The EA-18G Growler is a variant of the Block II F/A-18F Super Hornet and is the Navy replacement for the EA-6B Prowler. This airborne electronic attack aircraft combines modern advances in Airborne Electronic Attack systems and weapons with the unmatched tactical versatility, advancements and capabilities of the Block II Super Hornet.

The Growler, like the Super Hornet, has been developed on cost, on schedule, under its required weight specification, and has met or exceeded all performance qualifications.

The first Growler was delivered June 3, 2008 to VAQ-129, the Growler Fleet Replacement Squadron, at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Initial operational capability and full rate production followed in fall 2009. The EA-18G has replaced the EA-6B in over half of the Navy’s electronic attack (VAQ) squadrons, with the transition expected to be complete by 2016. The Growler initially deployed in combat operations in late 2010, supporting operations in Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan.

In the more than 30 years since its inception, the F-18 platform has grown to become one of the most capable, reliable, versatile, and cost-effective aircraft in the history of naval aviation. The F/A-18 Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler will provide the Navy with strike fighter and airborne electronic attack capabilities for years to come, taking today’s warfighter into tomorrow.

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