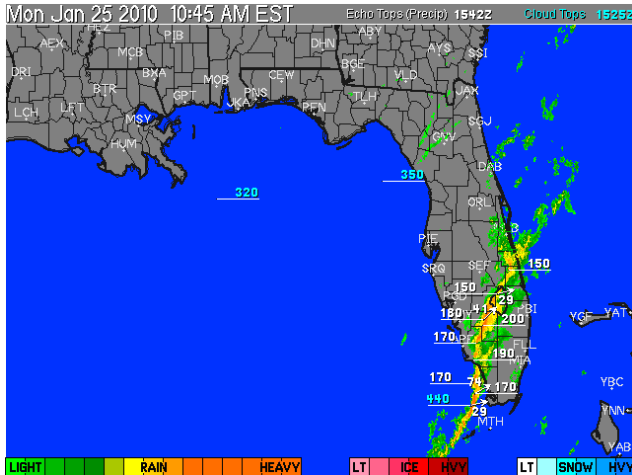




Upgraded Radar Graphics now Available!

CSC DUATS has upgraded their NEXRAD Radar graphics. In addition to echo tops and cell movement information, cloud tops will now be shown.



The above map is a regional NEXrad radar graphic. On the top of the graphic, you will see the date and time of the creation of the graphic. To the right of this, you will see the time of the radar reading for the echo tops and then the time of the cloud top information. At the bottom, you will see color strip legends for rain and for ice and/or snow if present.

Echo Tops

The echo tops will appear on the graphic as in the past. They are presented in white lettering and will identify a cell location along with the height. If movement has been detected, cell direction and speed in knots will also be shown. The heights for the echo tops are in hundreds of feet above mean sea level, not above the local ground level. Heights are measured for precipitation echoes with reflectivities of 18.5 dBZ or higher. The lowest detectable tops are those at 5,000 feet. The highest detectable tops are heights of 70,000 feet. Echo top information is received every 10 minutes.

Additionally, three other conditions are detected by the radar and are present in the CSC DUATS graphics – HAIL, MESO, and TVS.

HAIL – This indicates a high probability that the cell contains hail.

MESO – This indicates that a mesocyclone has been detected.

TVS – This indicates that a tornado vortex signature has been detected.

These words will appear next to the cell height if the condition is present.

Cloud Tops

The new cloud top information is presented in turquoise numbers. The data comes from the National Weather Service every 30 minutes and represents the maximum cloud top height that was detected by the radar in that area. The location of the top on the regional graphics, is indicated by the furthest endpoint of the line

underneath the height on the national map the echo top value is centered its reported location. There will never be motion or direction indicated for cloud tops, as they only represent the height; however, if the cloud top is reported at the same location as an echo top, the cloud top information will replace the echo top.

Terminology Differences

Most pilots also look at different sites for weather information. You may notice that radar summary information can differ from site to site. Some sites have different definitions of tops. They may have cloud top (non precipitation) information in place of echo top (precipitation) information. Other sites may have developed their own algorithms which combine the cloud and echo radar data with data from satellite products. Some sites will round the tops to the closest 5,000 feet. All of these sites may present valuable information, but you have to know exactly what you are looking at and how to interpret the information.

CSC DUATS radar graphic information comes from the NWS and is presented to the pilot unchanged. There is no interpolation done or projections made from the data.

How to Use Radar Graphic Information

The most important point here is that the Radar graphics (and any other graphic product) are only a small part of weather information that you should consider before you make any decisions about flying. They give you a quick indicator of bad weather in the area, but they should never be used as the only input. By supplementing graphics products with FAA certified alphanumeric weather data from CSC DUATS, you will be able to make a safe decision. Furthermore, all CSC DUATS sessions are recorded and retrievable for 15 days if needed.

Please retain your DUATS Newsletters for future reference.

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Why use DUATS for your weather source?

These days there are several sources for aviation weather as well as general weather conditions and forecasts. Why use DUATS for your briefing? Consider these benefits:

FAA Weather: DUATS has access and uses the SAME weather that is provided to the FAA Centers.

FAA Tested and Certified: The DUAT system has been designed, tested and certified to meet FAA specifications for weather briefings. DUATS is also continuously monitored by the FAA testing center.

100% Valid for Preflight Briefing: If you request a DUATS route briefing, you will have FULLY satisfied your requirement to obtain a preflight briefing. Many sites, including government sites, have weather products that are only to be used as supplement to your preflight briefing. With DUATS you do not have to go to another site or source. If you prefer to use some of the other sites, follow up with a DUATS weather brief to meet your preflight briefing requirements.

NOTAM Parsing: As a part of your preflight briefing, CSC DUATS will present all the current NOTAM-Ds (which now include local NOTAMs) and parse them out in order of the newly implemented NOTAM keywords.

DUATS Records Your Briefing: All DUATS sessions including the route briefing are recorded and maintained for 15 days. This provides proof of the weather briefing, if ever needed.

Plain Language Translator: You can select to have your weather briefing, including NOTAMs, be translated into plain language.

Attention iPhone, BlackBerry, and Windows Mobile Users!

Hilton Software LLC's WingX mobile products enable pilots to file flight plans and to obtain certified weather briefings using the CSC DUATS service. Importantly, each of these preflight activities uses the pilot's DUATS access code and password and is therefore recorded by CSC DUATS.

Hilton Goldstein, CEO of Hilton Software LLC explains: "I am very excited about our collaboration with CSC DUATS and with the addition of CSC DUATS weather graphics into our mobile WingX products. For years WingX has been displaying NWS RADAR. However the addition of CSC DUATS weather graphics to WingX brings significantly improved and more detailed animated RADAR to a pilot's iPhone. In addition to the improved quality, WingX's RADAR images display the route of flight together with the identifiers of nearby airports. As we move forward, we look forward to adding more and more high quality CSC DUATS weather images."

WingX's impressive list of features includes a GPS-Enabled, Terrain-Aware Moving Map, NACO Approach Charts, DUATS integration, Route Planning, A/FD and AOPA Information, an E6B and much more. WingX is currently available on the iPhone, BlackBerry, Windows Mobile, and the Android version is coming soon.

For more information, contact Hilton Software LLC at 1-866-42-WINGX or via their web site <http://www.hiltonsoftware.com>.

Visit CSC DUATS at the

Sun N Fun

April 13 - 18
Lakeland Regional Airport
Hanger D – Booth 65

Alaska State Aviation Tradeshow and Conference

May 1 - 2
FedX Maintenance Hanger – Booth 36

Golden West Fly-In

June 11 - 13
Guba County Airport – Booth 1

Arlington Fly-In

July 7 - 11
Booth 107

Air Venture - Oshkash

July 26 – August 1
Wittmon Field – Booth TBD

