

## Long Range

Monday, 25 February 2008

LONG RANGE. The code name used by U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Karl W. Fritz. As a boy in Warwick, Rhode Island, Long Range had difficulty grasping simple arithmetic. As he grew up he did, however find a natural aptitude for trigonometry and calculus. When he enlisted in the Army, Long Range joined the Artillery corps where he could put his trigonometry to good use, plotting the trajectory of artillery shells and came to be so accurate that he became known as "The Knock Out Man". He eventually became part of the G.I. Joe team, driving the Joes' long-range artillery vehicle, the Thunderclap. On one of his earliest missions, Long Range and other Joes were supposedly demonstrating the Thunderclap to the nation of Punta del Mucosa's El Presidente, but they instead used the vehicle's "test firing" to fire into neighboring Sierra Gordo, helping a group of Joes escape the country after rescuing a team of Joes and members of the October Guard who were being held prisoner there. Long Range continued to operate the Thunderclap for years before the Joe team was shut down in 1994.

(GI 92, 99, 110; Figure: 1)