

Dial-tone

Thursday, 21 February 2008

DIAL-TONE. The code name used by U.S. Army Sergeant Jack S. Morelli. As a ten-year-old boy growing up in Eugene, Oregon, Dial-Tone built his first crystal set. At 14 he was part of a CB net and had his own ham radio station by 16. Dial-tone taught himself how to build all sorts of radios and communications equipment as he grew up and eventually saw the Army as a way of furthering his education and turning his hobby into a job with a purpose. He eventually joined the G.I. Joe team as a communications specialist. Dial-Tone first joined the G.I. Joe team shortly after the destruction of the team's headquarters, when the team was temporarily working out of the Fort Wadsworth gymnasium. He was soon sent on a mission to track down a Nazi war criminal hiding in Argentina. Next, Dial-tone was sent into Sierra Gordo along with several other Joes on a mission to assist that country's counter-revolutionaries in their fight against Cobra and their local allies. Some time later, Dial-tone used his expertise to covertly plant a listening device at the Cobra Consulate in New York City, allowing the Joes to spy on their enemy for nearly two years before the bug was discovered.

In another covert operation, Dial-tone assisted in hostage situation at the American PX in Germany. Months later, he joined nearly the entire G.I. Joe team when they entered the Cobra Island civil war on the side of Serpentor. He was a part of an even bigger operation years later when the Joes fought in the Battle of Benzheen when Cobra tried to take over a small but wealthy nation in the Middle East. When Cobra Commander led an assault in the Pit III in Utah, Dial-tone was one of the many defenders of the Joes' HQ. He spent time testing new weapons systems before being sent to Millville to help free the small town from control of Cobra. On a mission to Brazil, he joined Claymore, Leatherneck, Mainframe and Wet Suit to stop the drug kingpin known as Headman. Though they stopped his operation, Headman escaped. Dial-tone remained on the team for another year before the team was shut down in 1994. For the next several years, Dial-tone continued to study and develop new telecommunications technology. He eventually sold many patents and put that money into various computer companies, including Mainframe's, and became a very rich man in a small amount of time. Since the Joe team's reinstatement in 2001, Dial-tone has been working behind the scenes, and worked with Mainframe to develop the team's new, standard issue wrist communicators. He eventually returned to the field, joining in the battle against the forces of a revived Serpentor on Cobra Island. 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. Dial-Tone, like most former Joes, is a reserve member of the new team. He returned to duty for an unofficial mission to finally capture Headman in Brazil. Most of the original team was joined by Firewall, who filled in for her late mentor Mainframe. The team was successful, finally bringing Headman to justice. During the conflict known as World War III, Dial-Tone served in Peru.

One of the many Joes listed on the World War III member assignment map first seen in AE #28.

(GI 54, 56, 57, 67, 73-77, 79, 93, 109, 110, 113, 130, 131, 137, 140, 141; OB 1; SM 2, 7, 11, 28; Glv2 25, 29, 32, 33; FL 13, 18; BFTPb; SM:B; Figures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)