

Multiservice Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the EA-6B Employment in the Joint Environment



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Go to Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

In the wake of DOD budgetary decisions to retire the F-4G Wild Weasel and phase out the EF-111 Raven, there will be increased reliance by the Joint Force Commander (JFC) on the EA-6B Prowler for the joint suppression of enemy air defenses (J-SEAD) role. It is understood that SEAD is much more than jamming and anti-radiation missiles. All services bring complementary capabilities to the overall J-SEAD effort, and all services reap the benefits of the resulting air superiority. This publication focuses on the unique capabilities of the EA-6B.

The Prowler is not optimized to provide a safe haven by virtue of an "umbrella of electrons". However, if used efficiently and effectively, this limited asset can provide the JFC with a decisive tactical advantage. The EA-6B is a multi-mission capable platform,

that couples human interface with a sophisticated electronic warfare package. Whether the crew of four is assigned to a carrier-based Navy VAQ squadron, Marine Corps VMAQ squadron, or a newly formed, jointly manned Navy land-based squadron (also VAQ), they will come to the "battlefield" as a highly standardized crew that completed centralized training at NAS Whidbey Island, WA.

This unique, consolidated reference publication was authored by EA-6B operators in concert with multiservice experts from complementary platforms. Their overarching goal was to provide the planner/tactical level commander/mission commander "need to know" information on the EA-6B. The intent is to educate our joint forces on the capabilities, limitations, and recommended tactics, techniques and procedures for EA-6B employment in the joint environment.

The publication is broken down into four chapters. Chapter One provides an overview of EA-6B weapon system capabilities and limitations. Additionally, it identifies three key support systems required to employ the aircraft. Chapter Two provides a broad perspective on operational level EA-6B missions and taskings. It defines three basic operational suppression missions and presents an overview of important tasking considerations. Chapter Three specifies typical EA-6B tactical employment. It includes discussions on HARM utilization, and outlines key tactical employment and dissimilar platform integration considerations. Chapter Four highlights EA-6B specific maintenance requirements. It also delineates logistical support differences between USMC, carrier-based and land-based USN squadrons.

The essence of this publication is best captured by Abraham Lincoln's 1862 quotation: "To win, we must use the tools we have."

Classification

This executive summary is unclassified. The publication itself is classified **SECRET**.
