

## Tunnel Rat

Tuesday, 26 February 2008

**TUNNEL RAT.** The code name used by U.S. Army Sergeant Nicky Lee. Tunnel Rat's diverse family tree is Trinidadian Chinese with Irish, Spanish and Indian. He grew up on the mean streets of Brooklyn, toughened up on Fort Benning's Ranger Course, and even more in action in Grenada. Tunnel Rat is also a trained explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) expert and combat engineer. His fearless attitude keeps him ready to crawl through an enemy tunnel ready for a fight. Despite all this meanness, Tunnel Rat retains a sense of humor and is easy to get along with off duty.

On his first mission for G.I. Joe, Tunnel Rat worked with a weapons research and testing team in the Utah desert. When the group packed up and headed out on the road, their convoy was forced to fend off an attack from the new Cobra Pogo vehicle, piloted by Cobra Commander himself. In his other missions, Tunnel Rat later helped knock out power to the Cobra Consulate from the sewers below, and went on a near disastrous mission to find a traitor and spy in Southeast Asia. Months later, Tunnel Rat joined a team of Joes onto Cobra Island on a reconnaissance mission. They stumbled upon Cobra's civil war and when the Joes entered the war on the side of Serpentor, Falcon's team became advance scouts for the Joes' invasion and had to forcibly take control of Cobra Island's airfield control tower to allow their teammates access to the airfield. When Destro's army forced the team into the sewers, Tunnel Rat took the point through the island's sluice tunnels during a rainstorm as the water rose dangerously higher. By the time Tunnel Rat and the others joined up with the rest of the Joe team, the battle was over. Over the years, Tunnel Rat continued on many missions for the team, including the Battle of Benzheen, defending the Pit from Cobra attack and liberating the Cobra-controlled town of Millville. After the Joe team was shut down in 1994, Tunnel Rat returned home to Brooklyn where he worked with underprivileged kids in his old neighborhood.

When the team was reinstated in 2001, Tunnel Rat signed on as a reserve member and finally rejoined his teammates to battle against the forces of a revived Serpentor on Cobra Island. 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. Tunnel Rat, 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 59, 64, 67, 72-77, 86, 113, 131, 140, 141, 144, 151; SM 7, 8, 21, 23, 24; Glv2 24, 29, 30; SM:M; Figures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)