

Dojo

Thursday, 21 February 2008

DOJO. The code name used by U.S. Army Master Sergeant Michael P. Russo. Dojo was born in San Francisco, but he was trained as a ninja by the Arashikage ninja, the Soft Master, in the basement of the old man's Chinese restaurant in New York City's Spanish Harlem (where the Soft Master had gone after the dissolution of his clan). Many years after the Soft Master's death, his nephew Storm Shadow recruited Dojo for his G.I. Joe Ninja Force. Among the members of the team, Dojo was known as "the talkative one", believing that speaking in the heat of battle disrupts an opponent's concentration. In Ninja Force's first mission, Dojo and his teammates Nunchuk and Tj'bang fought Cobra Night Creepers in Beirut while helping Destro to avoid assassins hired by Cobra Commander. Continuing their protection of Destro, the Ninja Force and other Joes traveled to the Silent Castle in Trans-Carpathia, where they fought Cobra Vipers and a group of Red Ninjas. It was the Ninja Force who discovered Firefly's connection to the Arashikage ninjas when the mercenary appeared in command of the Red Ninjas. The team later helped liberate the Cobra-controlled town of Millville from Cobra, fighting a band of Night Creepers. Shortly before the G.I. Joe team was shut down in 1994, Dojo and the Ninja Force opened up a martial arts training school on the site of the Soft Master's restaurant where Dojo had been trained many years before. The school was free to the underprivileged young people living in the neighborhood. Today, like most former Joes, Dojo is a reserve member of the current version of the team. While nearly every member of G.I. Joe returned to duty to fight in the conflict known as World War III, Dojo was unavailable to join the team.

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

(GI 117, 118, 120-124, 126, 128-131, 135-137, 140, 141, 144, 145; Figure: 1)