# AWESOME stories

- 0. THE CRISIS WORSENS Story Preface
- 1. MISSILES IN CUBA
- 2. OPERATION ANADYR
- 3. OPERATION MONGOOSE
- 4. AMERICA'S FIRST WARNING
- 5. THE KENNEDY BROTHERS
- 6. KENNY O'DONNELL
- 7. THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS
- 8. EX COMM and The Crisis
- 9. A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

#### **10. THE CRISIS WORSENS**

- 11. EYEBALL TO EYEBALL
- 12. BATTLE PLANS
- 13. CLOSE TO THE EDGE
- 14. AN AMERICAN DEATH
- 15. A SECRET DEAL
- 16. THE TRUTH on ENDING the CRISIS
- **17. A DIFFERENT VERSION**
- 18. KHRUSHCHEV BLINKS
- 19. THE AFTERMATH

This map depicts the Caribbean Basin in the early 1960s and appears in *Cordon of Steel: The U.S. Navy and the Cuban Missile Crisis*, by Curtis A. Utz (a member of the Navy's Contemporary History Branch when he wrote this work in 1993). The book's description of this map—which appears at pages 6 and 7—tells us where the quarantine lines were positioned during the October 1962 crisis:

"The quarantine lines were both located east of the Bahamas and north of Puerto Rico, in the upper center of the map. The carrier task force (Task Force 135) operated in the waters around Jamaica." Image online via Naval History & Heritage Command. Click on the image for a better view.

The <u>President effectively told</u> the Soviets:

We don't submit.

The Soviets responded with actions that effectively told the President:

Neither do we.

And the Soviets added another level of anxiety according to a document released by the <u>National Security</u> <u>Agency</u>. Stating they would not allow their ships to be searched, the Kremlin warned:

U.S. action could end in thermonuclear war.

While the United States sent guided-missile PT boats to <u>patrol</u> the Cuban coast, the Soviets stepped up construction of the ballistic <u>missile</u> launch sites.

As America readied  $\underline{F101Cs}$  for potential air strikes against Cuba, sophisticated MiGs (including <u>MiG 21s</u>) were being assembled to fly into American air space, if ordered.

Both sides moved closer to the edge of an uncharted, nuclear confrontation. At the time, there wasn't even a "hotline" between Washington and Moscow.



# THE CRISIS WORSENS

### See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-CRISIS-WORSENS-Cuban-Missile-Crisis

#### See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-CRISIS-WORSENS-Cuban-Missile-Crisis

## Media Stream







### Patrolling the Cuban Coast

Image online, courtesy The National Security Archives, George Washington University.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Patrolling-the-Cuban-Coast

#### Cuban Missile Launch Site Photo Image online, courtesy The National Security Archive, George Washington University. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cuban-Missile-Launch-Site-Photo

F101C - Fighter Jet Image online, courtesy the National Museum of the Air Force website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/F101C-Fighter-Jet



## THE CRISIS WORSENS

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