

MARCH 1991: Warm and wet summed up the month of March. Temperatures averaged 2°F or more above normal during March, making this the sixth consecutive warmer than normal month at all five airports. In addition, this was the seventh consecutive warmer than normal March at DCA, BWI and IAD. Unlike last year, mild nights (the result of considerable cloud cover) rather than warm days accounted for the above normal temperatures. There were only 4 days with low temperatures at or below freezing at DCA. The month commenced with above normal readings at DCA, however by the 8th of the month colder conditions prevailed until the 17th. High temperatures in the thirties on the 13th and 14th were as much as 15°F below normal. There were no days during March with temperatures at or above 80°F at DCA the first such occurrence since 1988. The greatest temperature swing at National Airport occurred in less than a 48-hour time frame, from a high of 79°F on the 28th to a low of 35°F on the morning of the 30th when wet snow was observed. Measurable precipitation occurred on thirteen days of the month at DCA with over half an inch reported on the 18th, 23rd, 24th, and 30th. Morning thunderstorms dropped 3.7" of rain on portions of Loudon County and 2-3" on parts of Montgomery County on the 30th, prompting flash flood warnings in these areas. Snowfall during the month was light with measurable accumulations primarily confined to the northern and western suburbs of the Washington/Baltimore area.

MARCH 1991 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station <u>Location</u>	<u>Temperatures (°F)</u>					<u>Extreme/Day</u>			<u>Precipitation (In)</u>			
	<u>AvMx</u>	<u>AvMn</u>	<u>AvgT</u>	<u>NmT</u>	<u>DepNm</u>	<u>MaxT</u>	<u>MinT</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Norm</u>	<u>DepNm</u>	<u>Snow</u>	
National (DCA)	57.2	40.3	48.8	45.8	+3.0	79/28	28/12	4.42	3.46	+0.96	T	
Baltimore (BWI)	55.7	37.6	46.6	43.3	+3.3	77/28	24/9	5.65	3.72	+1.93	0.3	
Dulles (IAD)	56.5	35.7	46.1	42.4	+3.7	77/28	23/10*	5.16	3.43	+1.73	3.5	
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	58.0	38.0	48.0	44	+4	80/28	25/9	4.40	3.7	+0.7	T	
AndrewsAFB (ADW)	55.8	37.5	46.7	45	+2	79/28	23/9	4.74	3.6	+1.1	T	

Other occurrences: * March 17th

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL: The last four years with above normal March precipitation at DCA, also recorded above normal precipitation in April. Will 1991 be added to the list?

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total March Precipitation</u>	<u>Total April Precipitation</u>
1980	5.04"	3.28"
1983	4.84"	6.88"
1984	6.14"	3.71"
1989	4.30"	3.50"
1991	4.42"	?

Note: Normal March Precipitation at DCA: 3.46" ; Normal April Precipitation at DCA: 2.93"