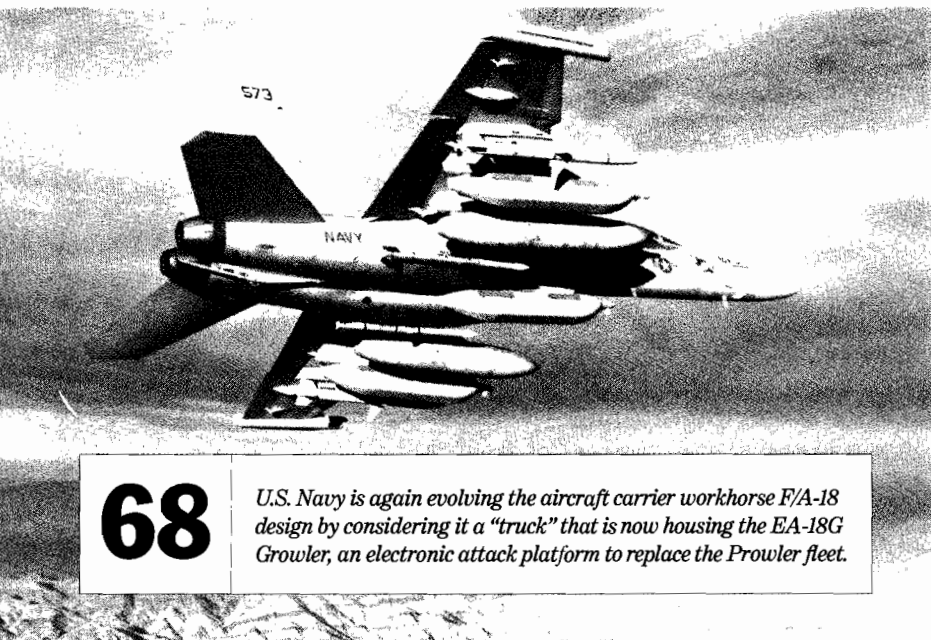


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& SPACE TECHNOLOGY



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U.S. Navy is again evolving the aircraft carrier workhorse F/A-18 design by considering it a "truck" that is now housing the EA-18G Growler, an electronic attack platform to replace the Prowler fleet.

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size and might of U.S. naval aviation, on station around the world and always ready to respond to the call to duty, belies its humble beginnings 100 years ago. On April 1, 1911, Lt. Theodore Gordon Ellyson was the first naval officer designated an aviator after he flew a Curtiss A-1 Triad earlier that year from San Diego Bay, as depicted in this painting by pre-eminent aviation artist Keith Ferris. In the background is the historic Hotel Del Coronado. The Triad had both float and retractable landing gears, allowing the aircraft to operate on land and sea. The official birth date of naval aviation is May 8, 1911, as declared by Navy Secretary John Y. Mason in 1948.

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NAVAL AVIATION