

## The Peale, Baltimore

*Out of the Blocks* Storytelling Series

Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick

Produced for the *Out of the Blocks* website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

*Out of the Blocks* is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Speaker 1 ([00:00](#)):

I see you carry a sidearm here. Tell me about that and the rationale behind it and stuff.

Robert Gibb ([00:06](#)):

Mine is a Sig Sauer SP2022. I've never been given a reason to need it around here, but as our instructors in the military always taught us, better to have it and never need it than to need it and not have it.

Total price for that washer for tax and delivery will be \$225.50.

My name is Robert Gibb, 2126 Edmondson Avenue, Best Used Appliances. So if you wanted to put something on it today, we can do the rest on COD. My delivery guys can pick up the rest of the money when they come out. We sell refrigerators, free-standing washers and dryers, gas and electric

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stoves, mostly Whirlpool and GE. We have microwaves, we have dishwashers. Good morning, Best Used Appliances. How can I help you? They start at \$240 a piece. All right, thank you.

I mean, if it's artillery, you won't hear anything until the rounds impact. My job skill in the army was a 13 Fox, so a forward observer for the artillery. My job was to support the infantry or with the Cav Scouts or whoever needed it. I fought alongside them, if they got into firefights, I was right there with them. But if they ran across something that was too big for normal M16's or M4's or whatever, I could call in either artillery support to blow it up, or I can talk to Naval gunfire, the Air Force for Air Force planes to come in and help. I mean, that's what I did.

You make the call, you send the coordinates and then you've got the time to wait. You can train, and train and train the first couple of times you do it in combat or in a combat zone you always get that feeling in the bottom of your stomach, I hope I didn't... I hope I'm not off on this. Probably the biggest responsibility is the unknown. The things that you can't see whatsoever, that little berm only over there that you can't see across because you can't get to it. What's on the other side of those trees right there? It's kind of an emotional detachment. You don't always have a whole lot of emotions about the things that are going on, especially not in the heat of the moment. I mean, emotions are great things, but if they get in the way, they can mean you don't come home. So you got to kind of detach yourself from things sometimes.

Good afternoon, best used appliances. How can I help you? Good. How are you doing?