

Short Fuze

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SHORT FUZE. The code name used by U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Eric W. Freistadt. Short Fuze was born into a military family. His father and grandfather were both career top sergeants. His nickname, "Short Fuze" actually comes from the fact that he is sometimes sensitive and has a tendency to lose his temper during an argument. Short Fuze is very logical and is a natural at mathematics. After joining the Army, he entered artillery school and later studied to be an infantry engineer. As a mortar soldier, his ability to plot trajectories and make quick calculations in his head makes his job that much easier. Short Fuze eventually joined the G.I. Joe team as one of the original 13 members. He played a major role in many of the Joes' most important early missions, including the rescue of Dr. Adele Burkhart from Cobra and the battle to defend the U.S. space shuttle from a Cobra attack. After the re-dedication of G.I. Joe headquarters, aka "The Pit", Short Fuze and many of the other original Joes were taken off active duty. Even so, Short Fuze continued to participate in missions with the team. He was assigned to the security force during the Joes' invasion of the Cobra-controlled town of Springfield.

A few years later, the Joe team was on the losing side of the Cobra Island civil war. Short Fuze was part of the explosives team sent in to knock out Cobra Island's anti-aircraft defenses. The team's hovercraft was damaged during the initial assault on the island, but they completed their mission on foot, destroying Cobra's ASP gun emplacements, allowing the Joes' transport aircraft to land. Eventually, the mission became an embarrassment for the Pentagon when the Cobra leaders made a deal to end the conflict. A group of corrupt generals denied having any knowledge of the debacle. When many members of the team, including Short Fuze were unrightfully taken into custody, several other Joes went underground. The other Joes who had escaped arrest organized a mission to rescue Hawk and General Hollingsworth when they were arrested for acting without orders and entering the civil war. During the rescue, Hawk and Hollingsworth were cleared of all charges and the corrupt generals responsible were exposed. After that mission, Short Fuze occasionally helped to train new recruits. Short Fuze's subsequent missions for the Joes remain classified, but he stayed with the G.I. Joe team until it was disbanded in 1994. Some time after the team was reinstated in 2001, Short-Fuze and many other former Joes joined the team on another invasion of Cobra Island, this time to fight the forces of a revived Serpenter.

(GI 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 22, 25, 30, 35, 49, 50, 74, 75; GIv2 24, 25, 36; OB 2; GI:D 1-3; Figures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)