

Rumbler (Swilley)

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RUMBLER. The code name used by U.S. Army Corporal Earl-Bob Swilley, born in Raeford, North Carolina. While serving as a revenue agent, Rumbler totalled seven government vehicles in the high-speed pursuits of moonshiners and tax stanp dodgers through remote rural areas. It was decided that he should be transferred to the Army, a branch of service with sturdier vehicles and targets less likely to sue the government. He eventually joined the G.I. Joe team, often driving the Crossfire fast attack vehicle, prior to the team shutting down in 1994. Today, like many Joes, he is a reserve member of the team. Rumbler was stationed in Syria during the conflict known as World War III. One of many Joes listed on World War III member assignment map first seen in AE #28.

This Rumbler never appeared in the Marvel Comics series, but when the character based on the action figure Armadillo appeared in the series, he used the code name Rumbler. No official explanation for this has been given, but Mark Bellomo's The Ultimate Guide to G.I. Joe 1982-1994 reveals that Larry Hama's prototype file card for Armadillo offers Hasbro the alternate code name of "Rumbler". Note that the character key for the cover of America's Elite #25 correctly labels the two characters based on their action figures' names.

(AE 25 (cover); Figure: 1)