

Gillespie, Lawrence US Army

[00:00:16.89] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I was born in a little town, Hamilton, Ohio, which is just north of Cincinnati, Ohio. Yeah, yeah.

[00:00:23.90] JOE GALLOWAY: When?

[00:00:24.72] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh, I was born 1943. Yeah.

[00:00:28.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Who were your family members?

[00:00:30.79] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: My mother and father, of course, Nathan and Sylvia Gillespie. And I had three brothers and one sister. Nathaniel, Donnell, and my younger brother Melvin and my sister Joyce.

[00:00:49.15] JOE GALLOWAY: Do you consider that little town your hometown? That where you went to school?

[00:00:53.68] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Went to high-- grade school, junior high school, and high school, yes.

[00:00:57.94] JOE GALLOWAY: What did your dad do?

[00:00:59.56] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: My dad did a multiple of things. This was back in the '50s and '40s. And he had a janitorial service. He also was a probation officer. Yeah. So he did multiple things. He did what he could to support his family.

[00:01:15.13] JOE GALLOWAY: What he had to.

[00:01:16.03] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right. And he did a very good job of that, yeah.

[00:01:19.36] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, how did you come to enter the military and when?

[00:01:24.07] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I entered the military in January of 1963. I was in college at that time. I was a sophomore. And I went home after my sophomore year and I told my dad that I was wasting his money and my time. So in fact, a week later I was in the United States Army.

[00:01:46.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Enlisted.

[00:01:47.36] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Enlisted.

[00:01:49.03] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. And the Vietnam War wasn't a blip on anybody's radar in '63.

[00:01:56.38] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, it wasn't making the papers at that time.

[00:02:05.04] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I went through basic training. I was the outstanding--

[00:02:08.25] JOE GALLOWAY: Where?

[00:02:08.91] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: At Fort Gordon, Georgia.

[00:02:10.41] JOE GALLOWAY: Fort Gordon.

[00:02:11.34] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. Yeah, I was the outstanding graduate of that brigade.

[00:02:14.94] JOE GALLOWAY: And then your MOS was infantry?

[00:02:18.30] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Infantry.

[00:02:19.08] JOE GALLOWAY: 11 Bravo.

[00:02:20.10] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, it wasn't 11 Bravo then. It was 15-- 1542, I want to say. Yeah, it wasn't 11 Bravo at that time. This is before they changed all that.

[00:02:30.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Before they changed it all.

[00:02:32.08] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah.

[00:02:33.00] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. So you did your basic there. Where did you do advanced?

[00:02:37.38] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: At Fort Gordon.

[00:02:38.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Same place.

[00:02:39.24] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right, yeah. And I also did-- in between those two, I did leadership school. It was very interesting, because I had back-- going back to college, I asked my ROTC instructor at that time, who was Major Fortua, I told him I was going to leave school and go in the Army.

[00:02:56.97] But I said I really wanted to get a commission and become an officer. And I said, what was the best service to do that? He said, the Army. And at that particular time, the Army is probably left over from Korea. If you had so much college and you passed the exam and everything, you could go into OCS.

[00:03:17.22] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:03:17.85] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That's exactly what I did.

[00:03:19.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Exactly what you did.

[00:03:20.79] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right.

[00:03:21.54] JOE GALLOWAY: So you got yourself into OCS and you're down to Fort Benning, Georgia, and--

[00:03:27.69] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right. 55th company.

[00:03:30.03] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:03:30.66] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:03:34.61] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. You got your commission now. You're still in infantry MOS.

[00:03:41.39] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:03:42.08] JOE GALLOWAY: And what else does the Army train you to do?

[00:03:45.59] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well at that particular time, when I graduated from OCS, I went to airborne school right after that. And then after airborne school, I went to Fort Knox, Kentucky. And I was an XO in a basic training company. And then they switched me over to become an instructor.

[00:04:04.53] And so I was an instructor in the-- on the rifle-- rifle range. And

[00:04:10.55] JOE GALLOWAY: At the Armor-- ?

[00:04:11.66] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: At the Armor School, correct. At Fort Knox.

[00:04:13.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Although you're infantry.

[00:04:15.02] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I know, they sent me to Fort Knox. Well, I'm glad--

[00:04:18.32] JOE GALLOWAY: Only the US Army.

[00:04:19.31] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I'm glad they did, Joe, because what happened was that was only a short distance from where I lived. So I could go home. And one thing I didn't tell you was that when I was a senior candidate in OCS, December 28, 1963, I got married. Yeah.

[00:04:39.53] And we've been married-- this is our 56th year.

[00:04:43.88] JOE GALLOWAY: You think she'll keep you?

[00:04:45.44] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: God willing.

[00:04:49.31] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. So now you're teaching--

[00:04:53.87] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Basic training.

[00:04:54.81] JOE GALLOWAY: --basic training, armor.

[00:04:56.69] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Not armor. They're basic trainees, period.

[00:04:59.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Period.

[00:04:59.87] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, period.

[00:05:00.71] JOE GALLOWAY: So you're teaching them how to shoot rifles.

[00:05:02.60] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Shoot rifles, right.

[00:05:03.41] JOE GALLOWAY: To a bunch of tankers.

[00:05:04.91] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, not really. They're, they're-- a lot of them went infantry.

[00:05:08.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Aah.

[00:05:08.54] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: They did, yeah. Sure did. I stayed there-- I'll never forget the day I was going out to the range and I asked our admin NCO. I said, can you call infantry branch and find out what-- when I'm going to flight school or if I'm going to flight school? And--

[00:05:25.70] JOE GALLOWAY: You had applied?

[00:05:26.96] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah. Oh, absolutely. I had applied in OCS. And when I came back in, he said, you got to be in flight school in three weeks. So at-- so--

[00:05:39.41] JOE GALLOWAY: Mineral Wells, Texas?

[00:05:41.06] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Texas-- Fort-- yeah. Yeah.

[00:05:42.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Fort Walters.

[00:05:43.49] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Fort Walters, that's exactly-- flying OH-23Ds.

[00:05:48.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Off you went.

[00:05:49.40] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:05:50.63] JOE GALLOWAY: How did flight training go?

[00:05:52.94] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Flight training went relatively well.

[00:05:55.73] JOE GALLOWAY: You didn't crash any airplanes?

[00:05:57.68] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yes I did. Yes-- oh I did. My final check ride, my instructor said, we've done everything and it's OK. We want you to do a straight-in autorotation. No problem. And so we went up and did a straight-in autorotation and I held the attitude too long.

[00:06:17.16] Next thing I know, I hit the tail rotor. And the aircraft went-- started spinning. And I'll never forget when we finally got everything stopped, my instructor pilot said to me-- he was really a check pilot. He said, do you always pull pitch that low? And I wasn't thinking about pulling pitch.

[00:06:39.75] I was thanking God I was still here. You know, but that was funny. But a week later, I went up and took another check ride and passed it. And then I was off to Fort Rucker.

[00:06:51.68] JOE GALLOWAY: Fort Rucker. And you're going to transition into Hueys eventually.

[00:06:56.76] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Eventually. We started out with UH-19s. UH-19Ds. And that was a reciprocating helicopter-- engine helicopter. Yeah, and that was-- I don't know if you've ever flown in one of those. But it's equivalent to the-- well, not equivalent to the OH-- the UH-34.

[00:07:16.41] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh my God. That's a beast of a helicopter.

[00:07:19.72] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: It is, it's a beast. And the H-19 was a beast also. Because the throttle was spring loaded to the closed position. So you're always overriding. I'd wake up in the morning and my hand would be like that. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:07:33.36] JOE GALLOWAY: A beast and a bear.

[00:07:35.04] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yup.

[00:07:36.00] JOE GALLOWAY: And the 34 they called the Shuddering Shithouse.

[00:07:39.39] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:07:39.69] JOE GALLOWAY: With good reason.

[00:07:40.62] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, it was-- it vibrated. So did the 19.

[00:07:44.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:07:44.67] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:07:45.24] JOE GALLOWAY: But eventually they let you get in a Huey.

[00:07:48.03] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, eventually. Yeah. When we got to the instrument phase, we got into the Huey. And we were flying A models, B models, and D models. Yeah. And that was-- I mean, it was a jet turbine. So it was a Cadillac at that time.

[00:08:06.69] JOE GALLOWAY: It was fast and new and all of that.

[00:08:10.47] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right, yeah.

[00:08:17.63] JOE GALLOWAY: Well sooner or later they're going to send you to Vietnam. When did they?

[00:08:22.00] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh right after I graduated from flight school.

[00:08:23.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Which was was year?

[00:08:24.81] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: September-- September, 1965. Yeah.

[00:08:27.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Where did they send you?

[00:08:29.28] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Bien Hoa.

[00:08:30.00] JOE GALLOWAY: Bien Hoa.

[00:08:30.90] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I went to Bien Hoa. Interesting thing. I have to tell you this. An interesting thing that the-- being a lieutenant, you know, everything is new. I'm-- especially going overseas. You've never been there before. And you know you're going into a war zone, so you're just sitting there wide eyed and you're saying, oh lord, what's going to happen, you know?

[00:08:51.72] But the interesting thing, and when we landed in the Philippines-- because the aircraft went from Travis to Hawaii to Guam to Wake and then the Philippines, and Philippines into Vietnam. But when I got off the plane in the Philippines, somebody grabbed me and said, Lieutenant, come with me.

[00:09:10.20] And I said, what did I do? I was just riding on the airplane. And they handcuffed me to a briefcase and they gave me a .45. And I said, what am I going to do with this .45 in this airplane? It's full of Soldiers. So I gave the .45 to the captain of the aircraft and I sat there.

[00:09:30.76] And when we landed at Tan Son Nhut, I was the first one they asked to come off the airplane. They took the briefcase and said-- and I gave them the gun. They said, thank you. The interesting thing was that when we got off the plane, they asked the people to say, well, if you're going to MACV, get in this line.

[00:09:47.37] If you're going to USARV, get in this line. Well, I had a MACV patch on. And I said, well, I'm going with the MACV. Best decision I ever made.

[00:09:55.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:09:56.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I spent the first night in Vietnam in the Hong Kong BOQ in Saigon. And guys that were in MACV, the pilots, they spent at Camp City Alpha. So you know the difference. You've been to Camp City, I'm sure.

[00:10:08.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:10:09.30] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. So that was-- but the next day, they corrected that situation and I spent the next night at Camp City. So that was interesting.

[00:10:18.23] JOE GALLOWAY: You thought you were MACV.

[00:10:19.80] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no, I was-- no I was-- I was USARV. Yeah, yeah.

[00:10:25.47] JOE GALLOWAY: Did you have an assignment, or did you-- ?

[00:10:27.60] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I was going to A company, 501st Aviation Battalion.

[00:10:31.79] JOE GALLOWAY: In Bien Hoa.

[00:10:32.70] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: In Bien Hoa, yeah. I was going there.

[00:10:34.72] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. How did you get there? They bus you over?

[00:10:37.71] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, they flew us up in helicopters, yeah. Flew us up in a helicopter.

[00:10:42.63] JOE GALLOWAY: What were your duties once you got to the company?

[00:10:45.90] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh, once I got to the company-- well, the first day-- the first, we were supposed to go down and meet the company commander. But he wasn't available, so we met the XO. And the XO said-- this was, you got to realize, this is September 1965. OK.

[00:11:02.10] We're still going through the build up and they're still giving us per diem, which was-- they stopped it. They stopped it soon thereafter. But the XO said, he said, we're not ready right now-- there's about three of us in there. And he said, you guys go down to the villa and get yourself laid out in your room and stuff.

[00:11:23.55] And I said, villa? Room? Because I thought we were going to get a foxhole or a tent or something, you know. But we did, we went down and got-- we went to the villa. And it was really a nice place to stay. But-- and that's where I spent the year, as far as my accommodations are concerned.

[00:11:43.44] JOE GALLOWAY: In a private villa.

[00:11:45.41] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: In a villa, we called it a villa. Yeah, it was on Cong Ly Street in Bien Hoa. Yeah. And the 118th was right down the street. And also the 197th, which was the only gun company in Vietnam at that time.

[00:12:06.36] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: It's a gradual situation. The company had been over there for at least six or seven months, OK. Because I think they came out of Fort Hood. And what happened was that the new pilots coming in-- you had-- you had a gradual orientation. In flying-- you're flying the D model Huey.

[00:12:29.25] Didn't go into guns right away. You had to do at least three months in the--

[00:12:34.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Flying slicks.

[00:12:35.22] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: --flying slicks before you could go into the Huey. So that's what I did. I flew-- and you were a co-pilot. And they put you with the older pilots. And--

[00:12:46.42] JOE GALLOWAY: You're flying ash and trash missions.

[00:12:48.63] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, and combat assaults.

[00:12:50.04] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:12:50.31] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, my first combat assault is the first time I was shot at. Yeah. And I'll never forget Ali Campbell was flying-- Ali's dead now. He was a CW3 at the time. But he was an old head. He really had a lot of time and experience. And I'll never forget, we were taking off and he said, you got the aircraft.

[00:13:10.50] And I was flying, and I pulled too much pitch. And I fell behind the other aircraft. And all of a sudden, something went pow. And the door gunners threw smoke and started opening up with the machine guns and everything. And Ali said, I got this. I said, yes sir, take it. You know how that is, yeah.

[00:13:31.65] So you learn. They put you on a learning cycle. And that was good. That was good, yeah. So eventually you get enough time and you go on enough combat assaults and you go on enough ash and trash and--

[00:13:48.21] JOE GALLOWAY: And they put you in the other seat.

[00:13:49.77] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right. You become an aircraft commander, and I did that.

[00:13:52.51] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:13:53.16] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And then myself and a gentleman by the name of Mr. Moore, CW. He was CW2. We were on a-- we were on a ash and trash mission on one occasion and we were going out to an outpost. And you know how we did it in as far as we call ahead and say we're coming and we tell them to pop smoke and you identify the smoke.

[00:14:20.07] And it's like, roger that. And we tell them, yeah, it's yellow smoke. And that day, it was yellow. And we were making an approach in there. And I was flying the aircraft. And something just said to me, don't land on that spot. And I didn't land on that spot, and guess what happened?

[00:14:40.45] They blew it up.

[00:14:41.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Whoa.

[00:14:42.06] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, they blew it up. I mean-- I mean, it was-- and next thing I know, I--

[00:14:45.81] JOE GALLOWAY: They had mined the LZ?

[00:14:47.13] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: They had planted explosives where we were going to land. Yeah, they were--

[00:14:52.23] JOE GALLOWAY: That's where the smoke was.

[00:14:53.94] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, that's exactly right. In fact, there was a cap-- yeah, I think it was a captain was talking to the aircraft commander on the skid when it exploded. And I pulled the aircraft up right away. And just next thing I knew, I'm--

[00:15:12.26] JOE GALLOWAY: You just went around.

[00:15:12.93] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, I'm doing 100 knots about 50 feet off the ground, just trying to get out of there. Because we didn't know what was going on. Yeah. And the next--

[00:15:22.91] JOE GALLOWAY: So they lost an aircraft?

[00:15:24.33] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no, no, no. The air--

[00:15:26.28] JOE GALLOWAY: Everybody got out safe.

[00:15:27.75] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, I was flying it. No, the aircraft, it wasn't damaged that much. No. But it did blow out some of the windows. Just the concussion. Yeah, I mean-- and they had to clean the seats, you know. No, the aircraft was fine. In fact, we flew it back home that night.

[00:15:46.56] But that was the day that I went in to the gunship platoon leader to say, I'm switching.

[00:15:52.89] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm ready to--

[00:15:53.49] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I'm going to guns.

[00:15:54.84] JOE GALLOWAY: I want something that shoots back.

[00:15:56.02] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, that's exactly right.

[00:15:57.63] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:15:58.26] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And from that day on, I was in the guns.

[00:16:07.27] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: My first tour, it was a team effort really. Like I said, we-- the officers and warrant officers, we lived in the villa on Cong Ly Street. And it was a-- it was really nice. We ate together, we had-- at that particular time, we had-- I'll never forget, Martha Raye came down.

[00:16:31.57] And I played pool with Eddie Fisher.

[00:16:33.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:16:33.89] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. So you know how long ago that's been.

[00:16:36.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:16:36.97] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And even the vice president of the United States came down and visited us while we were there.

[00:16:44.77] JOE GALLOWAY: Hubert Humphrey?

[00:16:45.67] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Pardon? Yeah, Hubert Humphrey. JOE GALLOWAY: Hubert Humphrey. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yep, at that time. And yeah, some of the taskings that I had-- I had to build a landing pad out there in Cong Ly Street. And we lost our-- while we were out on the ship with the Seawolves-- I was one of the original Seawolves too-- that we lost our battalion commander.

[00:17:18.52] You might remember that they hit that wire between Bien Hoa and Saigon.

[00:17:22.93] JOE GALLOWAY: Yep.

[00:17:23.44] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And killed the nurse.

[00:17:25.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Killed a nurse, killed--

[00:17:28.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: The newspaper--

[00:17:29.35] JOE GALLOWAY: The news-- Merriman Smith's son--

[00:17:33.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Son, yeah, and I knew him.

[00:17:34.23] JOE GALLOWAY: --who was a friend of mine.

[00:17:35.23] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I knew him. Yeah. They struck the old--

[00:17:37.29] JOE GALLOWAY: They were out joyriding.

[00:17:39.16] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, they were going up to Da Lat. OK. And you could call it joyriding, but they were-- and we had the brand new Charlie model gunships. And this was a slick, because it wasn't armed. And they hit that power line.

[00:17:52.72] JOE GALLOWAY: They hit a power line.

[00:17:54.07] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Killed everybody.

[00:17:55.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Killed everybody. But there were a couple of nurses on there.

[00:17:58.33] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yup, yup.

[00:17:59.59] JOE GALLOWAY: And Smitty's boy was the public affairs fellow. He had no business being up there either. Agh. Sad, sad story.

[00:18:11.05] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: See our paths are crossing.

[00:18:13.27] JOE GALLOWAY: Describe the difference, flying slick and gunship.

[00:18:17.74] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well a slick, as you well know, is a troop carrying aircraft.

[00:18:21.76] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:18:22.18] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And you described it right, ash and trash. They do that. They resupply, they fly supplies out there. And they were also used for medevac, the slicks. But mostly slicks-- if we had to put slicks in a category, they're a troop carrying aircraft.

[00:18:44.12] When we go on a combat assault, they're the ones that have the troops on board. And the guns are the ones-- they're the armed helicopters. We carried on those, the Bravo and the Charlie models that I flew on my first tour, we had the--

[00:18:59.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Rocket pods.

[00:19:00.74] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: --had two rocket pods, one on each side. And you had two M60 machine guns on each side. But they were specially adapted to-- for an aircraft. Yeah.

[00:19:12.08] JOE GALLOWAY: OK. But they each had a gunner on them. A gunner on them?

[00:19:15.59] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we had gun-- had a gunner and a crew chief.

[00:19:18.23] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:19:18.92] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:19:19.31] JOE GALLOWAY: So you weren't down to miniguns yet?

[00:19:23.21] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Nope, second tour.

[00:19:24.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Second tour. Oh. Did you find it difficult landing on ships with the Seawolves?

[00:19:36.20] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Let me put it this way. One day I'm in Bien Hoa flying guns with plenty of land. And the next thing I know, I'm flying gunships off of an LSD, which is a landing ship dock. And that's very interesting because, especially at night-- if you've ever been out in the ocean at night in an aircraft and you're up about 1,500, 2000 feet and that ship looks like a little dot in the water.

[00:20:08.24] And you know you got to land on it. Very interesting.

[00:20:11.10] JOE GALLOWAY: It's very interesting.

[00:20:12.26] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And you don't have--

[00:20:13.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank God you're not in a jet going this way.

[00:20:15.26] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And the other thing is, too, is you don't have any additional instrumentation on that aircraft to help you get-- we just-- they just sent out a naked B model aircraft. And we shouldn't have done that. They should have been modified. We at least should have had radar altimeters or something on there.

[00:20:32.97] And then the other thing is that I remember we'd take off from the ship and you'd always lose RPM, just because of the weight and the density altitude and everything else. You'd always lose it. And you'd always tell you your door gunner to tell us when the rotor blade is clear of the ship.

[00:20:53.60] Because then what happens here is you lower the collective and come back up to regain your RPM. And you had to learn that. And at night, it's-- once you leave the ship, it's dark. And so you're on your instruments.

[00:21:06.71] JOE GALLOWAY: You don't know what you're doing.

[00:21:08.36] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well you do. You learn quick. Either that or you're going to wind up in the ocean.

[00:21:11.96] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:21:12.59] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, and we lost a couple of ships.

[00:21:14.36] JOE GALLOWAY: Now, describe to me what the Seawolves was all about.

[00:21:18.71] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, the Navy wanted gunships out there to patrol the coast, and also the area between Vung Tau and Saigon.

[00:21:28.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:21:29.09] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: We had the Swift--

[00:21:31.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Up the river.

[00:21:31.86] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, up the river. We had the Swift boats over there and we had the PBRs.

[00:21:36.50] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:21:36.89] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we had those. We had-- and those were the SEALs. And the Coast Guard was up there also. And they were patrolling the area, and we were working with them. And they just wanted that capability out there. And we flew almost every night.

[00:21:54.92] You flew in the daytime also, but a lot of-- a lot of the flying was at night.

[00:22:00.45] JOE GALLOWAY: And you were looking for infiltrators, smugglers, all of that stuff?

[00:22:05.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Whatever was deemed to be the enemy at that particular time. But the interesting thing was-- and you've probably been in the Rung Sat area between Vung Tau and-- and you know it's all wet.

[00:22:17.34] JOE GALLOWAY: It's all wet.

[00:22:19.08] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And you try to figure out, where are they hiding? You know. But I mean, I've seen tracer fire come up at us from those areas.

[00:22:26.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:22:27.33] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:22:28.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Don't know where they are.

[00:22:30.18] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No. And they were ingenious that way, yeah.

[00:22:34.05] JOE GALLOWAY: They knew about camouflage.

[00:22:35.76] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, they did.

[00:22:36.33] JOE GALLOWAY: That's for damn sure.

[00:22:43.08] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I came in September of '65 and left in September of '66.

[00:22:47.40] JOE GALLOWAY: Now when you were doing the Seawolf mission, you're based on the ship?

[00:22:51.84] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: On the ship, yeah.

[00:22:52.77] JOE GALLOWAY: So you're living on the ship?

[00:22:54.30] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: On the ship, LSD.

[00:22:55.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Eating ice cream and living large.

[00:22:57.96] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Thank you. No, you didn't have to worry about being mortared or anything else like that. You didn't have to worry about the same thing you did when you're on land.

[00:23:06.63] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:23:07.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: In fact, the captain of the ship awarded us Navy wings on a blue cloth. And that's the only time you could wear it. Yeah. So that was just ceremonial. Yeah.

[00:23:21.23] JOE GALLOWAY: How long were you out there?

[00:23:23.98] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Three to four months. Don't hold me to that time, but it was three to four months.

[00:23:29.80] JOE GALLOWAY: What kind of missions? Did you get to blow up some good stuff?

[00:23:34.06] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we hit a few of the ships out there, I mean the boats out there.

[00:23:38.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:23:38.80] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we hit some of them. Yeah. And-- but most of the time, we were just in support, reconnaissance, et cetera. I can't say we hit some big boats, because we didn't. But we did hit some that had contraband on board. They had weapons and things like that.

[00:23:55.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Sampans.

[00:23:56.92] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah.

[00:23:59.83] JOE GALLOWAY: Now did you finish out your tour out there?

[00:24:03.40] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No.

[00:24:03.82] JOE GALLOWAY: No.

[00:24:04.09] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No. I came back in.

[00:24:05.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Came back in.

[00:24:06.37] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And they had another crew.

[00:24:07.69] JOE GALLOWAY: Back to Bien Hoa.

[00:24:08.68] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Back to Bien Hoa, yeah.

[00:24:12.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Describe the quality of the leadership in your outfit, at least as high as you could see it.

[00:24:20.87] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That-- I was a first lieutenant. Just had graduated from OCS a couple of years ago. And when I look back at it, I think your main thing in that particular rank is just to do your job, you know. And if you did your job, there were a lot of things that happened during that time.

[00:24:47.63] For instance, we were-- the buildup was going on. And there wasn't enough ammunition. And particularly, 2.75 inch rockets. And I can remember on one combat assault, we were firing some rockets and our platoon leader got in a little difficulty because of that. Because-

[00:25:08.81] JOE GALLOWAY: Didn't want him shooting it up?

[00:25:10.61] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, they didn't have enough. I mean, in the supply chain they couldn't keep up with what was being expended in combat. But they later solved that issue. I mean, you got to realize when you're going from a contingency-- a very small contingency-- to, what was it, over 500,000?

[00:25:28.72] With the Cav, you know. And you were with the Cav. And their buildup. I'm sure they suffered the same difficulties.

[00:25:38.87] JOE GALLOWAY: I think they came over fat.

[00:25:41.88] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well I don't know, because I wasn't with them. But I do know the supply situation where we were and the units that were coming in-- especially aviation units. They were building up aviation units very quickly. And they had to build up the supply infrastructure along with it.

[00:26:00.04] And I remember that one occasion very, very distinctly. Because our company-- our company commander called us into the mess hall and just chewed everybody out for firing those rockets.

[00:26:16.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, well, what the hell else are you going to do with a gunship?

[00:26:20.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I don't know. I just don't know.

[00:26:22.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Throw cans of C-rations at them?

[00:26:24.78] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, you know, you spent enough time over there yourself. And there was some difficulty in regards to trying to really identify what the mission was.

[00:26:33.42] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:26:34.20] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:26:35.87] JOE GALLOWAY: But how was the quality of the leadership?

[00:26:40.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I would have to say, from my perspective of being a first lieutenant at the time, I would have to say it was OK. I got home.

[00:26:48.80] JOE GALLOWAY: That ain't bad.

[00:26:49.86] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, that's pretty good.

[00:26:51.56] JOE GALLOWAY: How were your NCOs?

[00:26:53.57] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Very good. Very good. You learn from your NCOs. Yeah. A lot of them had been over there, and it was at a time where, for instance, we were getting our door gunners. Some of them were coming over for six months from the 25th Infantry Division.

[00:27:14.39] And they'd stay for six months and go back to Hawaii. And then they changed all that because they said, nope, you're going to stay. And you look at a Huey. And for those people to maintain the Hueys as many hours as we were putting on those things and keeping them in the air-- yeah. They're outstanding.

[00:27:38.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:27:39.23] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: They were outstanding. And to do what they had to do-- because some nights they'd be out on those ships all night, just getting them ready for the next day missions. And things like that. Our NCOs were good. Our crew chiefs were excellent. Yeah. I can't say enough about them.

[00:27:57.82] And that's on both tours.

[00:28:04.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: The best day I had. The day I didn't have to fly. That was the best day.

[00:28:10.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, was it?

[00:28:10.99] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. I mean, you look at it-- now I can go into a lot of detail. For instance, one of the best days that we had, if you put it in perspective, was we were flying-- this was on my first tour-- we were flying wing on another gunship. Flying wing is you're the second helicopter in the flight.

[00:28:34.03] And for some reason he made a turn, and we made a turn outside of him. And I lost sight of him for about, just like that. And when I gained sight of him again, he was on fire. The aircraft was literally on fire.

[00:28:48.46] JOE GALLOWAY: Burning.

[00:28:49.03] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah, it was on fire. And we yelled at him, and said, get it on the ground. And I'll never forget, when they got it on the ground, it landed, it went up on its nose a little bit and the tail boom broke off.

[00:28:58.66] JOE GALLOWAY: Whoa.

[00:28:59.14] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And we flew over the greenhouse and-- the Huey's got the greenhouse on top-- and you look down, there's nothing but flame. So when you say the best day I had is when those four people got out of the aircraft and not a scratch on them.

[00:29:14.98] JOE GALLOWAY: Without a scratch and without a burn.

[00:29:16.66] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That's a great day.

[00:29:23.00] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I lost my wingman five days before he was going home. Yeah. He-- and I, to this day, I don't know what happened to him.

[00:29:31.94] JOE GALLOWAY: Crashed?

[00:29:32.60] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, he crashed in between Bien Hoa and Saigon. I don't know what happened to him. I know they had him--

[00:29:39.95] JOE GALLOWAY: No recovery?

[00:29:41.65] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: They recovered him, but to this day, like I said, I don't know what happened to him. I-- and I had to go down and be there, like a survival officer. I had to go down to the morgue and get all his stuff, and stuff.

[00:29:53.99] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh.

[00:29:54.98] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That's the worst day you had. JOE GALLOWAY: That's a bad day. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And I can still see him going out to the helicopter that day. And he was in a bad mood because I had told him the day before that he didn't have to fly anymore. That was the worst day. And then he-- my second tour, I was flying over--

[00:30:12.26] we were up in the Michelin rubber plantation. And I didn't fly that day. And they called me out because the aircraft had gone down. And when I got out there, the aircraft was laying on its side. And I flew over it. And at the same time I flew over it, the aircraft exploded.

[00:30:29.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh.

[00:30:30.44] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:30:30.89] JOE GALLOWAY: Lost the whole crew?

[00:30:32.07] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Three.

[00:30:32.61] JOE GALLOWAY: Three.

[00:30:33.20] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And you were with aviation units. And you knew that was-- when an aircraft went down, everybody came.

[00:30:41.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah, everybody came.

[00:30:42.26] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we had an experience. We had, around Bien Hoa, we had what we called the Dong Nai patrol. And we'd fly around Bien Hoa at night, just to see-- because you you know, you could look at things and see, well, that's not right. You know, so we'd report it.

[00:31:00.41] And I'll never forget, we were flying around. And all of a sudden on guard, there's mayday, mayday, mayday. It was an F-100 and it was down by Duc Hoa And you know how flat III Corps is.

[00:31:15.75] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:31:16.25] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well we saw him come out of the F-100. We saw him actually come out of it. He ejected out of it.

[00:31:23.00] JOE GALLOWAY: He ejected.

[00:31:24.08] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right. And he was probably on the ground, I'd say at the most ten minutes.

[00:31:28.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Because you guys had him.

[00:31:29.09] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, because all the aircraft. I mean, you could hear it on guard. We're-- everybody was coming. When I went down, I went down my second tour. I wasn't shot down, I lost an engine. But I was on the ground for about 30, 40 minutes. But Jesus, I had all the help.

[00:31:48.53] And they had-- I'll never forget the two F-100s that came and start circling around. And they put a slick in there and picked me up. Yeah. But I didn't put a scratch on that aircraft. I landed it successfully. Yes. Yeah, we were up-- we'd just taken off from Cu Chi in a fully-loaded Charlie model.

[00:32:09.26] And lost the engine, just like that.

[00:32:12.44] JOE GALLOWAY: Now your second tour was what years?

[00:32:15.50] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: '60-- let me see, '65. '67 to '68.

[00:32:20.95] JOE GALLOWAY: '67-'68. Now by then, America's got a lot of social tension, racial tension, turmoil, antiwar protests. Does any of that come over to where you are?

[00:32:34.04] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah, yeah. You were there, Joe. You know it was there.

[00:32:38.42] JOE GALLOWAY: I saw it in the rear echelon areas, but I never saw it out on--

[00:32:43.55] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: On the battlefield. No, nobody-- as long as you're keeping up your fire and you're doing what you're doing and you're out there with your-- everybody, you just-- you're a team.

[00:32:54.30] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:32:54.74] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. You just do what you have to do to make the mission successful.

[00:32:58.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:32:58.43] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And people out risking their lives to save other people. Yeah.

[00:33:01.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:33:02.18] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, that-- that's-- that's what you do, yeah.

[00:33:05.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:33:06.23] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well you know what we called rear end-- you know what they call them. Yeah. I can't say it here. But--

[00:33:12.05] JOE GALLOWAY: The REMFs.

[00:33:12.86] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, REMFs. Yeah. That's exactly right, yeah. Yeah, but it was an interesting time because the first tour, I didn't see any of that. None. Second tour, I did. It was disheartening because you're over there and you're putting your life out and you got this extraneous stuff that you're dealing with and you have to deal with it because it's there.

[00:33:40.13] But it was tough, I can say. From my perspective, it was tough.

[00:33:46.23] JOE GALLOWAY: How much time did you guys have off? What did you do for recreation? Combat volleyball?

[00:33:55.47] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, I played basketball. I remember Cu Chi, I played basketball a lot. Yeah. But there wasn't

[00:34:02.79] JOE GALLOWAY: There wasn't much.

[00:34:03.82] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no. You got to understand, my second tour, I was a lot smarter than I was my first tour. And I had a pretty good idea of what it took to stay alive. And that's what I did. You know, but combat-wise, the second tour was a little more intense.

[00:34:23.88] I went through the Tet Offensive in second tour. I was with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. I was attached to them as a liaison officer.

[00:34:32.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Up Cu Chi way.

[00:34:33.75] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No. They were at Long Binh.

[00:34:36.27] JOE GALLOWAY: They were at Long Binh by then.

[00:34:37.17] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. The Red Catcher, they called them. Yeah. And General Davison, or Colonel Davison at the time, he was in charge because General Forbes had gone home on R&R. And that's when they hit on Tet. And we had-- we had over-- we didn't. The enemy had-- because of what the 173rd did--

[00:34:57.40] they had over 300 KIA.

[00:34:59.07] JOE GALLOWAY: Wow.

[00:35:00.18] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, three days. Yeah. Yeah, that was interesting-- were you over there then?

[00:35:07.32] JOE GALLOWAY: I was not in country then. I was in Japan at the time.

[00:35:11.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: You didn't miss anything.

[00:35:12.24] JOE GALLOWAY: I didn't miss a thing. Sounds like a mess.

[00:35:16.47] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: After what you went through, no. You didn't miss a thing.

[00:35:18.75] JOE GALLOWAY: I came back, my second tour was '71 for the Lam Son 719. Nasty business.

[00:35:25.80] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That was awful.

[00:35:27.03] JOE GALLOWAY: We would flip a coin each night to see which lucky five got the dedicated Huey to fly into Laos.

[00:35:34.44] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Laos, yeah.

[00:35:35.52] JOE GALLOWAY: Sit down on some bald mountain and look out there at the interlocking B-52 bomb craters and enemy POL pipeline running through it and tanks moving. Holy Toledo.

[00:35:53.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: We learned a lesson too in doing that. Because my sense-- this is just my personal sense-- is that you looked at that and the amount of anti-aircraft fire and the enemy defenses and stuff like that. We had never faced that in Vietnam. Maybe during Tet.

[00:36:11.56] But not that way. Not--

[00:36:13.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Not that way.

[00:36:13.72] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no. I wasn't there. But I read about it. And I said-- and the number of helicopters that they lost was--

[00:36:21.07] JOE GALLOWAY: They were losing Hueys by the dozen.

[00:36:23.65] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:36:28.39] JOE GALLOWAY: How much, if any, contact did you have with our allies? The Koreans, the Aussies, the New Zealanders, Filipinos?

[00:36:36.37] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Aussie and the Kiwis. That was the New Zealanders. We supported them on their LRRP teams. Yeah, my second tour. And so that was--

[00:36:47.92] JOE GALLOWAY: You were going and pulling them in and putting them in.

[00:36:50.32] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, putting them in. But we-- I worked, and I should have said this. You know Charlie Beckwith?

[00:36:58.12] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:36:58.57] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, Charlie had Delta teams--

[00:37:01.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:37:01.45] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: --in Vietnam. And we supported them quite a few times. And I enjoyed that because every time we went out, it was exciting.

[00:37:10.30] JOE GALLOWAY: It had to be.

[00:37:12.67] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Charlie had us doing some things-- but he was--

[00:37:16.35] JOE GALLOWAY: This was first tour?

[00:37:17.56] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: First tour, yeah. Yeah, first tour.

[00:37:19.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Because he got shot up pretty bad. But he came back with the 101st.

[00:37:23.95] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: 101st. I remember he was a lieutenant colonel. He was a battalion commander.

[00:37:27.10] JOE GALLOWAY: Battalion commander.

[00:37:27.82] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right, yeah. See I was back there in the day, you know? Yeah, so I remember him. He was Special Forces when we were working with him with the Delta teams. And I always tell people. I said-- and Charlie was a big man. Yeah, he was a big man.

[00:37:43.21] He took a .50 caliber up in A Shau.

[00:37:45.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Side to side.

[00:37:46.39] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Right.

[00:37:46.85] JOE GALLOWAY: You know, he should have died.

[00:37:48.34] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. But what did he have a heart attack or something, died in bed or something?

[00:37:52.36] JOE GALLOWAY: Died in bed.

[00:37:53.47] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I saw-- I saw-- I saw, if I could, I saw-- I wasn't anywhere near A Chau when you-- not A Chau, but Ia Drang--

[00:38:01.87] JOE GALLOWAY: Ia Drang.

[00:38:02.38] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: --when you were up there. But I saw the results of it. Because at that particular time, they had all the KIAs on our side, and they brought them into Saigon.

[00:38:14.05] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:38:14.44] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And I was at Tan Son Nhut refueling. And we'd heard about the battle up there. But I-- we saw the results of it because they were loading it in C-141s taking them home. And I saw that.

[00:38:27.13] JOE GALLOWAY: They ran out of coffins and body bags. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yea. I saw that. JOE GALLOWAY: I think they had to stack them in the morgue there for three weeks.

[00:38:34.93] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I saw them. I saw them there.

[00:38:36.39] JOE GALLOWAY: There were casualties that didn't make it home until Thanksgiving.

[00:38:39.43] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:38:40.09] JOE GALLOWAY: Sad business.

[00:38:46.74] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Now our first tour in Vietnam, we worked a lot with the ARVNs. And I remember going out, and when I was flying the slicks and doing medevac for them because they couldn't get their own people to go out and do it. Oh yeah, yeah. I remember one day we flew a pass in review.

[00:39:09.63] I think it was-- I forget what leader was getting inaugurated, but one of them. My first tour is-- I had the most contact with the South Vietnamese. And I just explained earlier where we had to go out sometimes and fly. It wasn't good. I saw them in battle, and I wasn't impressed.

[00:39:31.87] I really wasn't impressed, and I really wasn't impressed with the leadership, because I saw how they treated their men.

[00:39:36.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:39:38.34] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: The villagers, no. I never, never had any experience with-- I sort of-- I kept myself a little distanced because you know as well as I do. You could go and land someplace and these little kids, some of them could come up with a grenade or anything.

[00:39:59.30] And you just-- I just didn't take any chances.

[00:40:01.39] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:40:01.81] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: You know, I wouldn't let them get close to the aircraft or anything like that. Because sometimes we'd be sitting and waiting at one of these isolated airstrips, and you always draw a crowd. And these kids coming up with the Coca-Colas or the ladies coming up, et cetera like that.

[00:40:18.50] Not-- nothing illicit or anything like that. But they'd come up just out of-- looking at the aircraft. And you know, you just tell them to stay away. So I didn't-- I didn't-- in both tours, I never had anything other than just passing them by or things like that. Never did.

[00:40:35.53] JOE GALLOWAY: Never did.

[00:40:36.22] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Nope.

[00:40:42.42] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: My wife and I, we corresponded regularly.

[00:40:45.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Writing.

[00:40:46.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, writing. But every now and then, you had a chance to go down and use the telephone and say-- JOE GALLOWAY: Oh, the MARS line. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I love you, over. JOE GALLOWAY: Over. Over. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. So yeah, yeah, yeah. We had just-- it was interesting because at Fort Rucker, my daughter was born. And when I went to Vietnam, she was three months old.

[00:41:07.38] When I came back, of course, she was 15 months old. And she didn't know who I was.

[00:41:13.45] JOE GALLOWAY: Right.

[00:41:13.68] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:41:14.19] JOE GALLOWAY: Strange man.

[00:41:15.21] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. Who is this guy walking through the front doors? Yeah. And then in the second tour, my wife had my son. And he was three months old when I got home. Yeah, so that-- that's-- when they say the wives are in the military, that's a true statement.

[00:41:32.01] JOE GALLOWAY: Absolutely.

[00:41:32.91] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:41:33.33] JOE GALLOWAY: Now second tour, how much news are you receiving about the war you're fighting?

[00:41:41.16] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: You talking about--

[00:41:42.33] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm talking Stars and Stripes, Armed Forces Radio.

[00:41:44.31] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh, we got-- yeah we got Stars and Stripes. But going back to my first tour, what was the guy's-- Chernow? The guy-- Good Morning, Vietnam.

[00:41:55.20] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh yeah.

[00:41:55.92] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I heard-- I mean, we used to listen to him all the time.

[00:41:58.23] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:41:58.59] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. I mean, we even all--

[00:42:00.79] JOE GALLOWAY: He just died here a couple of weeks ago.

[00:42:01.48] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, on our combat assault. Yeah, we could dial in the AF--

[00:42:07.35] JOE GALLOWAY: AFVN.

[00:42:08.91] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, we could dial it in. He'd say, good morning, Vietnam.

[00:42:13.56] JOE GALLOWAY: Good morning, Vietnam. Adrian Cronauer.

[00:42:14.76] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Cronauer, right. Yeah, we used to listen to him all the time. And you go on a combat assault and, you know, you're-- especially flying to the area, you got a little time. So you just-- you're listening to the radio. And we could pick up the FM, yeah, very easily.

[00:42:31.27] And so it was something to keep you sane.

[00:42:35.29] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:42:35.61] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: But you know, you ask about the news. And every now and then we'd get a Stars and Stripes and things like that. But the thing that-- on my second tour in 1968, we lost Martin Luther King and then we lost Robert Kennedy.

[00:42:56.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Bobby Kennedy.

[00:42:57.32] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And I said, what in the world is going on back there? You know, you had no idea. I mean, I didn't. You know. And you know, you're wondering-- and the first thing you think about is your family. You know, what-- you're shooting two of the leaders?

[00:43:15.50] And Bobby Kennedy was running for president.

[00:43:18.34] JOE GALLOWAY: And then you got cities burning.

[00:43:21.35] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Burning, yeah. Absolutely.

[00:43:22.92] JOE GALLOWAY: You got the 82nd Airborne sent into Detroit with machine guns.

[00:43:27.14] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I'll tell you a story. I was up at Tay Ninh and I got out of my aircraft and I turned around and there was an African-American GI standing there with an M16. And I took off my helmet as I want-- I didn't want him to make a mistake.

[00:43:50.45] And I took off my helmet and he said, hey-- and I was a captain at the time. And the guy was a spec 4 or something like that. And he said, brother, we're going to get them. I said, what do you mean? He said, we're going to get them tonight. I said, well, what do you mean? He said, yeah, we're going-- you with us?

[00:44:06.04] Oh yeah, you got that M16, you're damn right I'm with you. Yeah, yeah. And he said, yeah. I said, where are you going to be? Because I wanted to get the information from him. And told me and everything like that. I went and told the commanding officer. I said, you're going to have some problems tonight.

[00:44:20.05] I said, because right over there-- and they squelched it. Yeah. Oh, it was that bad. Yeah. Yeah, well you know. Joe, later on, they were fragging people.

[00:44:29.02] JOE GALLOWAY: They were.

[00:44:29.62] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. And that was strange to me. In the United States Army to have people throwing grenades at our own people.

[00:44:37.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:44:37.72] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, that was strange.

[00:44:45.04] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: My returns home were great. Really and truly, they were great.

[00:44:48.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Nobody spit at you, nobody called you baby killer.

[00:44:52.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No. No, no. I'd still be in jail if somebody had spit at me. Yeah. I mean, my mindset at that time, after two tours in Vietnam-- when I came home my first tour, I surprised my wife. OK, she didn't know I was coming home. And that was great. And I'll never forget my mother said that the local news wanted to interview me.

[00:45:16.37] And I said, I don't want to do that. She said, yeah, go ahead and do it. I said, oh, OK, I'll go up there and do it. So I went up there for an interview. And just like you're sitting across from me right now, they were talking to me about Vietnam and my experiences on my tour and everything.

[00:45:29.20] Well the next day in the local paper, I mean, I got the whole back page. You know, and so, you know, I-- and people were calling and sending my dad and mom letters and things like that. And the second tour coming home, I was met at the greater Cincinnati airport.

[00:45:49.69] They had a local photographer was there and a newspaper was there and everything. And my family was there. So I never had any negative receptions at all, as far as going home is concerned. It was a little different back in the Midwest, in my area. Because I never had any negativism at all in regards to that. Never did.

[00:46:15.37] But the other thing is, too, a lot of guys that came home were told to take their uniforms off and in civilian-- I didn't have any civilian clothes. So I wore my uniform. And I was proud to wear my uniform. JOE GALLOWAY: Damn right. LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Because I had-- my country sent me over there, and I did the best that I could do.

[00:46:33.88] And to this day, I don't have any regrets about it.

[00:46:37.96] JOE GALLOWAY: Shouldn't have. You stayed in the military for a full career.

[00:46:43.09] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I did. Active and Reserve, yeah.

[00:46:47.32] JOE GALLOWAY: What did you do after your last tour in Vietnam?

[00:46:51.67] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Went to Germany.

[00:46:52.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Went to Germany.

[00:46:53.89] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:46:54.55] JOE GALLOWAY: Tough duty.

[00:46:55.78] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, it was. I was a-- we were sort of on the tail end of everything back then. And we had some Hueys over there, and we also had some 34s in the unit I was in. And I went in and I was the assistant S3. And then I became the S1. And then one day, I wanted to get some more command time.

[00:47:22.23] So the 4th Armored Division was up at Goeppingen. And I flew up there one day and I went in to see the G1 for the division. I said, do you have any slots for captains at command level? And he said, no, we don't. But he said, we got two generals aides jobs that are open.

[00:47:42.12] One is for General Patton, who's the C-- this is George S Patton. Now, you know, he had the 11th Cav over there. And the other one was the CG, which was General Cobb. OK, and I said, can I apply for them? He said, yeah, you can apply for them. Because I was a captain at the time, and the only one I qualified for was the CGs.

[00:48:04.62] So I went home and wrote up a resume and my wife typed it up for me. And I had one of the guys-- they were going that way the next day-- and they flew it and dropped it off at the G1. Two weeks later, I get a call and it says, come down for an interview. So I went down for an interview and about three weeks later, they called me and said, you got the job.

[00:48:25.40] So it was a general's aide. And I learned more at that position because during that time, you know, I explained to you I got out of OCS, I went to flight school, and I went to Vietnam and came home, went back to Vietnam. And that's what I knew. I mean, I knew that.

[00:48:45.74] But the real Army, you didn't have any experience.

[00:48:48.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:48:49.57] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: So I gained experience, a great deal of experience, being a general's aide. Because everywhere he went, I went.

[00:48:56.74] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:48:57.34] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:48:58.48] JOE GALLOWAY: Cool. Did you have any difficulty readjusting to life after combat?

[00:49:05.68] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I will tell you. And you can attest to this. Anybody who's been out there and been in combat, it's-- being in combat is unusual. Most human beings never go through that. And I defy anybody to say they came back the same way they were when they went over. I defy anybody. Yeah, you can't do it.

[00:49:31.77] JOE GALLOWAY: If nothing else, you come back with some seriously heightened awareness--

[00:49:36.92] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah.

[00:49:37.40] JOE GALLOWAY: --of your surroundings and-- you're like a tree full of owls there for a while.

[00:49:45.47] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No. And I'll tell you, even-- you know, you go around and you check the perimeter. And my wife said, what are you doing? I said, I'm putting out my Claymores.

[00:49:53.18] JOE GALLOWAY: Putting out the Claymores.

[00:49:55.16] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. But-- and I talked to other guys that had gone through the same thing, and they do the same thing that I do. And it's just-- it's just embedded in you.

[00:50:03.71] JOE GALLOWAY: It's in you. And you can't get rid of it.

[00:50:06.35] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, you can't. No.

[00:50:08.84] JOE GALLOWAY: Have you stayed in touch with the guys that you flew with and lived with over the years?

[00:50:15.33] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Some of them. Some of them. There's my commander of my second tour. Nate Pulliam. You probably met Nate. You did, yeah.

[00:50:27.33] JOE GALLOWAY: The name rings a bell.

[00:50:28.13] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: He was our first commander of A troop, 3rd of the 17th Cav. And Chuck Wallene knows him very well.

[00:50:34.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:50:35.78] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And I stayed in contact with him. I call him about every Veteran's Day and every Memorial Day just to talk.

[00:50:42.59] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:50:43.10] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, so I stay in touch with him. And my first tour, the guy that we-- one of the guys I flew with, Haspert Murphy, he retired as a colonel. And he passed several years ago. And I stayed in touch with him. But there's enough Vietnam veterans around here in the Washington, DC area that you can sit down and talk about Vietnam all day if you want to.

[00:51:13.79] JOE GALLOWAY: If you wanted to, yeah.

[00:51:21.06] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your Vietnam experience in two tours change you and affect your life afterward for good or less good or somewhere in the middle?

[00:51:32.26] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: That's an interesting question. Again, when you look at-- yeah, it-- it makes you more mature as far as your decision making process. It makes you more mature in regards to how you view the world. And I have been fortunate because I've traveled around the world.

[00:51:59.85] I went to Iraq, I went up with the Kurds and looked at that situation. I've been to Africa and looked at that situation. And it-- like I said, you look at the world differently because of your past experience. And I do, yeah. It did-- it matured you in the way you looked at things.

[00:52:26.89] Because combat will do that to you. It'll do that to you.

[00:52:30.79] JOE GALLOWAY: Sharpens your vision in some senses.

[00:52:32.32] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah. When you see-- when you participate in combat and in flying a gunship, you participate in combat. And there's no if, ands, and buts about it.

[00:52:44.37] JOE GALLOWAY: Exactly.

[00:52:44.87] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, you do that. You know the movie that they had on your experience? At the end when they're going up the hill and those two gunships come up over the hill. I told my wife, I said, well that's-- I said--

[00:53:04.31] JOE GALLOWAY: We didn't get no miniguns for another 18 months.

[00:53:07.73] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. I said, no. But I said, I'll tell you what. It made me feel good.

[00:53:14.57] JOE GALLOWAY: Exactly.

[00:53:15.77] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. Made me feel good.

[00:53:19.34] JOE GALLOWAY: Did your time in combat, in Vietnam, affect the way you think about the troops coming back from our wars today?

[00:53:28.10] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh, I-- it's the difference night and day.

[00:53:31.13] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:53:31.76] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Different night and day. In fact, I participate in it. And when I see them at the airport, I go up and say thank you for your service. And they don't know who I am, you know. So no, it's a difference between night and day. I mean, right now, I wear my Vietnam hat, like-- I served in the 1st Aviation Brigade.

[00:53:51.65] And I can tell you, I've had people come up to me and say, thank you for your service. I've had people come up and say, I'll pay for your meals. And I told my wife, I said, that's a good way to wear it. No, but-- but it's different now. It's just entirely different. I mean 9/11, I think it turned things a little bit.

[00:54:16.15] You know, and what we did in Desert Storm, when they saw that. You didn't see this like we had in Vietnam. You didn't see the uprising. But I don't think-- I don't know whether we did a good job in regards to-- and I say we. I'm talking about the people who are responsible for telling the American people what was going on over there.

[00:54:37.11] I don't think they had a good understanding of what was going on over there.

[00:54:39.96] JOE GALLOWAY: I don't think they had any.

[00:54:41.53] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no. I just don't-- I don't think so.

[00:54:44.04] JOE GALLOWAY: The politicians couldn't explain it.

[00:54:47.62] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Mm-mm. No. And the other thing is, too, I can say this, is the fact that when you run a war from Washington, DC, you're not going to get anywhere anyway.

[00:54:54.88] JOE GALLOWAY: You ain't getting anywhere at all.

[00:54:57.24] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: No, no. You can't do it. When you let an enemy have free rein in their territory and you don't have any ground troops up there to disperse them, they can do just about anything they want to do.

[00:55:07.02] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:55:07.98] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. That's my personal feeling about it.

[00:55:11.85] JOE GALLOWAY: Oh lord, oh lord. How do you think the Vietnam war is remembered in our society today?

[00:55:18.87] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Much better than it was 30 or 40 years ago.

[00:55:22.70] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:55:23.19] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Much better.

[00:55:23.97] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:55:24.51] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I think when you look at the-- they look at the people that served in that war and they realize the sacrifices that they made. And we made it for the

country. You know, I remember my first tour. I said, we're going over to help the South Vietnamese free themselves from communist aggression.

[00:55:44.85] When I went over a second tour, I'm going over here so I can get back home. You know, yeah. I mean, you learn.

[00:55:50.59] JOE GALLOWAY: I'm going to survive.

[00:55:52.08] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Survive, yeah. And you had to. Yeah. When you talk about Vietnam, you and I could sit here and talk about Vietnam all day long.

[00:56:00.57] JOE GALLOWAY: All day.

[00:56:01.41] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. I-- it was interesting. People always-- they want to get you in a corner and talk about Vietnam. I said, you don't have enough time today for me to sit down and tell you all the experiences that I had in Vietnam. The day that I got 25 holes in my ship-- I said, you can't--

[00:56:19.35] and the instrument panel was shot out-- I said, you don't have enough time for me to tell you all those things. Or just when I got short and I was showing a new pilot how to make a gun run and a bullet comes up and goes straight through between my legs. I said, you don't have time for me to tell you about that.

[00:56:36.51] Or the time when we had an infantry-- a guy who was an adviser to the Vietnamese, tell us about-- I'll tell you this story. We were on a-- Billy Warren and I were on a recon mission. I was flying his wing that day. And we got a notice on the radio said there's a South Vietnamese unit in contact.

[00:57:04.59] And American advisers were with them. They had about three or four Americans that were with them. And we got on station down there and we made radio contact with him. And I'll never forget, it was a rectangle. And they were in the middle of the rectangle. And every time he keyed the mic, you could hear [VOCALIZING].

[00:57:24.30] You know, and he said, oh Jesus.

[00:57:26.07] JOE GALLOWAY: You know it's a bad day down there.

[00:57:27.93] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: And we called him and said, give us a sitrep. And he gave us a sitrep. And we told him, pop smoke. And again, it was yellow smoke. I guess that's all they carried was yellow smoke. But-- and he said-- I said, what do you want us to do?

[00:57:44.64] And he said, fire on my position. I said, where are you in relationship to the smoke? He said, I'm right by the smoke. And I'll never forget, Billy asked him, says, you sure you want us to fire? He said, fire on the smoke. And we went in and started firing on the smoke.

[00:58:00.72] And he came on he said, keep it coming, keep it coming, keep it coming. And we stayed with him until they brought Puff out. Now Puff is the AC-47, right? And I'll never forget, Puff came on and we gave him a description of what was going on. And we told the guy on the ground, said, Puff is on the scene, and they're going to fire.

[00:58:26.73] And I'll never forget, Puff said to us, he said, Firebirds, he said, you guys better get out of the area. He said, cause I'm getting ready to turn this son of a bitch on his side. His exact language, I never forgot it. But when he turned that thing on the side like that and opened up. Oh, it's amazing.

[00:58:44.22] If you've never seen it, it's amazing.

[00:58:46.45] JOE GALLOWAY: I've seen it from the ground.

[00:58:48.27] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. And everything stopped.

[00:58:51.54] JOE GALLOWAY: You feel you could walk up those tracers.

[00:58:55.24] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. Everything stopped. I mean, and the battle for all intents and purposes were over.

[00:58:59.67] JOE GALLOWAY: They're over. Because he's killing a football field full of enemy down there.

[00:59:06.00] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah. But the guys-- the guys-- the American adviser and all his people, all of them got out OK. Yeah. Never heard a word from them. But that's OK.

[00:59:19.41] JOE GALLOWAY: That's all right.

[00:59:20.01] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah, that's fine.

[00:59:20.91] JOE GALLOWAY: All right. They got out alive, that's good.

[00:59:23.40] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: But I can sit there and tell you these stories all day long.

[00:59:27.60] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[00:59:28.32] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[00:59:34.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I took my grandkids down there. And I wanted them to see. And I explained to them my wingman, William D. Perkins, Jr. is on the Wall there. The three guys that I told you about, they're on the Wall. And many others that I knew are on the Wall. And I just tell them,

[00:59:57.12] I said, you look at the other conflicts and you see the sacrifices made by the Americans during that war and the service people, people who wore this uniform. And you realize what they tried to do. And you have to pay homage to them and honor them for their sacrifices.

[01:00:20.55] Because they made the supreme sacrifice. Yeah. Yeah. But I go down there just-- I make one trip a year, just to honor them.

[01:00:32.58] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[01:00:32.94] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: You know. And to say thank you Jesus that I'm still here. Yeah.

[01:00:43.98] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh, I think it's a great thing. Yeah, I do. In fact, I participated in ceremonies where we awarded the pin. And I wear it. I wear the pin.

[01:00:51.06] JOE GALLOWAY: I noticed that.

[01:00:52.02] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, I wear the pin.

[01:00:53.46] JOE GALLOWAY: I was going to offer you one, but you've got--

[01:00:55.86] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: I've already got one. Yeah. No, I wear this because I got the DFC, Distinguished Flying Cross, for doing something that-- did you ever know a pilot by the name Billy Miller? He was one of the commanders for the 160th. Billy was my wingman on my second tour in Vietnam.

[01:01:20.90] And we were up near the Cambodian border and-- 25th Division-- and we had gone up there to support them and they were in heavy contact. I mean heavy, heavy contact. And I told them, we're going to save 50% of our ordnance because we're trying to see what's going on.

[01:01:41.12] And the C&C ship, the command and control ship up there, called me and said that they were running out of ammunition. And can you-- would you go down and resupply them? And there were two other helicopters landing in the LZ. They tried to do the same thing.

[01:02:03.82] And I said-- I told my-- whenever I was going to put my crew in danger like that, I always talked to them and I said, what do you guys think? They said, let's go. And so we went and got the ammunition. And there was a keyhole. Here was the keyhole up at the top. That's where all the activity was going on.

[01:02:22.60] So I went way down on the end of the keyhole and came up this way and I told my door gunners, I said, anybody that jumps out of those woods, shoot them. And we went in there. I must have been doing 60, 80 knots flying in there and made a thing, and boom.

[01:02:39.29] JOE GALLOWAY: You actually touched down instead of kicking the ammo boxes out?

[01:02:41.93] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Oh yeah. No, no, no, no, no. I wanted to make sure they got the ammunition. OK, because if you kick it out, you don't know who's getting it. Well we saw the people who were getting it. And we got-- boom, turned around. Phoom, came out. Not a hole in the aircraft.

[01:02:55.73] JOE GALLOWAY: Not a hole in the aircraft.

[01:02:57.32] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: OK, flew back up. Billy joined on me again. And then the C&C ship asked me a second time. He said, we have some people down there that are severely wounded. He said, if you don't go and get them, he said they're going to die. You know, you were asking me earlier about battlefield.

[01:03:18.23] I didn't care if they were pink, OK? If they were down there and in that situation, I'm going down. You know, and I told my crew, I said, we're going down. And we went in the same way. This time, the guys were ready for me on the other end up there. And they started shooting at me.

[01:03:34.34] And I told the guys, get them in here, get them in here, get them in here. And I looked over my shoulder. And they must have put pressure on one of the guys because he was-- I mean, the blood was just coming out very thick. Anyway, they fired an RPG at me and it missed.

[01:03:52.46] Anyway, I told Billy to stay out of the area. Billy Miller. And Billy went right over the top of me and I saw his aircraft wobble. He got hit. He got hit, personally. And so we were coming out and I joined up and his co-pilot must have had the collective up to-- under his armpit, because I couldn't catch him.

[01:04:16.88] And we flew him down to Tay Ninh. And Billy only had a-- he was shot in the leg. And the other two guys that we took back survived. But have you been in a Huey when you've got blood down there and you know the wind comes back and hits that thing and comes up? And you take a blood bath in the back of your helmet.

[01:04:35.00] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[01:04:35.36] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: So we did all that. But we were sort of used to it because we'd done it before. But years later, Billy and I were both colonels at the time. And Billy was down at Fort Bragg and we were at the officers club. And I said, Billy, you remember that day that I told you to stay out of the area and you flew overhead and you got shot?

[01:05:00.42] And he said, oh yeah, I remember. I said, you remember I told you not to come in the area? You know what he told me? He said, Larry, he said, I saw the fire that you were taking. He said, I couldn't stay out there like that. And so, to answer your question about-- and Billy was white.

[01:05:17.82] I didn't give a crap what he was. He was my friend.

[01:05:21.47] JOE GALLOWAY: Yeah.

[01:05:21.74] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: You know. And I was the same to him. You know, and that's what being in that situation means. Yeah.

[01:05:31.61] JOE GALLOWAY: General, thank you for coming in. Great story.

[01:05:35.73] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Good to meet you. You know what I do for inspiration? You know that speech that you give about-- and you-- and I can't

[01:05:47.04] JOE GALLOWAY: About the aviators?

[01:05:48.17] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah, yeah. And those thin-skinned things. I play that just for inspiration. OK. Because it's the God's truth.

[01:05:57.43] JOE GALLOWAY: That's God's truth. It's the best-- probably the best speech I ever made.

[01:06:01.60] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah that was-- I use that for inspiration. Yeah I play it. My wife says, why are you playing it again? I said, because I need inspiration. Yeah. But it was good. It was good.

[01:06:12.43] JOE GALLOWAY: Thank you for coming in and sharing the stories.

[01:06:15.59] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Yeah.

[01:06:16.24] JOE GALLOWAY: Appreciate it.

[01:06:17.29] LAWRENCE GILLESPIE: Well, like I said, it was an honor to meet you.