

Bazooka

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BAZOOKA. The code name used by G.I. Joe team's missile specialist, U.S. Army Sergeant David L. Katzenbogen. Born in Hibbing, Minnesota, Bazooka joined the Army and drove a tank in the Third Armored Division before realizing that an illiterate farmer with a \$200 rocket launcher could destroy a tank with little training. He transferred immediately and began learning about various armor defeating weapons systems.

Bazooka joined the G.I. Joe team in 1985. During thier final training mission as provisional members of the G.I. Joe team, Airtight, Bazooka, Crankcase and Heavy Metal were testing out new vehicles in the desert near Las Vegas, Nevada led by Lady Jaye. On the highway on the way back from a lunch break, the group was attacked by Cobra B.A.T.s (Battle Android Troopers) carrying creeper vines and sleeping gas created by Cobra agent Dr. Mindbender, who was demonstrating them to Destro and the Baroness. The Joes were kidnapped and forced into battling the B.A.T.s in a junkyard. The Joes figured out how to defeat the vines and destroyed Mindbender's factory, forcing the three Cobras into retreat. Over the next several years, Bazooka was a part of many important operations, including the rescue of Ripcord and Snake-Eyes from Cobra Island and the invasion of the Cobra-controlled town of Springfield. He was also one of the many Joes to be involved in the contruction of the third Pit headquarters in Utah. For a time, he was also part of the short-lived special unit, Tiger Force. Bazooka was one of the few members of the team who did not participate in the Cobra Island civil war. When most of the team was arrested after that war, Bazooka and several other Joes went "underground". The group staged an assault on St. Lo's Infirmary in Virginia where corrupt governement agents had arrested falsely-accused Generals Hawk ad Hollingsworth. Bazooka was injured during the assault, but the Joes were successful and Bazooka recovered soon after. Bazooka continued to serve with the team until it was disbanded in 1994. He later left the Army and began working as a security guard.

In 2001, Bazooka was invited to join the reinstated G.I. Joe team. Unfortunately, he hadn't stayed in shape and didn't meet the health requirements. Bazooka began working out and got himself back into shape. He met up with other former team members to reminisce, but the Joes stumbled upon a hidden cell of Cobras in a small town. As the Joes escaped Cobra agents, Bazooka fought and beat Big Boa. In the wake of that fight, Bazooka has returned to the Joe team. He was one of the many Joes to take part in the battle against the forces of a revived Serpentor on Cobra Island. After the Joe team 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. Bazooka, like most former Joes, is a reserve member of the new team. Bazooka fought in Columbia during the conflict known as World War III.

Bazooka wears a New England Patriots football jersey bearing the number of former player Steve Grogan. His Tiger Force jersey colors resemble the colors of the Miami Dolphins.

(GI 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 63, 64, 67, 78, 90, 100; OB 1; SM 27; Glv2 1, 2, 14, 15, 23, 24; BF 1; AE 36; Figures: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)