

My Marine Story during Cuban Crisis by Tug Knorr (20)

During the Cuban Crisis, I was stationed on one of our amphibious assault ships, USS Okinawa (LPH-3). This is a Helicopter Carrier with no arresting gears (wires). They made the Marine Aviators land their small spy planes (piper cubs) on the 600 ft long deck. Talking to these Marine Aviators at chow etc., they were still shaking when they survived the landings.

Another sidelight from being off Cuba, we had 2000 Infantry Marines on board when we had to return to Mayport, Florida to get them ammo in case they got into battle. No one was proud of the Marine and Navy leaders who authorized “working uniforms” for Liberty, — clubs were not treated kindly with the press, touting possible nuclear potential with USA and Russia.

Even Bethie and the other wives drove 17 hours from Norfolk, VA. to see their military hubbies in Mayport.