

Daina

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DAINA. The only female member of the October Guard, Daina L. Janack was also the team's only Czechoslovakian, born in the city of Ostrava. While many considered the unit to be the Soviet Union's equivalent of G.I. Joe, it was actually made up of soldiers from the nations of the Warsaw Pact, which included Czechoslovakia. Daina served as both the team's sniper and a helicopter pilot and was known for having a bad temper. Daina was the second most tactically intelligent member next to Brekhov, and often took the role of second-in-command. Over the latter years of the Cold War, the October Guard came up against both Cobra and the G.I. Joe team. Cobra often played the two teams against each other, but the Joes and the Guard occasionally teamed up to defeat their common enemy. After serving with the same team members for several years, Daina witnessed the deaths of her teammates, Colonel Brekhov, Horrorshow, Schrage and Stormavik while rescuing a rebel leader El Jefe in Sierra Gordo. Only Daina and Dragonsky remained when they and a number of Joes were double-crossed and captured.

The team soon added new members Lt. Gorky and Sgt. Misha, and Daina acted as the team's new leader. The new Guard teamed up with the Joes, once again heading to Sierra Gordo to fight the Iron Grenadiers. Shortly after, the Soviet Union dissolved, and Daina's native Czechoslovakia split apart, making her a citizen of the Czech Republic. Though the October Guard was disbanded, its former members often worked together. Under Russian Colonel Red Star, the Guard headed off into space on a mission with the Joes.

It was nearly a decade before Daina met the Joes again. She was eventually assigned to Czech special forces where she led a team of soldiers that assisted both the Joes and Destro in rescuing Flint and the Baroness. They had been kidnapped by the Russian mob and were being held in the Czech Republic. During that mission, Lt. Gorky betrayed Daina and the others after being pulled into the corruption of his previous Russian unit, and was killed. Shaken by his death and tired of the difficult times her country was going through, Daina decided to move to the United States where she hoped to join the G.I. Joe team. She made it onto the team, where she soon took part in the battle against the forces of a revived Serpentor on Cobra Island. Shortly after, Daina adopted the code name "Vorona," (Czech for "crow") and is proud to be a part of the team she once considered the enemy. Her teammates have been more than happy to school her in American culture. On her first mission as Vorona, she took part in a fight off the coast of Cobra Island that served as a distraction to allow Barrel Roll to infiltrate Cobra's headquarters. She then began working with Claymore in the Joe team's overseas operations. After the Joes stopped a plot by Cobra to unleash the weapon known as the Tempest, and defeated a new threat, the Red Shadows, the military again disbanded the team. One year later, the Joe team was reformed with a smaller roster of active members. Vorona, like most former Joes, is a reserve member of the new team.

The action figure "Volga" was based on Daina. The figure's filecard lists Volga as her code name, with "Daina L. Janack" as her file name. Her second action figure was simply named Daina.

(GI 6, 7, 92, 100-105, 146-148; YB 2, 4; SM 1, 4, 26; Glv2 17-19, 25, 26, 28-30, 38; FL 18; Figures: 1 (Volga), 2)