

Integrated Defense Systems  
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## Boeing EA-18G Growler

### Description & Purpose:

The EA-18G Growler is a variant of the combat-proven F/A-18F Super Hornet Block II, and will fly the airborne electronic attack mission. The EA-18G combines the capability of the combat-proven Super Hornet with the latest AEA avionics suite evolved from the Improved Capability III (ICAP III) system. The EA-18G's vast array of sensors and weapons provides the warfighter with a lethal and survivable weapon system to counter current and emerging threats.



### Customer:

The EA-18G Growler is currently under development for the U.S. Navy as a replacement for its current AEA aircraft, the EA-6B Prowler. The program of record for the U.S. Navy calls for 88 EA-18G Growler aircraft.

### General Characteristics:

<b>Length:</b>	60.2 ft (18.3 m)
<b>Height:</b>	16 ft (4.9 m)
<b>Wing Span:</b>	44.9 ft (13.7 m)
<b>Weight Empty:</b>	33,094 lbs (15,011.2 kg)
<b>Recovery Weight:</b>	48,000 lbs (21,772.4 kg)
<b>Internal Fuel:</b>	13,940 lbs (6,323.1 kg)
<b>Max External Fuel:</b>	9,744 lbs (4,419.8 kg)
<b>Engines</b>	(2) F414-GE-400
<b>Thrust</b>	44,000 lbs
<b>Spot Factor</b>	1.23
<b>Crew</b>	One Pilot, one Weapon Systems Officer

The AEA suite provides state-of-the-art selective-reactive and pre-emptive jamming capability. The majority of the AEA unique avionics are installed on a pallet in the gun

bay and in two wingtip pods. Nine weapons stations remain to provide unique flexibility for carriage of weapons, jamming pods, and other stores to meet the needs for standoff jamming, escort jamming, time critical strike, or communications countermeasures. The AEA communications receiver and jamming system will provide electronic suppression and attack against communication threats. These systems, combined with the F/A-18F Super Hornet air-to-air and air-to-ground capabilities, yield a formidable and flexible capability at IOC with significant growth capability for the future.

The advanced cockpit on the EA-18G, combined with its onboard sensors and weapons, enable superior Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) capability. The active electronically scanned array radar, or APG-79 AESA radar, offers increased electronic warfare support and is capable of precision targeting utilizing cues from the ALQ-218 precision receiver system. Integrating these systems with advanced weapons yields a more formidable SEAD capability than previously possible.

**Background:**

The EA-18G Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) system was selected by the U. S. Navy to replace the EA-6B Prowler aircraft. Boeing and the U.S. Navy signed a five-year System Development and Demonstration contract on December 29, 2003. Northrop Grumman is the major supplier to Boeing for the AEA subsystem. The SDD contract runs from 2004 through 2009 and encompasses all laboratory, ground and flight tests from component level testing through full-up EA-18G weapons system performance flight testing. The program leverages proven processes developed by the Super Hornet program to provide a low-risk executable program, on schedule, under weight, and on cost – the same best practices that enabled the Super Hornet to win the 1999 Collier Trophy, DoD Acquisition Award, and the Aviation Week Program Excellence Award in 2005. The EA-18G has earned two awards to date: The 2006 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award and the 2007 Flight Award as the Defense Product of the Year.

Assembly of the first EA-18G flight test aircraft began in October 2004, and the first flight test aircraft moved into modification in late April 2005, ahead of schedule. The first production aircraft made its first flight on Sept. 10, 2007 and was delivered to the U.S. Navy on Sept. 24, 2007 almost a month ahead of schedule. The first production aircraft to be delivered to a fleet unit was delivered to Fleet Readiness Squadron VAQ-129 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., on June 3, 2008, and the aircraft began its initial sea trials in August 2008. The Growler completed initial sea trials onboard the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower in August 2008. The Growler entered Operational Evaluation in September 2008 and is scheduled to achieve initial operational capability in 2009.

**Miscellaneous:**

- The EA-18G Growler will be based out of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.
- 12 EA-18G Growlers have been delivered as of June 2009.

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