



Tipping Point: The War with China - The First Salvo

David Poyer

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Captain Dan Lenson is under fire both at sea, and in Washington. His command of the first antiballistic-missile-capable cruiser in the Fleet, USS Savo Island, is threatened when he's called home to testify before Congress. There, he must defend his controversial decision to prevent a massive retaliatory missile attack by Israel against civilian targets in the Mideast. Shaken by the near-end of his career, Lenson returns to command uncertain of his own future, but determined to do his best by a damaged ship and an increasingly divided crew. Ordered to the Indian Ocean, Savo cruises off East Africa, protecting shipping lanes from pirates. But this seemingly-routine patrol turns ominous when an unknown assailant begins assaulting female crew members. But then, an explosive showdown begins between India and Pakistan...with Savo Island, and her unique but not yet fully battle-ready ability to intercept ballistic missiles, standing alone between two nations on the brink of the first theater nuclear war. Dan will have to battle tsunami-driven seas, incoming weapons, and a quickly tilting balance of power, as China moves inexorably in her bid to displace America in the far Pacific. The fifteenth novel in David Poyer's acclaimed series of naval adventures featuring Dan Lenson, *Tipping Point* is an action-packed, utterly authentic story of duty, war, and the stress of command, by the most popular living author of American sea fiction.

Tipping Point: The War with China - The First Salvo Details

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George says

Good not want to put down techno thriller about naval warfare and China. You got to pay attention or you'll get lost fast. Lots of military terms and ranks. It helps if you are a retired E-9.

Johnny says

Another think arousing book by an amazing author. Seems much too similar to real life situations and possibly blunders and mis-understandings. Too dependent on technology can lead to crippling a force. Hopefully enough older ways will be maintained. Looking forward to the next in this series. Kudos to David Poyer and all the researchers for this installment.

Chuck says

Great page turner with intelligent nautical storyline.

Warren says

Ready, Aim....

Tipping Point is a well-researched and thoughtful book. Dan Lenson continues his perilous journey with the Savo Island. Moving from the Mediterranean to the Arabian (Persian) Gulf to the South China Sea; Savo Island and Lenson continue with their multitude of problems, now including a molester/rapist, communications that have been hacked and the continued issue of the civilian John Hopkins technical support that is more a "nay sayer," than one that helps the situation. Poyer continues to write very well and keeps the story moving...let's be honest, if he were to accurately describe a "normal" day at sea, his books would not sell. Another book that you can not put down from start to finish.

Larry says

This morning's newspaper featured a story about the Iranian navy's irregular elements conducting missile tests in the Strait of Hormuz while foreign tankers and US naval vessels were using the narrow strips of international water that allow passage through the strait. The first half of Poyer's fifteenth Dan Lenson novel describes just such a scenario, only even more aggressively done.

Dan Lenson holds the rank of Captain, USN, is a Medal of Honor recipient, and commands the missile cruiser "Savo Island." He is a deeply introspective officer who has taken many risks in his career ever since

the first book in the series, "The Med." He has not had a conventional career, as he is well aware.

"Most Navy careers, successful ones, ascended as gracefully and predictably as a curve of ballroom stairs. Winding upward to greater responsibility, greater honor, greater rank. . . . his own had been tossed by downsucks and updrafts like a glider in the mountains, heading for the ground one minute, the sky the next. Questionable decisions. Courts of Inquiry. Awards. Letters of reprimand. Dangerous assignments. Unexpected promotions. The one sure thing he could say was, he'd had an eventful career (p. 92)."

And the future seems likely to parallel the past. From anti-piracy and anti-drug smuggling interdiction, to asserting international right of passage in contested areas like the Strait of Hormuz (and asserting by means of force), to preventing missile exchanges between hostile powers due to the special capabilities of the "Savo Island," Lenson is still in the middle of conflict zones, even when he returns to Washington for congressional inquiries. The Chinese claim to great stretches of the South China Sea (which brings China into potential conflict with the Philippines, Japan, the Republic of Vietnam, and, of course, the United States) increases tension levels and raises the stakes higher than ever before. The nerve-wracking issue by the end of the book is not whether there will be war with China, but whether it will expand from a six-month war to a full-scale war.

Poyer (and Peter Deutermann) writes convincingly about the challenges that face the US Navy. He describes the new kinds of ships that are being developed (somewhat like James Cobb did a decade or so ago). He describes naval combat, ship-handling, and even the humdrum of naval life at sea ("Savo Island" and in "Cruiser," before it) in ways that are breathtaking and consistently interesting. In addition to the issues that hold geopolitical significance, Lenson's command is being whittled down in efficiency by the sheer dogged work that is required to keep a fighting ship operational in the face of constant engagement while the ship is endangered both by illness and by the presence of an increasingly bold sexual assaulter. It's the latter issue that highlights the tension between middle management female career officers and the male chiefs who run the crew. And then there's the issue of communications failures. By the time that the novel ends, the Savo Island faces ever-escalating naval responsibilities while it is losing its edge. All of these complications make the next novel in the series critical in many ways.

Note: Poyer includes a fairly fascinating short appendix detailing his research for this book.

Kristen says

In David Poyer's *Tipping Point*, the 15th installment in the Dan Lenson military thriller series, this novel would take you to the high seas with realistic fiction about the brink of war. Back home, Captain Dan Lenson is taking the heat from his past wartime actions with his crew on the USS Savo Island ship, and faces a grueling tribunal meeting with Congress. His wife Blair is campaigning for a hot seat in Congress and needs his support. On the water, he runs the ship on dangerous waters and deals with compelling trouble in hostile land. First it started with a complaint from one of his female crew members being attacked and assaulted by an unknown assailant in night. That started a probe and a long-dragged out discussion with everyone on board. Then everyone's feeling the crud in the ship as they lose one of their own overnight from an unknown airborne disease. While under the weather, Dan does his best to helm his boat and prepare to stop another world war between India and Pakistan. With everything going on, they help out the country of Maldives take care of disaster relief from a tidal wave and China hacks into their systems to bring the USA to a standstill. More complaints of attacks come pouring in, the crew is sick with the crud, and Dan needs some serious downtime. In the end, they prepare to buckle down and strike against Pakistan for a war, while a storm's

brewing inside of his ship and more fielded complaints to stop an unknown perpetrator in their tracks.

Caroline says

As a lucky winner of an advance uncorrected proof of, "Tipping Point," all I can say is "wow, gotta read more of this series!" This fifteenth adventure in the series featuring Captain Dan Lenson takes place in the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and South China Sea. Lenson has problems across a 360 degree spectrum. His wife is running for Congress. He's faced with a Congressional inquiry regarding his actions which the politicians are second guessing. His crew is bedeviled by an insidious, debilitating disease that's killed two of them. A rapist is stalking and assaulting female crew members. On top of all that, the experimental weapons system his ship has been equipped with is temperamental and not always reliable. Throw in Iranian mullahs, a conventional and nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan and rising tensions at sea with Red China....Lenson has more challenges to deal with than seem possible to overcome. One reviewer of a previous book in the series says "...readers paying close attention could take over the captain's chair and drive the boat themselves." I say readers paying close attention may begin to realize what modern US Navy ship commanders have to confront while trying to keep our nation safe. This book is a definite "MUST READ" for anyone interested in modern day naval activity complete with multiple layers of political complications, foreign and domestic.

Ted says

Not one of Poyer's better efforts. Typically a little too technical. A disappointing ending with no resolutions to any of the competing plots. On to Dan Lennon #16.

Rich Wagner says

This is an intense naval novel. I enjoyed the fact that many different storylines are covered and continue throughout the book. I would have preferred a resolution to the different threads but I understand why a lot is left up in the air. It compels the reader to come back for the next in the series. The only negatives for me were at times my lack of familiarity with nautical terms left me lost. Too given that this was the first book I had read in the series I was a bit lost keeping up with the characters. Overall a good action story. ##### I won this book through goodreads in exchange for an unbiased review #####

Kenneth Flusche says

Too Busy but still good NAVY Fiction

Glenn Dyer says

Another great Dan Lenson novel. Poyer is the master of the naval thriller.

Glenn Dyer says

Another great novel in the Dan Lenson series.

Bill Dougherty says

The weight of command is like the theory of unintended consequences. Captain Dan Lenson, Commanding Officer of *USS Savo Island* discovers this reality as he and his crew are thrust into multiple crises and the men and women who serve under him struggle with the burden of every decision. Some of those decisions don't sit well in the halls of Congress or even with his old professor, Dr. Szerenci, and the missiles flying are as much friendly fire as they are hostile. Every order from leadership pushes the ship, and Lenson, to the breaking point. Lenson finds himself Monday-morning quarterbacking decisions he has yet to make. From a freedom of navigation run to the Indian Ocean against the Iranians, to finding his two-ship task force at the leading edge of war between Pakistan and India, Lenson navigates through turbulent waters. His officers and chiefs are divided. A nasty "crud" has sickened a third of the crew, including him, skimming away operational effectiveness. A mysterious man is attacking female members of the crew. Lenson finds himself on the dark edge of exhaustion but must fight on as his ship barely escapes a tsunami and he's appointed the leader of a massive response and recovery effort. Before he can make headway with the hundreds of thousands who need aid, *Savo Island* is diverted as Pakistan and India renew acquaintances. In the fog of war, Lenson is forced to take drastic measures that may do more harm than good. The end is near, however, fans of Captain Dan Lenson will have to wait for the next saga in the series to find out whether he can help the U.S. Navy avoid a global nuclear war. This story illustrates the demands of a captain and his crew, depicts accurately the hard life of sailors at sea, and demonstrates the realities of command and the decisions that go well beyond a single ship. Strap in, stand by for heavy rolls, and prepare yourself for one hell of a ride.

Donald says

Action

As all o David Poyer's books h brings it right into the action and to the thought and decision that a commander goes through. It is did not contain a lot of technology talk that adds nothing to be sorry as some writers do.

Keep up the great work. Can not wait for the next book.

Mike says

Very good military fiction. Looking forward to reading the next book!!

