

After graduating from ECC, Mr. Priegnitz received his BS in Meteorology from NIU and his MS in Geosciences from UW-Milwaukee. He has worked as a research scientist, software engineer, and most recently, a meteorologist/software engineer at the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman Oklahoma.

Mr. Priegnitz has played an active role in meteorological research and technology transfer for over 30 years. He has been directly involved in improving the software for the National Weather Service (WSR-88D) radar network and demonstrating the capability of phased array radar technology for future weather radar systems. He was an author/co-author on numerous journal/conference papers and was co-recipient of the 2010 Vaisala Award presented by the World Meteorological Organization in Helsinki Finland for a paper on the rapid scan capabilities of severe storms by the National Weather Radar Testbed (NWRT) Phased Array Radar.

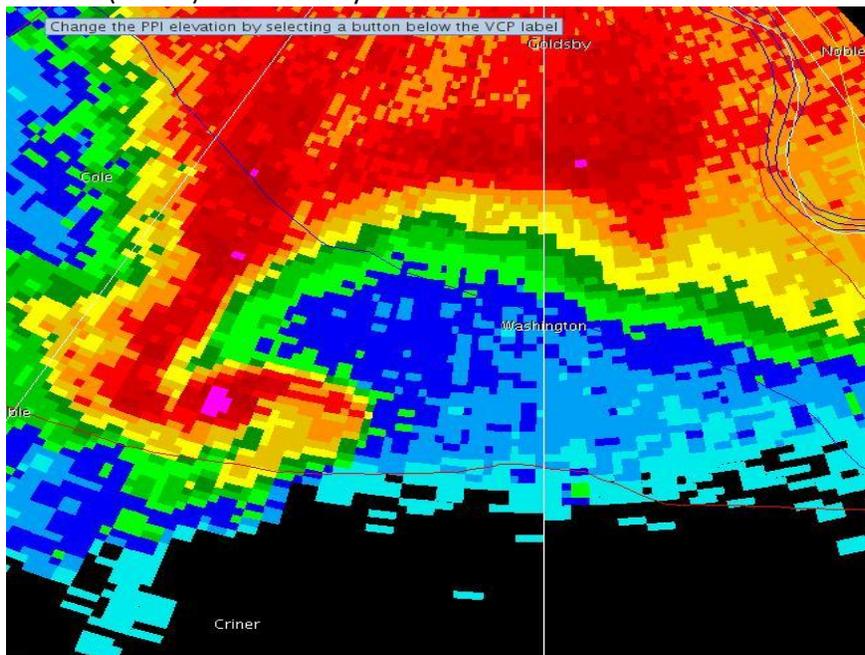


Figure 1. EF4 tornado captured by the NWRT Phased Array Radar on 24 May 2011

While working for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Mr. Priegnitz was an active participant in supporting the storm penetrating T-28 aircraft during field programs in Colorado and Switzerland. At the National Severe Storms Laboratory, he has been involved in several projects supporting the current and possible future National Weather Service radar platforms.

He was co-recipient of the NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research 2009 "Paper of the year" award, and is part of a team of scientists and engineers that received a Department of Commerce gold medal for their work on developing phased array radar technology for weather applications (Fig. 1).

Weather radar provides a vital role in protecting the public in times of severe weather and many lives have been saved by warnings tied directly to these improvements.

Mr. Priegnitz is an avid runner and has participated in many races from 5K to marathons. This past March, he passed the 25,000 mile mark in the running log he has been keeping since 1991. He has volunteered for the local "Meals-on-Wheels" program and participates in Day of Caring events.