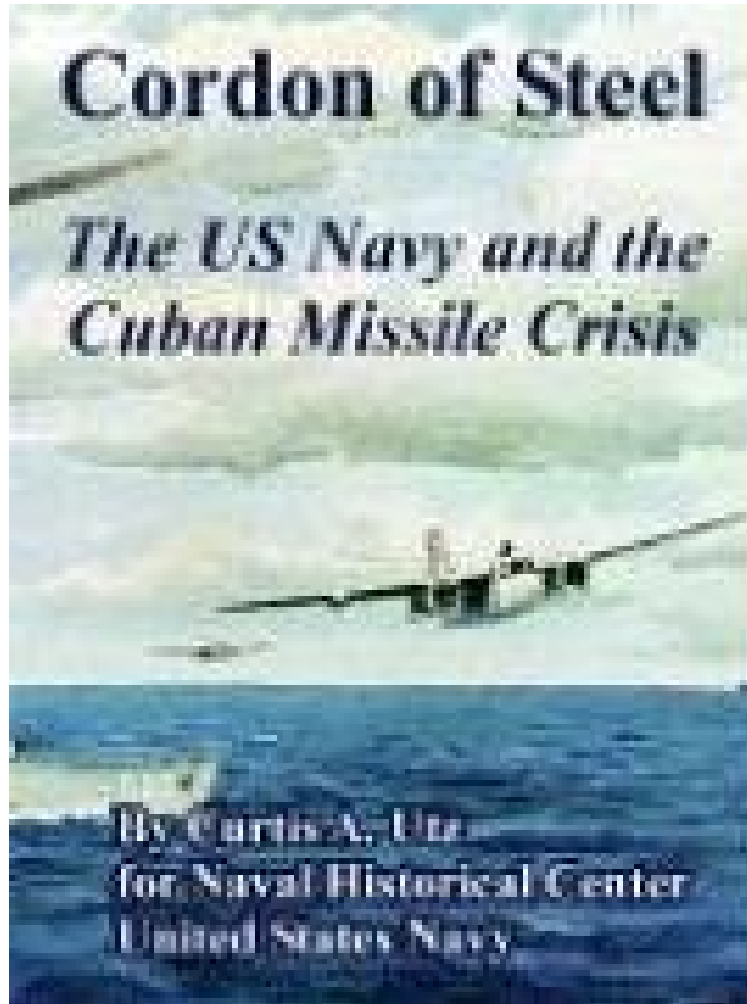


Cordon of Steel: The US Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Curtis A. Utz, Naval Historical Center, United States Navy
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Curtis A. Utz, Naval Historical Center, United States Navy : Cordon of Steel: The US Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cordon of Steel: The US Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Small Book, But the Most Complete StoryBy John MatlockThis book, really more of a booklet at 56 pages is the most complete that I've seen that describes the Navy's contribution to the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was originally written in 1993 and just reprinted after being very hard to get.The Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest the major powers came to actual combat during the Cold War. While all of the services played their part (I can remember nuclear armed bombers parked at the end of Boston's Logan Airport's runways.) the main tasks fell on the Navy.The pictures on this book show just how ready the Navy was. Pictures of planes in the air and on carriers show them fully armed with rockets and bombs.Only at the end of the crisis did the tensions go down.

And in one point a Navy helicopter lowered a Navy tie clasp to the Russian freighter 'Alapayevsk.' The Russians returned with a gift of a bottle of vodka. I also remember discussions that we should invade Cuba. Only since the end of the Cold War have we learned that the Russian military forces on the island had short range nuclear weapons and were prepared to use them. Phew! That was close. Closer than we got again. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE By Charles C. Campbell A major international conference on this subject was convened in 1993. It assembled virtually every significant surviving military and civilian decision maker from the USA, USSR/Russia, and Cuba: including our former SECDEF Robert McNamara and Presidential Advisor Arthur Schlesinger... Russian naval leaders and Nikita Khrushchev's son...and the Cuban officer in charge of their two batteries of nuclear-armed surface-to-surface coastal defense missiles. This gathering lasted for several days and was covered in separate 2 or 3 hour long broadcasts by every major television network in the United States. Their interview testimony and its briefly-available transcripts provided new information dramatically different from official accounts of The Cuban Missile Crisis both before and [unfortunately] after this documentation. Military-industrial politics still controls "history" as it does the "news".

This study is a dramatic example of how the U.S. Navy's multipurpose ships and aircraft, flexible task organization, and great mobility enabled President Kennedy to protect national interests in one of the most serious confrontations of the Cold War. Curtis A. Utz is currently a historian in the Naval Historical Center's Contemporary History Branch.