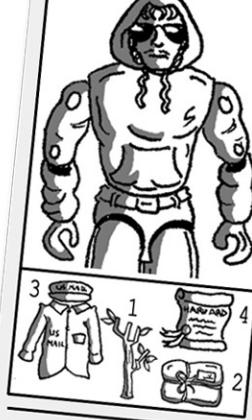


Many of us have fond childhood memories of the GI Joe action figures and television show. The Joes were always there to teach us the meaning of what it is to be an American: jingoism and a quickness to resort to violence. Whether fighting the anonymously evil COBRA, (which managed to exist despite repeated catastrophic defeats and being led by a hooded, bipedal snake) or doing things they might do while not fighting COBRA, the Joes knew how to rock—American style. But what many may find surprising is that the GI Joes never actually existed.

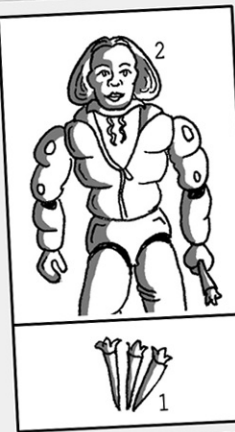


Code Name:
THE UNABOMBER™
COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT

"To: Professor EJ Smith, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, PO Box 4528..."

Pop Quiz GI Joe fans: what are two of the most fun things there are? You guessed it, Christmas and fireworks. But hold on a minute—what could be more fun than getting fireworks as a present for Christmas? How about instead of fireworks, getting a bomb, and instead of fireworks, just anytime? That's good clean American fun. Something that the practical joker of the Joe team, The Unabomber, knows very well. Whenever the Joes are feeling that COBRA has got them down, The Unabomber is always ready to lighten the situation with his explosive wit.

1. Forest Camouflage: allows him to blend into wilderness.
2. Nondescript Package: launching vigilante justice into the face of evil-doers.
3. Mail Man Outfit: useful for reconnaissance missions.
4. Harvard Education: gives him his trademark insanity and self-righteousness.



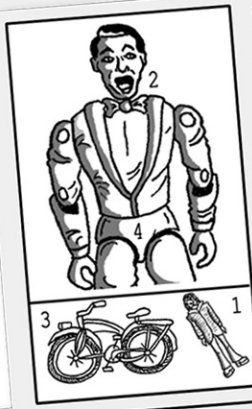
Code Name:
THE FLOWER LADY™
MUNITIONS EXPERT

"A flow-uh for a doll-uh!"

It takes a tough person to sell flowers. For a dollar. But the FLOWER LADY has what it takes. Tirelessly she stands at the corner providing those in New Haven with what they need most: carnations wrapped in nondescript paper. What's on that paper? Is it a story? A picture? Proof that God does not exist? For a dollar, you can find out. The Flower Lady is on constant lookout for opportunities to exact vengeance upon her arch-rival, the POETRY LADY, a nefarious member of COBRA.

"What's this?" you say. "The United States government doesn't secretly fund an elite team of giant hulking men with no standard uniforms, a sense of style inspired by KISS, guns the size of small buildings, and codenames such as 'Big Bear' and Wetsuit?" It's true. Instead, the government chooses to spend its tax dollars on bleeding-heart programs like public education and highway maintenance.

1. Carnations: an easy source of income, and convenient stabbing weapon when reversed.
2. Inability to pronounce the "ER" sound: potent auditory weapon.



Code Name:
PEE WEE HERMAN™
CAPTAIN OF A.D.D. APPEASEMENT

"The word of the day is PUBLIC EXPOSURE!"

Whether he's hanging out with Little Richard or flying on his magic bicycle, PEE WEE HERMAN stands for everything that an American should. Well, some Americans. Actually, just two or three. Nevertheless, he does have a really loony playhouse. Outfitted with his trusty talking chair, and signature bowtie, Pee Wee Herman is ready to take on evil-doers anywhere.

1. Little Richard: strangely entertaining and flamboyant black man.
2. Red Bowtie: stylish and charming.
3. Magic Bicycle: flies and provides impetus for big adventures.
4. Pants-dropping action: allows easy escape from sticky situations.

For shame, Uncle Sam. For shame. The disappointment can be crushing, but don't despair yet, Joe fans. Hasbro, the company responsible for all of your favorite GI Joe action figures recently released a new line of Joes, entitled...



Code Name:
ANONYMOUS TAXI DRIVER™
CHEVROLET MALIBU PILOT

"No, I can't turn down my obnoxiously loud foreign music!"

The Joes often need to make a quick escape. When this is the case, they call upon the expertise of ANONYMOUS TAXI DRIVER, who is always ready to drive uncomfortably fast in crowded city streets. Cars in front? Cars behind? The young and the elderly to the sides? No problem for Anonymous Taxi Driver—he's out of there faster than bacon through a goose. His identity secure behind an impenetrable veil of consonants and accent marks, he is inaccessible to COBRA's spies, and always ready to extract the Joes from any locale.

Worried that he can't negotiate traffic and debate loudly at the same time? Don't worry, he's a professional.

1. Pine Scented Air Freshener: when mixed with Anonymous Taxi Driver's olfactory weaponry, it produces a potent ward against COBRA incursions.
2. Handless Cell Phone: allows for intelligence reports and contact from other Joes.
3. Mail In Offer For Green Card Accessory: But just like ANONYMOUS TAXI DRIVER, you'll have to wait seven years.

GI JOE'S REAL AMERICAN HEROS