] JOE GALLOWAY: Don't slow down.

[00:08:57.14] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Don't slow down. That's right.

[00:08:58.15] JOE GALLOWAY: It's a long climb back up.

[00:08:59.83] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, some people didn't climb back up because they allowed their mach to-- or their smash, as we called it-- to degrade in flight. And then now you're fighting the other fight, where the other aircraft had an advantage at slower speeds.

[00:09:20.48] I left in November, left Davis-Monthan in November of '66 and landed at Clark. As a matter of fact, I know a specific date. It was the 31st of October, because as we flew west and landed at Clark, one of the-- I guess the flight supervisor came on board and said, welcome to Clark Air Base, the Philippines. Today is November the 1st. And one of the guys yelled out, he said, what happened to the 31st? That's my birthday. It was gone.

[00:09:59.62] JOE GALLOWAY: It was gone.

[00:10:01.72] TIMOTHY BODDIE: He made up for it coming back home.

[00:10:03.49] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, exactly.

[00:10:04.45] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. At Clark, we went through what we call survival school, jungle survival school. Euphemistically, we called it snake school because, you know, that taught us how to survive in the jungle, as a matter of fact. And then they put us in the jungle to try to escape from the Negritos, these little guys. And for every guy they captured, they'd get a bowl of rice or a package of rice.

[00:10:35.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:10:36.10] TIMOTHY BODDIE: So they were enthusiastic about it.

[00:10:38.40] JOE GALLOWAY: They're enthusiastic opponents.

[00:10:39.93] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I fooled them all.

[00:10:41.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you?

[00:10:41.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. I went up to the highest hill and laid up there on top until the exercise was over. I had some friends up there too. Huge rats.

[00:10:52.51] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you eat them?

[00:10:53.47] TIMOTHY BODDIE: No, no. No, no, no. They ran from me as I ran-- I ran from them, they ran from me. Yeah. From there, I went to Cam Ranh Bay.

[00:11:04.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you fly your F-4 in?

[00:11:06.39] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, no, no. They were there.

[00:11:08.01] JOE GALLOWAY: They were there.

[00:11:08.36] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Uh-huh. I was in the 559th Squadron, 12th Wing, which was the second time I had been in the 12th. And I flew 201 missions there, in combat.

[00:11:20.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about your first arrival and landing in Vietnam, what your impressions were.

[00:11:27.25] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, I arrived in a C-130 that I had caught in the Philippines, and it took me right to Cam Ranh Bay. Well, it stopped in Seoul and a few other places before it got to Cam Ranh Bay. But ultimately, that's where I wound up. And I reported to

the 559th, and the gentleman who was escorting me, he said-- he took me to my quarters and he said, if you don't mind, I have a flight this afternoon. But I'll be back to see you.

[00:12:02.11] Well, I saw him seven years later because we lost four aircraft that day. It was devastating, and still the wing. But it was one of those things where the guys were going in through an overcast, but they went through this big hole and all the guns in North Vietnam were aimed at that big hole, I guess, and we lost four aircraft.

[00:12:27.28] JOE GALLOWAY: The concentrated the whole thing.

[00:12:29.20] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, all the missiles and air-to-ground-- or ground-to-air weaponry, at that hole. So we did lose four. And I think all came back except one of the officers that was, I think, killed en route, on the way down. A chute never showed up. But his back-seater was recovered, but he didn't come back.

[00:12:56.66] JOE GALLOWAY: He didn't make it.

[00:12:57.16] TIMOTHY BODDIE: No, he didn't make it. That was my welcome.

[00:13:00.43] JOE GALLOWAY: That was your welcome.

[00:13:01.30] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Then eventually, I became the assistant ops officer. I was the ops officer for a while, until a major came in. I was a captain. As a matter of fact, I was the principal scheduler for the squadron.

[00:13:15.25] JOE GALLOWAY: How do you rate the general flying conditions in Southeast Asia from the US or North Africa?

[00:13:23.65] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, you had definitive climate changes. In other words, Cam Ranh Bay basically separated the north area of weather from the south area of weather. And of course, one time during the year-- it was a six-month cycle-- you had rain, showers, and so forth.

[00:13:47.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Dry or hot and wet.

[00:13:48.82] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Hot and-- that's exactly right. It always stayed hot, usually. It got a little cooler in the wintertime, but we never had any snow or anything like that. But it was a good experience, I thought. A lot of guys built their flying time there.

[00:14:09.06] My first mission was a Sunday morning. And I had a-- I was fragged for a strike in North Vietnam. And of course, when the intelligence folks briefed us, I looked around the room and not too many people were paying strict attention. But they were telling me that there are about 50 air-to-ground guns in that area. I said, air-to-ground. Ground-to-air, excuse me. They had the ZPUs, which was a four-barrel weapon, as you probably well know.

[00:14:44.89] And sure enough, when I came, we fanned out, the three of us. And when I rolled in, as soon as I was leveled out with the target and was ready to pickle, I saw something in front of me. A big, boiling, black thing that turned red. You know, fire. So I started jinking away from my initial track, and we acquired the target. And my back-seater, who was an instructor with me a Davis-Monthan, he said, what are you doing? I said, I'm jinking, man. They're firing at us. He said, jink on.

[00:15:23.01] So I finally got the target acquired, and as I pulled off-- most guys break left-- I broke right. And sure enough, the explosion had tracked me to go that way. And then my squadron commander, who was leading the flight, called me and said, Timmy, are you OK? Because he saw what was happening, as far as my being tracked. That was the first 85 millimeter radar controlled gun in that area of North Vietnam. First one.

[00:15:51.97] Of course, the Navy took it out that night.

[00:15:54.16] JOE GALLOWAY: Good.

[00:15:56.26] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Because we reported exactly where we were, and so forth and so on. And it was radar controlled, and naturally, the Navy had all of these sophisticated tracking and finding devices.

[00:16:06.81] JOE GALLOWAY: They've got the ARM missiles.

[00:16:08.56] TIMOTHY BODDIE: They've got everything. They had everything. They took care of business that night. But our reporting put it in the system.

[00:16:17.17] JOE GALLOWAY: So you took your target out and you went home.

[00:16:20.03] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I went home. I'll tell you what, in that flight, there were six of us. They had three aircraft, all of whom-- seven of whom were white, OK? And then coming back home, we were all white.

[00:16:36.01] JOE GALLOWAY: You were all white.

[00:16:37.12] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's right.

[00:16:43.80] Yes, there were several. And they all had to do with the weaponry. They were able to put fuse extenders on certain weapons-- the bombs, I should say-- that allowed us to drop a real large or heavyweight bomb that would actually clear, make a clearing for the helicopters that would be landing. The Army helicopters.

[00:17:11.49] JOE GALLOWAY: Daisy cutters.

[00:17:11.90] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Huh?

[00:17:12.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Daisy cutters.

[00:17:13.05] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, that's what I-- I'm glad you know that. That's what we called them, Daisy cutters. And they worked quite well for the helis that were taking the troops in.

[00:17:22.77] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:17:23.19] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah.

[00:17:23.61] JOE GALLOWAY: They could sure saw down some trees.

[00:17:25.86] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Instantly, yeah. Yeah. That was one, and then we had another called a CBU-24. It was an antipersonnel weapon.

[00:17:36.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, the CBU.

[00:17:38.05] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes. And that was a new weapon. We could not drop that weapon without approval from 7th Air Force. We carried it, just in case. And it was an antipersonnel thing. And being in that category, we had strict rules, the strictest being we could not drop at will. We had to have approval from higher headquarters.

[00:18:00.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Why?

[00:18:01.76] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That was the rules. ROE, Rules of Engagement.

[00:18:06.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Boy, we sure dropped them all over the place in the Gulf.

[00:18:09.71] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, that was later on. Yeah. We learned our lesson, finally. Leave the war up to the warriors.

[00:18:18.55] JOE GALLOWAY: There was an awful lot of messing with pilots and missions in Vietnam and surrounding countries.

[00:18:29.32] TIMOTHY BODDIE: A lot of careers were ruined too. I'll just say that once and no more.

[00:18:33.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. But you know, when politicians are picking targets--

[00:18:41.06] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, it's not good for the warrior, nor the country, or the pursuit of the war because I would say this, very flatly and bluntly, nobody knows how to fight a war except the military. And if we are ever given the opportunity to be involved in the war, don't call us unless you want to win.

[00:19:04.85] Go through the State Department. Do whatever you have to do, but don't call on the military for a political war. We are the last resort. That is the military. And we should be treated that way.

[00:19:18.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, you flew strike missions north, close air support in the south, missions in Laos.

[00:19:28.46] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I can't say that.

[00:19:29.90] JOE GALLOWAY: You can't say that. All right.

[00:19:31.05] TIMOTHY BODDIE: There were missions in Laos, truthfully. Yeah.

[00:19:33.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:19:34.11] TIMOTHY BODDIE: But they weren't-- we couldn't report that.

[00:19:36.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:19:39.11] TIMOTHY BODDIE: It's well known now that we did have missions over there.

[00:19:41.64] JOE GALLOWAY: But you flew all kinds of missions.

[00:19:43.65] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I did.

[00:19:50.74] Well, I have two. One, specifically, was in North Vietnam. And what happened, I rolled in on the target-- I had a three-ship aircraft-- a three-ship formation, and I rolled in on the target. I had six 750 pound bombs on each wing-- well, 3 on left and right. And I rolled in on the target, and I pickled my bombs off and pulled off the target. And as soon as I pulled off the target, my right wing dipped, which made me know that my right rack didn't go off.

[00:20:31.27] So I put it in burner and did a big whifferdill while my other two guys were on the target. And when I came back down, I released my three on the right side. And I knew they released because when I pulled out, I pulled out straight. But then I felt this bump-- whump. And I said, gee whiz, it must be some jet wash, OK? From the other two aircraft.

[00:20:54.44] So we go out to the tanker, and of course, I assume lead again. We went out to the tanker, and it was supposed to be a silent refueling. And the boom operator broke silence and said, F-4 in the pre-contact position, you have part of your right wing missing. There was a big, what?-- from me.

[00:21:14.87] JOE GALLOWAY: What?

[00:21:15.47] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And I asked my pilot, you know, my backseat pilot, I said, where-- can you see the right wing tip? He said, no, I can't. But I can see the left. I couldn't see either from the front seat of the F-4. And sure enough--

[00:21:28.32] JOE GALLOWAY: It was gone?

[00:21:29.01] TIMOTHY BODDIE: It was gone. And there was a hole in that dihedral about like so. And what had happened, an 85 millimeter round went right through that dihedral. It didn't explode. It was not fused correctly, and therefore, I wound up with a big hole rather than a destroyed aircraft.

[00:21:48.35] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah. That would have taken you down.

[00:21:49.52] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, if it had gone off-- yes. It would've been devastating. But I landed. I got off the tanker and did a controllability check, down to a good landing speed number, and it flew OK. So after my two and three got their gas, I pulled in the pre-contact position-- and contact-- and got a full load. We went back to Cam Ranh Bay. I landed uneventfully, and I have several pictures of me in the refueling area with a whole gang of guys around that airplane because that was a significant hole in that wing.

[00:22:27.05] That was number--

[00:22:27.83] JOE GALLOWAY: So maybe you didn't need that wing.

[00:22:29.51] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, yeah. You needed it. Yes, indeed. I would suspect the other one I was thinking about was my 200th mission with the Flight of Four, and all of whom the aircraft commanders had flown 200-plus missions. And one of my best buddies-- I went to his funeral, like, two months ago, down in San Antonio. He passed away. Austin, I should have said. Austin, Texas. He passed away, and that was Colonel Ed Wiskowski. Great guy, dear friend of mine.

[00:23:02.93] JOE GALLOWAY: Tell me about that 200th mission.

[00:23:06.35] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, it was just-- it was a planned mission. It just so happened that the four guys that were aircraft commanders, myself included, had all flown 200-plus missions. And we all came back to the States.

[00:23:20.60] JOE GALLOWAY: The mission itself was nothing special?

[00:23:22.94] TIMOTHY BODDIE: No, it wasn't special at all. Oh, here was the other mission. Here's the one I wanted to tell you about. Easter Sunday morning, 1967. I was fragged out on a mission with a Covey FAC up in Route Pack 1. No, it was not Route Pack 1, it was-- yes, it was Route Pack 1, up in the North Vietnam area. And we got in contact with the FAC, and he asked for a few code words, and I gave the correct answers. And also, he said, well, we have some areas here where we have seen some bad guys and so forth.

[00:24:14.14] So he said, I'm going to drop some smoke right in the city. It was a town. So I watched the smoke hit. And he said, you see that large building that's, like, 9 o'clock to my smoke? I said, yeah, I see it. He says, I want you to hit it with API, armor-piercing incendiary, on my cannon.

[00:24:40.54] I was about 6,000 feet out, and I looked--

[00:24:44.35] JOE GALLOWAY: This was in North Vietnam?

[00:24:45.97] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. I said, that looks like a church. He said, it is. He said, we have leaflets. You know, spread leaflets all around that area to tell people to evacuate and so forth. He said, I want you to hit it. I said, Jesus, on Easter Sunday morning. Are you serious? So sure enough, he said, yeah.

[00:25:06.11] I rolled in and opened fire way out, about 6,000 feet. And I said, [MIMICKING CANNON NOISE]. You know, I had the M-61 cannon. And I watched my tracers. I had API, armor-piercing incendiary. And it hit the church and blew up. I had to yank and bank and pull so I wouldn't go through the debris. That was used as a weapons storage area for the bad guys.

[00:25:31.45] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:25:31.87] TIMOTHY BODDIE: You know, we wouldn't hit a church, right?

[00:25:33.67] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:25:34.33] TIMOTHY BODDIE: We did, and it was full of ammo. I mean, that thing smoked for a while. But once I got out of the way, you know, I circled at altitude and that thing was burning, and of course, it was blown to pieces, so to speak. And that was one of the missions that I said, you never know.

[00:25:51.33] JOE GALLOWAY: You just never know.

[00:25:52.12] TIMOTHY BODDIE: You just never know. You never know. You just have to perform the mission as planned.

[00:26:02.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you have any dealings with the Vietnamese people, either civilian or military, during your tour?

[00:26:13.93] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Not directly, no. I didn't. We did have the Korean army as our protectors.

[00:26:29.68] You don't really know the character and the quality of the people you're working with till you get into combat. And then you really know who they are. And fortunately, even though some were very young, first lieutenants and so forth, they were solid citizens. You could count on everybody in my squadron-- and I'm sure the other squadrons as well-- to do what they were required to do. And they were all professional.

[00:26:59.06] We had maybe one or two that were sort of derelict. But, you know, that was due to their own personalities, I suppose. But yeah, I'm trying to be nice to those that weren't as steadfast as the majority. I would say 99% of everybody there, including the ground crew. And I have to give, really, a lot of plaudits to the ground crew because they kept-- for example, that airplane I brought back with that hole in the wing? It was on the schedule, next morning, at 7 o'clock.

[00:27:30.00] JOE GALLOWAY: They fixed it overnight.

[00:27:30.81] TIMOTHY BODDIE: They fixed it overnight.

[00:27:31.99] JOE GALLOWAY: A hole like that?

[00:27:33.12] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Well, they took off they took off that dihedral of the wing and put another one on, overnight.

[00:27:40.80] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you form friendships with men from different racial, social backgrounds, during your time in Vietnam, that you might not have had otherwise?

[00:27:50.31] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, absolutely. For example, you may remember this name, Guion Bluford. He was the first black astronaut mission commander. Well, he was at Cam Ranh Bay, and we happened on one-- he was in a different squadron. But one time, we flew together for expedience sake so to speak because at the time, I was working with the DO, Director of Operations. And I ran the command post for a while because they needed somebody with some sense there that could instruct some people about aircraft knowledge and so forth in emergencies and so forth.

[00:28:29.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:28:31.46] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And I did that for the last, I think, the last three months of my tour. And General McNeil-- then Colonel McNeil-- wanted me to sort of build up that operation in the command center because he--

[00:28:47.94] JOE GALLOWAY: How many total combat missions did you fly during that tour?

[00:28:51.99] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I flew 201.

[00:28:53.60] JOE GALLOWAY: 201.

[00:28:54.63] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes. If I had just flown 200, they'd say, why'd you quit at 200? Now, at 201, you know, it's not a story anymore.

[00:29:02.70] JOE GALLOWAY: It's not a good story.

[00:29:04.82] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah.

[00:29:08.29] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you do for recreation off-duty activities, if you had any off-duty time?

[00:29:14.95] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I didn't have much. Seriously, I put in at least 12 to 14 hours a day in operations.

[00:29:22.78] JOE GALLOWAY: In that time, you get a shower and a shave.

[00:29:25.31] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Get back on the flight line. Yeah. Well, we played-- some of the guys, we played bridge, and I pulled a lot of alert duty on the alert pad. I was scrambled off quite a bit. And I don't know, it seemed to follow me. Everybody'd say, gee whiz, you get out there-- everybody, we scramble all the time. I said, well, I guess.

[00:29:50.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Just lucky.

[00:29:52.18] TIMOTHY BODDIE: As a matter of fact, I would give, as assistant ops and scheduler, I would let all the guys go off on Christmas and various holidays, that is. I would take the alert pad because to me, it was away from the crowd. You could read, you could write letters to Mom, or record tapes to Mom while you're out there, you know, waiting. You're fully equipped, you have your g-suit on and everything. And all they have to do is let you know when to go, by various means.

[00:30:24.19] And your airplane's all pre-flighted and ready to go, so there's not much for you to do except get in it and go fly.

[00:30:37.01] Well, there was an article written on me in Time magazine. And one of the quotes that I said-- they asked me a question about the demonstrations back in the States, the antiwar demonstrations. I said, well, it's very simple. I'm here to give them that right to do that. This is America. In other countries, you can't do that in times of war.

[00:31:00.62] You know, they'll silence you in a heartbeat in other countries. But in our democracy, in America, that's freedom of speech.

[00:31:11.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:31:12.17] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And I left it at that. And that article came out in March of 1967. I think it was March 6. And it was entitled, the whole front cover was "The Negro in Vietnam." And they interviewed a series of people-- Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. And of course, I was the Air Force guy.

[00:31:33.29] I flew with a gentleman by the name of Ralph Ellison. And he was killed at An Khe, in a-- I think he was in a 130 that crashed up there. But he was a reporter for-- I think he was a freelance reporter, but he had articles in everything. I think he had an article in the Washington Post about me, and then the New York Times came out with another one. But he was a great guy. Took plenty of photographs. And good at it.

[00:32:17.73] Oh, I had several good days, particularly when I heard from my wife. We started making-- and it was a mistake to do this-- to make tapes.

[00:32:29.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Yup. A little reel-to-reel.

[00:32:30.71] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Exactly right. And I say the reason it was a mistake, we would record over. She'd send me a tape, and I'd record over it and send it back to her. So the only tape I have left is the last one.

[00:32:43.40] JOE GALLOWAY: The last one.

[00:32:44.21] TIMOTHY BODDIE: The last one. And we shouldn't have done that.

[00:32:47.25] JOE GALLOWAY: If you'd done cassettes, you'd still have them.

[00:32:49.46] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Yeah. I still have that one last tape. I still do. And we just-- to me, it was just like being at home with the tapes.

[00:33:02.66] JOE GALLOWAY: You could hear her voice.

[00:33:03.39] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I could hear the kids in the background doing this, that, and the other, and so forth. Yeah.

[00:33:12.93] First day.

[00:33:13.95] JOE GALLOWAY: That first day, when four went down.

[00:33:16.14] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes, sir. That was the worst day. And of course, we found out subsequently General Robert J. Dixon, who became the commander of TAC, actually verified this thought, that the worst missions that a fighter pilot can have are his first 10. If he can get past those first 10, he's good to go for the rest of his tour. And watch out for the last 10. In other words, there are other thoughts that come into play.

[00:33:48.82] Boy, just think, I'm going home next week. And you can't have those kinds of thoughts.

[00:33:52.62] JOE GALLOWAY: You can't be thinking that until you've shut her off for the last time.

[00:33:56.73] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's exactly right. And getting back to General Dixon, that's the gentleman that started Red Flag. You may have heard about that, the war games at Nellis Air Force Base?

[00:34:07.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:34:08.07] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Where everything is duplicated, so these pilots get their first 10 combat sorties in the States, where it's moderately safe, you know? But all of the things that he hears, the APR 25/26s to let you know that a SAM is being launched or launched, those kinds of things, you get that real time. You get the aggressors trying to shoot you down, real time. So you know, it's a total combat situation, using all of the factors that you would find in an actual combat situation.

[00:34:43.32] And those guys get trained-- these youngsters, I should say, pilots and crews, get trained for their first 10 combat missions right there, on the spot, at Nellis Air Force Base. And the operation's called Red Flag.

[00:34:58.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:35:04.19] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I really-- truthfully, I really didn't have any. I would think that level would be at the wing commander level. He probably had contacts with--

[00:35:14.51] JOE GALLOWAY: You knew that the Korean troops were guarding your perimeter.

[00:35:17.72] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, I knew that. Oh, yes.

[00:35:18.97] JOE GALLOWAY: But you weren't dealing with them?

[00:35:20.60] TIMOTHY BODDIE: No, I wasn't. Personally, no. I knew the CIA was there, because I almost hit one of those airplanes one day. We almost had a mid-air coming, taking off, because you never knew where they were.

[00:35:32.16] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:35:33.47] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Great bunch of guys though, I understand.

[00:35:41.91] Oh, as a matter of fact, I called-- I had to go pick up an airplane at Clark Air Base, that had been modified. And I was able to call back home. They had a-- I think it was called MARS outfit there.

[00:35:58.22] JOE GALLOWAY: I love you, over.

[00:36:01.16] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's right. Oh my goodness. You've been there.

[00:36:04.16] JOE GALLOWAY: I've been there.

[00:36:04.82] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. And I was able to talk to them, and got all the kids on the phone. You know, hello, dad. How are you doing? I said, I'm OK. I'm doing fine, that sort of thing.

[00:36:14.08] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:36:15.17] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And that was a good experience.

[00:36:17.48] JOE GALLOWAY: That was a good day.

[00:36:18.35] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh yeah, absolutely a good day.

[00:36:19.85] JOE GALLOWAY: But you wrote letters?

[00:36:21.26] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. As a matter of fact, I have about 160 letters that I've transposed into the book I'm preparing to finish. I've been working on it, off and on, for the last

couple of years. And I have redacted some of the letters because they're a little to-- whatever. Husband and wife stuff. A little more than "I love you," you know.

[00:36:51.86] JOE GALLOWAY: How much news did you receive about the war while you were fighting in it?

[00:36:57.89] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, strangely enough, we received quite a lot. We had Armed Forces Radio, we had Stars and Stripes newspaper, military newspaper. And I got feedback from my wife, what she was hearing about the war, which sort of-- sometimes, I thought, that's not true. Don't listen to that.

[00:37:23.55] JOE GALLOWAY: That ain't right.

[00:37:24.50] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's not the truth. It's not right. Because sometimes, I'll just be candid with you, there was some embellishment by some of the reporters of what was going on. And we would look at each other and say, that didn't happen. But you know, let it go at that.

[00:37:44.33] JOE GALLOWAY: '67, '68 was your time frame?

[00:37:46.97] TIMOTHY BODDIE: '66, '67.

[00:37:48.25] JOE GALLOWAY: '66, '67.

[00:37:49.52] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Right.

[00:37:50.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Antiwar stuff was just kind of getting cranked up good.

[00:37:53.57] TIMOTHY BODDIE: It was getting cranked up good, yeah, back in the States.

[00:37:56.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Back in the States.

[00:37:57.23] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Right.

[00:37:58.85] JOE GALLOWAY: You knew about that.

[00:38:00.08] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, yes.

[00:38:00.62] JOE GALLOWAY: You read about it, heard about it.

[00:38:02.21] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That was happening, actually, before I left to go to Vietnam.

[00:38:05.45] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you think about that?

[00:38:07.11] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, again, like I said earlier, that's their life. And I'm here to allow them that opportunity to speak their mind, whatever it is.

[00:38:16.43] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:38:17.48] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And like it is today, everybody has a voice about everything, as you can imagine. More so now than then. But--

[00:38:26.11] JOE GALLOWAY: And you can spread it a lot faster now.

[00:38:29.03] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. And when you think about it, those kinds of demonstrations, anti-government demonstrations, aren't here today. But there was a cause then to stop the war, if you recall, and I know you do. And of course, again, when I came back, I wasn't spit on, but I was looked at in disdain when I landed in Washington, the state of Washington.

[00:38:56.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Seattle? Tacoma?

[00:38:58.24] TIMOTHY BODDIE: McChord. Tacoma, yeah. Is that McChord Air Force Base?

[00:39:01.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, that's--

[00:39:02.33] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, I think so.

[00:39:03.02] JOE GALLOWAY: --Fort Lewis.

[00:39:03.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Fort Lewis-- well, it's all a part of-- yeah, they call it now-- joint-- whatever.

[00:39:07.82] JOE GALLOWAY: Joint Base McChord.

[00:39:09.02] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, that's right. Yeah.

[00:39:15.37] We left Cam Ranh Bay. It was a contracted airplane. I think it was World Airlines.

[00:39:20.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, yeah. Ed Daley's outfit.

[00:39:24.82] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And then we flew to Tokyo, and we landed at Narita. Is that the new airport? Newest--

[00:39:32.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Narita.

[00:39:32.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Narita?

[00:39:33.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:39:34.00] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Newest airport. And it was brand new then. We couldn't even get off the airplane. But anyhow, it landed and refueled. Total-- tanked up, full. And of course, I was the senior ranking guy on the airplane, as a major, at that point. So we go to the end of the runway, we run up. I didn't think twice about it. I heard the pilot run up all four engines, full mil. And of course, the airplane is shaking like-- at full mil, 100%. Let me put it that way.

[00:40:01.64] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:40:02.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: We roll down the runway, and I think it was an 11,000-foot runway. And I'm looking out the window, counting the markers go by. At the 2000-foot to-go mark, I said, this guy is sure holding this airplane down. And then about the 1,000-foot mark, he rotates. And I feel the aircraft buffeting. But we finally get airborne.

[00:40:25.06] When we get to Seattle, I happen to be right at the crew that got off the airplane. And I told the captain-- I said, boy, that was a hairy take off back there, in Tokyo. He said, yeah, we had the stick shaker. You know the stick shaker on the airplane? The stall approach.

[00:40:45.91] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, man.

[00:40:46.63] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And he was right at the cusp. We were--

[00:40:48.70] JOE GALLOWAY: He was just about to lose it.

[00:40:50.66] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, he wasn't-- no, he wasn't going to lose it. He was right on the feather. I could feel it, so I knew what I was feeling. But he had indications in the cockpit with a stick shaker. And he couldn't push it forward, because there's the ocean right there. So the airplane just fought through it. But it was a good flight, good crew. And I guess the temperature and the climatology just wasn't right for an early takeoff.

[00:41:17.74] He used every bit of that runway. And I think the aircraft was an old 707. You know, the four-engine-- early four-engine jobbie. Yeah.

[00:41:28.45] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, I'm glad he got it off the ground.

[00:41:30.19] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Oh, of course. In fact, his calculations were obviously more than mine because he knew he could get it airborne, I suppose, you know, in pre-flight.

[00:41:39.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Describe your arrival on the other end, and how you were welcomed. Or not.

[00:41:45.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I wasn't welcome at all. As a matter of fact, I was just glad things worked out like they did. What happened, we landed at Sea-- was it SeaTac, there in Washington?

[00:41:57.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:41:57.64] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And fortunately, I was able to catch an aircraft that took me from Washington to Los Angeles to Tucson. I didn't have to get off, thank goodness. And when I got off at Tucson, there was no crowd or anything. You know, I just got off. And my wife met me at the airport, and we kissed, and went home.

[00:42:20.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Home was then Tucson?

[00:42:21.56] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Tucson, yes. On-base. We lived on-base. And they stayed on-base while I was in Vietnam.

[00:42:26.69] JOE GALLOWAY: That was Luke?

[00:42:27.77] TIMOTHY BODDIE: No, no. Luke is in the Phoenix area. Glendale, really. But I was at Davis-Monthan in Tucson. Yeah. I went back and ran the Weapons School on the F-4 and did that until I left there and went to the War College.

[00:42:50.68] I've had pretty good contact with all my friends. But I'll tell you, they're going fast. And they're in their 70s. And I lost a dear friend, a major general, who was with me. In fact, he went over with me and came back later. I got home a little before he did. And he just passed away about three months ago.

[00:43:16.85] Major General Swalm. Tom Swalm. And he lived-- he lives in-- he lived in the Plano area, at the time of his passing. And then my back-seater, one of my back-seaters passed. We had a slew of people who were there, that wound up with prostate cancer at Cam Ranh Bay. And I found out at a reunion that they were using Agent Orange for weedkiller, all over the base. So that was an exposure that some of us had, that was not known or publicized.

[00:43:52.72] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:43:53.53] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And of course, I was one of the fortunate few that actually picked up prostate cancer. But I picked it up early, and that was five years ago. And I've been treated. I took the radiation option.

[00:44:08.14] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you have any difficulty readjusting to life after the war? I mean, I know you stayed in the Air Force.

[00:44:19.78] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I had one. We had-- it's sort of funny, but we had this reconstituted milk over there.

[00:44:28.14] JOE GALLOWAY: I remember that.

[00:44:29.36] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And I loved milk back in the day, and I couldn't wait to get home because the first thing I wanted was a tall glass of real milk.

[00:44:37.69] JOE GALLOWAY: Cold.

[00:44:38.32] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Cold. I had that, and it just destroyed me. And I found out that during that 10 month period I was over there, I became lactose intolerant. Can you imagine? And of course--

[00:44:50.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Somebody who loves milk.

[00:44:52.72] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. That was one thing that happened to me over there.

[00:44:59.15] JOE GALLOWAY: If that's all that happened, that ain't bad.

[00:45:01.81] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's right. I came back with sound mind and body. And sure enough, I was back, like, three months and General Dixon made-- he was the commander of TAC at the time-- made a visit to Tucson at Davis-Monthan, and pinned my Distinguished Flying Cross on me, which I thought was magnificent because--

[00:45:21.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Pretty good.

[00:45:21.82] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yep.

[00:45:22.75] JOE GALLOWAY: DX-V.

[00:45:23.44] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah.

[00:45:26.39] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your experience in Vietnam affect the way you think about veterans coming home from combat today?

[00:45:32.58] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Absolutely. Absolutely. I think that the country owes an extreme debt of gratitude to the vets that have served in Vietnam. Still, the vets that served in Afghanistan and Iraq, the vets that served in Panama. I mean, all of the contingencies where we have lost lives, and it's the veterans that paid through the nose, if you will. And this country owes, as I said, a debt of gratitude of all the veterans. I think all of the World War II veterans-- World War I veterans are gone. There's still a few remaining World War II veterans.

[00:46:16.89] I don't know the number, but for example--

[00:46:19.41] JOE GALLOWAY: Fewer than a million.

[00:46:20.24] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. I went to a Tuskegee Airmen reunion last-- month before last, and there were about 60-some odd there that were still surviving after World War II.

[00:46:33.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:46:34.35] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And they paid a great debt during the time, because they had a tough time coming back to a segregated America.

[00:46:41.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Exactly.

[00:46:42.18] TIMOTHY BODDIE: For example. For example, yeah.

[00:46:44.67] JOE GALLOWAY: After you've been a fighter pilot, somebody's going to tell you to go to the back of the bus?

[00:46:49.71] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, that's right. It's hard to stomach, but it happened. It absolutely happened. And of course, many of those gentlemen took advantage of the GI Bill when they got back. And they are doctors, lawyers, you know-- all those people who were denied their freedom, so to speak--

[00:47:12.63] JOE GALLOWAY: They were all high achieving individuals.

[00:47:14.68] TIMOTHY BODDIE: To start with. Exactly. To start with. As a matter of fact, did you know there were some PhDs at the time in the Tuskegee Airmen Fighter Pilot Program?

[00:47:25.47] JOE GALLOWAY: I didn't know that, but it doesn't surprise me.

[00:47:26.25] TIMOTHY BODDIE: They had more degrees than the trainers. In fact, I have a picture at home-- I didn't bring that-- of the first cadre at Tuskegee. And the whole cadre was white, military. All white, except one guy. And he was a black officer. I don't know what his background was, because I haven't asked. But the guy that sent it to me was with me in Vietnam. Forgive me, I just can't recall his name, different squadron. But his father is on that picture as an instructor.

[00:47:58.44] JOE GALLOWAY: As an instructor.

[00:47:59.67] TIMOTHY BODDIE: At Tuskegee.

[00:48:01.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Amazing men.

[00:48:02.87] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah.

[00:48:08.46] JOE GALLOWAY: How do you think the Vietnam War is remembered in our society today?

[00:48:17.02] TIMOTHY BODDIE: You know, I don't think it got the historical notoriety that other wars have gotten because there's a whole class of people who don't care, didn't care at the time.

[00:48:29.59] JOE GALLOWAY: Didn't care at the time.

[00:48:30.40] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And now, their children are now high school and college graduates, who never have served anything.

[00:48:40.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:48:42.57] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Because see, the Vietnam War, because we didn't win-- go out to really win the war, has left a bad taste in a lot of Americans' thought processes. And you know, when you have that, that means you've got to work through a couple of generations to get us back thinking the right way. And when I say the right way, I'm talking about the American way that existed during World War II.

[00:49:09.27] We were all pulling together, and of course, we won that war, hands down. How many times in history have we liberated France, for example?

[00:49:21.21] JOE GALLOWAY: Well, a couple of times for sure.

[00:49:23.16] TIMOTHY BODDIE: You got that right. And I'm not knocking the French attitude or whatever, but they've never been a strong fighting force at the time.

[00:49:38.00] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you take away from your Vietnam experience more that was positive and useful than you invested in blood, sweat, and tears?

[00:49:48.49] TIMOTHY BODDIE: It taught me several things that I have hung on to throughout life. In other words, I became a real leader over there. I became a real aviator over there, where my skills were put to the test on a daily basis, where my thought processes were also put on display, if you will, as a leader, flight leader, assistant director of operations, as scheduler, and I made sure everybody got the missions they were supposed to get at the time they were supposed to get it.

[00:50:22.28] In other words, I instituted a system where it was a number system. If the number happened to be 205, the new guy that came in, he got that number, 205, because everybody else in the squadron had that same number. And when the flights came in, like the 206-- you follow where I'm going with this? Now, there are other guys, out of that 206, had 75 missions, for example, out of the 206. But there's one guy that had the 206. And the new guy also had the 206.

[00:51:00.03] So to keep everybody on an even basis, if you had so many encounters up north, you got that number. And so I wouldn't be feeding another guy-- I remember, when I first got there, Ken Cordier wanted to get back home before Christmas. And of course, he leaned on me at base, and I understood exactly what he wanted to do. He wanted to finish up his tour with 200 missions so he wouldn't get called back, because this was his second tour, a TDY, in a war zone.

[00:51:31.35] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:51:31.98] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And unfortunately, I think he was at his 97th on his second tour-- 98th, something like that-- when he got shot down. And I was devastated, you know? Because he had just a couple more to go before he came home. And then when he did come home, my wife, Maddie, and I met with him, went to visit him over at Holloman Air Base, Holloman Air Force Base. And that's where he was stationed when he, as we said, got out of jail and finished his re-indoctrination, flight re-indoctrination, at Randolph.

[00:52:08.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:52:09.99] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. So we can't get rid of each other. Yeah, we were always hooking up together somewhere.

[00:52:20.92] JOE GALLOWAY: What lessons did you take from the Vietnam War you would like to pass on to future generations of Americans?

[00:52:29.68] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Well, I think the fact that war is a very unpopular thing to be in to start with, but then you have to let all of your personal feelings and attitudes go away because you are a warrior, and that's your job on this Earth, is to win for the United States of America, without any political interference, if you will.

[00:52:59.59] When you see there are other means to obviate war, for example, and probably your strongest area, that I was taught, is the State Department, as far as diplomacy is concerned.

[00:53:15.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Diplomacy. Negotiation.

[00:53:16.24] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yes, exactly. You go through that, and if it comes to a fist fight, then you call on your warriors and you get out of the way. Because we'll take care of business.

[00:53:30.33] JOE GALLOWAY: But that's the last card you play.

[00:53:32.33] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's exactly right. But don't send us there with our arms tied behind our back, please. I say that to everybody that's in the political arena. Don't send your military to war unless you expect to win, because we will do that for you. If you untie our hands, give us total access to what we need access to.

[00:53:57.91] It's beautiful. My wife took some extreme pictures of-- I mean, extremely good pictures of the whole-- in fact, the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial. And in fact, I was living in DC when they dedicated that. I came to Plano in 2000. So I lived for 20 years in Washington-- well, in the outskirts of Washington. A place called Fort Washington. So I was in DC all the time. And of course, I was working for NASA, so I was downtown DC.

[00:54:26.65] I was the director of aviation for NASA from '92 to '97. And I did that as a job, as you say, to earn some money to augment my retirement pay. Needless to say, it worked. And then my last job in life so far has been as the interim president down at Texas Southern University in Houston. And I did that for about 18 months or so while the Board of Regents found a permanent president.

[00:54:58.15] And that was another experience. That was good.

[00:55:02.59] JOE GALLOWAY: Where is Texas Southern?

[00:55:04.09] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's in Houston. Yeah, Houston. Right across the street. As a matter of fact, the University of Houston shares a parking lot with Texas Southern right now. It's just one street that crosses the two campuses.

[00:55:16.18] JOE GALLOWAY: I've never been there, but I've been to Prairie View A&M when Becton was president.

[00:55:21.58] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that's right. Yeah. Becton did a good job there, too.

[00:55:26.65] JOE GALLOWAY: He did a good job.

[00:55:28.81] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And sometimes-- I'd like to see this. I think Texas is blessed with having so many retired military officers, that is generals and admirals, because you know, an admiral is now the University of Texas president. Did you know that?

[00:55:46.06] JOE GALLOWAY: They came out here.

[00:55:49.95] TIMOTHY BODDIE: The University of Texas has now, that's in Austin, has a Navy admiral as their president.

[00:55:56.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, I didn't know that.

[00:55:57.22] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Yeah. Unfortunately, I have a brain cramp right now. I can't remember his name.

[00:56:01.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Can't remember his name.

[00:56:02.16] TIMOTHY BODDIE: It's unfortunate. But I understand he's doing a miraculous job with the university. And most of us do. Being a university president is no different than being a wing commander. The same rules apply.

[00:56:18.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Except you got to go collect money.

[00:56:20.78] TIMOTHY BODDIE: From-- well, you have to collect money. Bring in income, sure.

[00:56:24.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:56:24.84] TIMOTHY BODDIE: But you also have to convince the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee-- or I may have the titles backwards-- but you have to convince those folks every two years, every two years, to give you what you need to operate. And we, in the Air Force, know how to do that because we've been in front of Congress many times, that is, the federal government, many times as a lobbyist, if you will, for the services.

[00:56:58.57] That's why we have legislative liaison officers there in Washington DC.

[00:57:02.49] JOE GALLOWAY: Absolutely.

[00:57:08.64] TIMOTHY BODDIE: I think when you say 50 years, that encompasses at least two generations of people, maybe three.

[00:57:16.90] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:57:17.70] TIMOTHY BODDIE: And the more that know about the 50th, the more, the better. And they'll realize that, hey, we may not have won the war, but we served honorably during that war.

[00:57:30.24] JOE GALLOWAY: And I'm not sure how many are going to be around for the 60th.

[00:57:34.29] TIMOTHY BODDIE: That's right. At 84, that means I'll be 94. Who knows?

[00:57:44.18] JOE GALLOWAY: That's getting long in the tooth there, general.

[00:57:46.55] TIMOTHY BODDIE: Roger that.

[00:57:48.87] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank you.

[00:57:49.55] TIMOTHY BODDIE: My pleasure.