Iceberg Monday, 25 February 2008

ICEBERG. The code name used by U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Clifton L. Nash, a snow trooper on the G.I. Joe team. Growing up in Brownsville, Texas, Iceberg came to hate hot weather. While other kids saved up for bicycles, he saved up for an air conditioner. When he was old enough to enlist, Iceberg joined the Army and asked for duty in Alaska. Through both his military service and his love of cold weather, he came to learn everything about survival in the arctic and became a cold weather survival instructor. Iceberg eventually was assigned to the G.I. Joe team. On one of his first missions on the team. Iceberg joined a team led by Hawk to the jcy nation of Frusenland. Their mission was to provide protection for the military research team, Battle Force 2000, but Cobra attacked them on arrival, and the team was actually rescued by the group they were sent to protect. Iceberg was later at Joe headquarters when Cobra's Star-Viper stole the government's top secret "black box", a theft which prompted the Joes' involvement in Cobra's civil war. As much of the Joe team headed to Cobra Island to enter the conflict, Iceberg, Chuckles, Scarlett and Snake-Eyes were sent on a top secret mission into the snow-covered Himalayan kingdom of Chomo-Lungma to track down roque CIA agent Cullen Esterhazy. Esterhazy never returned to America after the government recalled him from his mission of fighting the communist Chinese years before. The Joes were accompanied by a CIA agent and were to bring Esterhazy back to America. The Joes were pulled into Esterhazy's fight to defend a local monastery instead. After the mission, it took Iceberg and the others months of traveling across Asia before they reached an extraction site to catch a transport helicopter home. On the way, they befriended an old farmer who was being bullied by a local bandit chief. He surprised Chuckles by not betraying the Joes to the enemy, prompting Chuckles to order Iceberg and the team to fight to save the farmer. After making their way back home, Iceberg continued to work for the team over the next few years until it was shut down in 1994.

In 2001, the Joe team was reinstated and Iceberg soon participated in a mission tracking down Russian terrorists smuggling a nuclear device into the U.S. across the border from Canada. Iceberg later headed into Tibet as backup for a team investigating a hidden Red Ninja retreat where Cobra Commander and Storm Shadow had been hiding. Some time later, 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. Iceberg, like most former Joes, is a reserve member of the new team. He was called back to duty to shut down Cobra's illegal oil-drilling operation in the arctic, and was wounded during a firefight. Iceberg is expected to fully recover from his injuries.

(GI 68, 72; OB 1; SM 14-15, 18-19; GIv2 8, 27, 28; SM:A; Figures: 1, 2, 3)