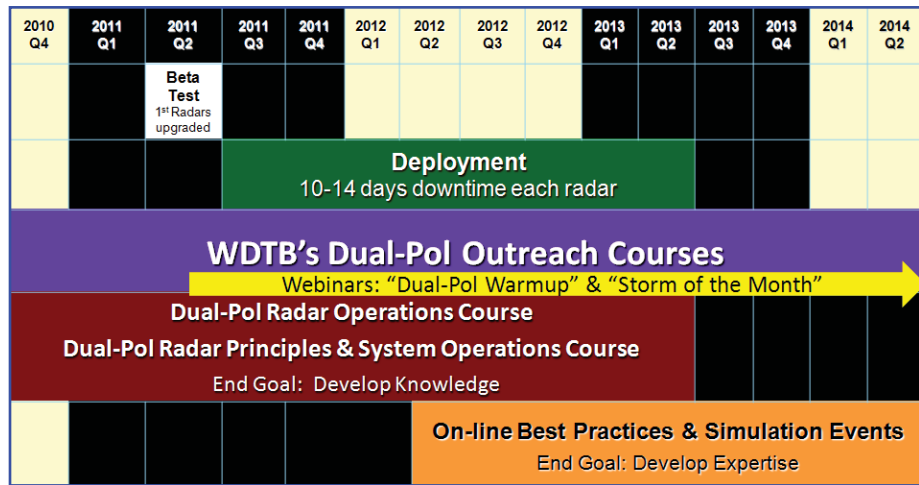




# WDTB Dual-Polarization Training News

## WDTB Dual-Polarization Radar Upgrade and Training Schedule



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This timeline gives you the WDTB Dual-Pol training plan in a nutshell. It's targeted towards both NWS forecasters with warning-related responsibilities and outreach partners.

For NWS forecasters, our goal is to first develop Dual-Pol knowledge (take a look at the red bar on the timeline). To do this we're offering two distance courses through the NWS Learning Center. The first is the required fifteen-module "Dual-Polarization Radar Operations" course. The second optional course, "Dual-Polarization Radar Principles and System Operations", provides details on how dual-pol data are acquired and processed. Many training officers, radar focal points, advanced users and even Electronic Technicians have taken this five-module course.

Once a forecaster has received their "Dual-Polarization Radar Operations Course" certificate of completion, training will focus on developing expertise. Again, we're taking two approaches (see the orange bar on the timeline). To transfer Dual-Pol "Best Practices" throughout the NWS, WDTB will build a library of interesting weather that demonstrates how the Dual-Pol products add value to the forecast and warning process. These best practice events will be packaged in short segments that can be tracked through the NWS Learn Center.

To support NWS partners and customers, we're providing distance learning modules that your office can reference in your local outreach efforts. All of these outreach materials are available from WDTB's "Dual-Pol One Stop Shop":

<http://www.wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/dualpol/index.html>

## WDTB's Dual-Polarization Radar Training Webinars

WDTB currently offers two different types of webinars each month, targeting different audiences.

### Webinar Type #1: Dual-Pol Warmup Training

An introduction for beginners, these sessions provide a quick familiarization with the WSR-88D dual-pol base products. They also show a variety of capabilities with multiple examples from the fleet. These sessions are delivered on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

### Webinar Type #2: Storm of the Month

Designed for those who have completed (or are in the process of completing) the "Dual-Polarization Radar Operations" course, these sessions target a specific event with a closer look at the contribution of Dual-Pol base data analysis. These sessions are delivered on the last Wednesday of each month.

Registration information for these webinars is provided through "course announcement" style e-mails from WDTB. As part of the "Dual-Pol Best Practices" effort, recordings of these webinars with additional interaction to capture the question and answer portion will be made available through the NWS Learn Center.

## Dual-Polarization Radar Operations Course Implementation Guide

With 18 on-line web modules and 4 WES simulation events, local office implementation of these various training approaches can be challenging and WDTB is committed to providing the necessary support.

Dual-Pol Operations Course Implementation Guide	
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We've attached a PDF of a "Dual-Pol Operations Course Implementation Guide" with this e-mail. We've designed the Guide to help the training facilitator at each office by answering questions about certain aspects of the course that have arisen since the course has been launched. The guide consists of 19 slides that cover a wide range of topics, from enrolling your office staff in the course to marking completions for the WES cases on the LMS to tracking their progress.

If you have any questions about how to proceed with any aspect of either course (Dual-Polarization Radar Operations or Dual-Pol Radar Principles and Systems Operations) please do not hesitate to contact our dual-pol customer service representative, Mark Sessing (E-mail: [mark.l.sessing@noaa.gov](mailto:mark.l.sessing@noaa.gov); Phone: 405-325-1091). Mark can answer questions you may have on the course and use GotoMeeting technology to demonstrate key implementation and reporting techniques.

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## Dual-Pol Training Fact of the Month

In October 2011, the Dodge City WFO became the first “Dual-Pol Ready” NWS office in the country. All 17 forecasters have received their “Dual-Polarization Radar Operations Course” certificates of completion.

On November 10th, Pendleton, OR became the second “Dual-Pol Read” WFO with 20 forecasters receiving their certificates of completion

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## Dual-Polarization Radar Base Data in the Four-Dimensional Stormcell Investigator (FSI)

WDTB has received some questions about accessing the dual-pol base data in FSI. Some of the questions have involved the Dual-Pol WES Exercises while others have involved FSI on an operational AWIPS. We thought we would share this information in case you have similar questions or problems.

### Item #1: FSI and the Dual-Pol WES Exercises

Some offices have run into problems using FSI when viewing the case data for the Dual-Pol WES Exercises. The most common problem occurs when FSI doesn't allow you to select the data time and date because FSI thinks a simulation is running. This can happen if you still have a simulation running on that machine or if a previous simulation was not exited properly. When this happens, a file (`/awips/fxa/DRT/simustatus_history`) exists that prevents the FSI Time Entry widget from displaying. To fix this problem, follow these instructions:

1. Type `cd /awips/fxa/DRT`
2. Type `rm -f simustatus_history`
3. Re-launch FSI in D2D and you should be able to select the time

Problems can also occur if you convert the data for the Dual-Pol WES Exercises to displaced real-time (DRT) format. Since these exercises are not intended to be run in simulation mode, there is no need to make this conversion after you install the data. We designed the exercise disk to be “plug and play”, so you should be ready to begin with the exercises as soon as you finish installing the cases.

## Item #2: Dual-Polarization Data Available in FSI

At least one office has had some configuration issues with dual-polarization base data displaying in FSI on their operational AWIPS machines. After your local radar has been upgraded, and you've run the turn-key script to update your AWIPS radar menu, dual-pol base products and the Hydrometeor Classification output should be available in FSI. If you are unable to see these data in your FSI display, you should contact NCF to help troubleshoot the problem.