

Low-Light

Monday, 25 February 2008

LOW-LIGHT. The code name used by U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Cooper G. MacBride. While growing up in Crosby, North Dakota, young Cooper was a timid child who was terribly afraid of the dark. When his father took him out on a hunting expedition, the boy got lost in the woods, and spent much time in the pitch blackness. By the time he was found three weeks later, Cooper had conquered his fears and became stronger for it. After joining the Army, Low-Light became a self-taught expert on image intensification and later became an instructor at the Army marksmanship program at Fort Benning. His knowledge and skill made the G.I. Joe team take notice and recruit him.

On one of his earliest missions with the team, Low-Light joined a group of Joes sent to aid the counter-revolutionaries of Sierra Gordo, who were fighting a government backed by Cobra. The mission was actually two-fold, since the Joes also had to rescue Snake-Eyes, who was being held in Cobra's Terror-Drome launch base. During the mission, Low-Light used his skills as a sniper to fire tranquilizer darts at Cobra troopers through the dark jungle so that the Joes could steal their uniforms and sneak into the base undetected. After spending some time with the rest of the team, helping to finish the construction of the new Pit in Utah, Low-Light was sent on a dangerous mission into Southeast Asia. The Joes were sent to retrieve traitor and spy Theron Portland who had stolen valuable microchips and met up with a Soviet armored convoy near the border of Thailand. Low-Light's task was to shoot and kill Portland if they were unable to capture him. In reality, the mission was designed to fail by CIA agent Anderson. Portland was meant to defect and the chips contained a computer virus that was to disable Soviet computers. They had also analyzed Low-Light's psychological profile and decided he wouldn't shoot the unarmed Portland. The Joes barely made it to their extraction chopper with their lives. Low-Light himself reached the aircraft just as it lifted off and he was being fired upon by the Russians. Once on board, he admitted that he couldn't kill Portland, especially while the man begged for his life. Unfortunately for the dishonest CIA agent, Low-Light knocked Portland out with the butt of his rifle and took the microchips that the Soviets were supposed to hang on to. Low-Light took part in many more operations, including a hostage situation in Germany, the Cobra Island civil war, a fight with Cobra Vipers in Manhattan when the Joes met the original G.I. Joe, and the defense of Castle Destro when Cobra attacked their former weapons supplier's home in Scotland.

After the Joe team was shut down in 1994, Low-Light became a special agent for the Army's Criminal Investigation Division, though he found the work less challenging than his time with the Joes. In 2001, the G.I. Joe team was reinstated to fight a renewed Cobra, and Low-Light was thrilled to rejoin the team. He was later one of the many Joes involved in an invasion of Cobra Island to battle the forces of a revived Serpentor. A short time later, headed to Sierra Gordo on a mission to assist the small nation's army in fighting off an invasion of Destro's Iron Grenadiers, who had allied with the country's neighbor, Sierra Muerte. In reality, the entire operation was allowed to go forward thanks to Duke, who had let it happen as a means to capture Destro. Low-Light was injured in battle during that operation, and many Joes were angry that Duke had never told them the true reason behind their mission and had endangered the lives of his teammates. Low-Light eventually recovered from his injuries and returned to duty. 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. Low-Light, like most former Joes, is a reserve member of the new team. He was called back to duty to stop a group of terrorists who had taken control of a Cobra biological weapon facility in Manhattan.

(GI 55, 63, 64, 74, 75, 76, 77, 83, 86, 116, 117, 119, 130; SM 8, 11; Glv2 24, 25, 28, 29, 30; BF 1; FL 16; SM:M; Figures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)