

RAAF receives final EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft from Boeing

airforce-technology.com



The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has received the last two of 12 EA-18G Growler electronic attack aircraft from Boeing.

Australia received the aircraft under a foreign military sales agreement signed with Boeing in 2014.

Based at RAAF Base Amberley, the entire fleet of Growlers would provide an advanced new capability for the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Australia Defence Minister Marise Payne said: "We are the only country outside the United States operating the EA-18G Growler and the full fleet arrival represents a significant leap forward in joint electronic warfare capability.

"These aircraft are able to support the full spectrum of defence missions, including operations with coalition partners.

"The EA-18G Growlers will work with army and navy to deliver a networked joint force able to manoeuvre and fight in the electromagnetic spectrum."

The Growlers have successfully completed weapon firings and integration flights with RAAF F/A-18F Super Hornets and US Navy EA-18G Growlers as part of Operational Test and Evaluation.

Based on the F/A-18F Super Hornet airframe, the Growler is equipped with additional avionics, enhanced radio frequency receivers, an improved communications suite, and radio-frequency jamming pods that enable it to block enemy systems.

It is capable of providing force-level electronic warfare support by disrupting, deceiving or denying a broad range of military electronic systems, including radars and communications, RAAF stated.

The airborne electronic attack aircraft is said to provide a complementary capability to the F/A-18F Super Hornet and the F-35A Lightning II fighter jets.

Image: A pair of RAAF EA-18G Growlers. Photo: courtesy of the Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence.