



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



May 31, 2011

Electronic Warfare

"Electronic warfare plays an increasingly crucial role in our military operations around the world. Naval air platforms have been integral to delivering this core capability for our own troops, partners and allies. The EA-18G Growler has been critical to our mission in Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Unified Protector."

- Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa

The discovery of radar gave the air wing a new tool to locate enemy contacts at farther distances. With this development, the Navy thought it was only natural to develop a specialized area of warfare – airborne electronic attack warfare - to keep the enemy from recognizing U.S. forces with radar.

Unique Capability / National Asset

- Electronic warfare (EW) is a core competency for the Navy and a capability that every combatant commander looks to the branch to provide.
- This unique capability is critical to the success of the armed forces, making sure U.S. assets can safely operate in areas where access may be denied.
- The Navy’s ability to exploit the electromagnetic spectrum for collection and disruption of enemy signals gives the United States a significant tactical, operational and strategic advantage.

Expeditionary and Ship Deployable

- The “Scorpions” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 132 operated as part of [Joint Task Force Odyssey Dawn](#) and ensured the safety of coalition partners. This marked the first combat employment of the [EA-18G Growler](#).
- [VAQ-134](#) with [USS Carl Vinson \(CVN 70\)](#) and [VAQ-137](#) with [USS Enterprise \(CVN 65\)](#) are providing EW support for Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.
- The [EP-3E Airborne Reconnaissance Integrated Electronic System II](#) is the Navy's only land-based signals intelligence (SIGINT) reconnaissance aircraft and provides fleet and theater commanders with near real-time tactical SIGINT. With sensitive receivers and high-gain dish antennas, the EP-3E exploits a wide range of electronic emissions from deep within targeted territory and can be deployed from a variety of locations based on its commonalities with the P-3 Orion aircraft.

Transition from Prowler to Growler and Beyond

- The first carrier-based deployment of the Growler was with [VAQ-141](#) aboard [USS George H.W. Bush \(CVN 77\)](#) May 11.
- Many squadrons will continue to deploy with the [EA-6B Prowler](#) while undergoing the transition to the Growler. All squadrons are scheduled to complete the transition by 2016.
- The Next Generation Jammer is in development to replace the [ALQ 99 Tactical Jamming System](#) and will incorporate modular open system architecture and provide a robust, flexible jamming capability that can evolve to address emerging threats.

Key Messages

- The Navy’s EW assets provide a unique capability to the National Command Authority that is vital to fighting and winning wars.
- EW assets can be deployed nearly anywhere in the world and maintain presence from the sea.
- The transition from the Prowler to the Growler marks a generational leap in capabilities and furthers the nation’s ability to disrupt and destroy enemy activities.

Facts & Figures

- Navy EW platforms operate on a variety of frequencies to disrupt everything from sophisticated anti-aircraft batteries to improvised explosive attacks.
- Growlers have flown more than 115 sorties in support of Operations Odyssey Dawn and [Unified Protector](#).
- The Growler will be able to operate as part of the joint “system-of-systems” for electronic attack.