



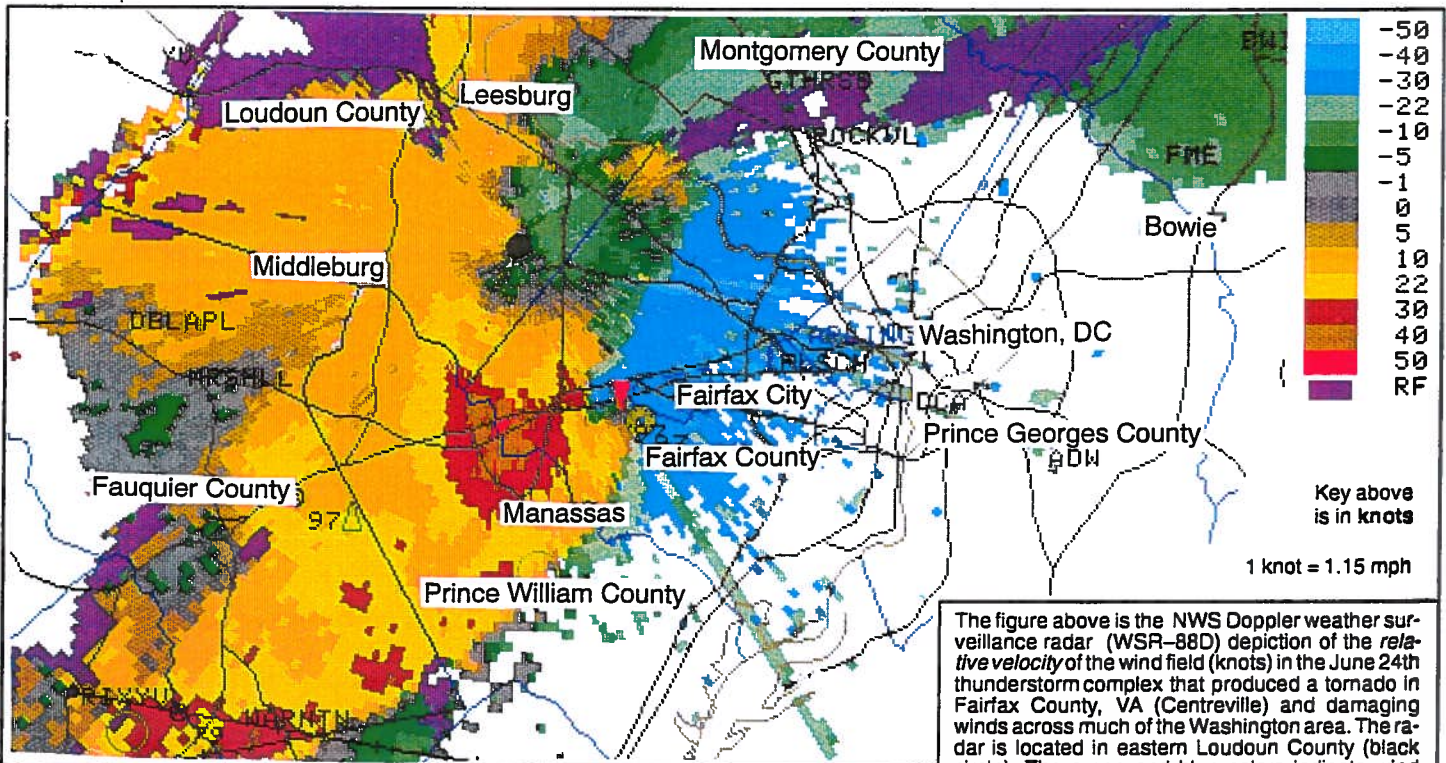
PRESTO



PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

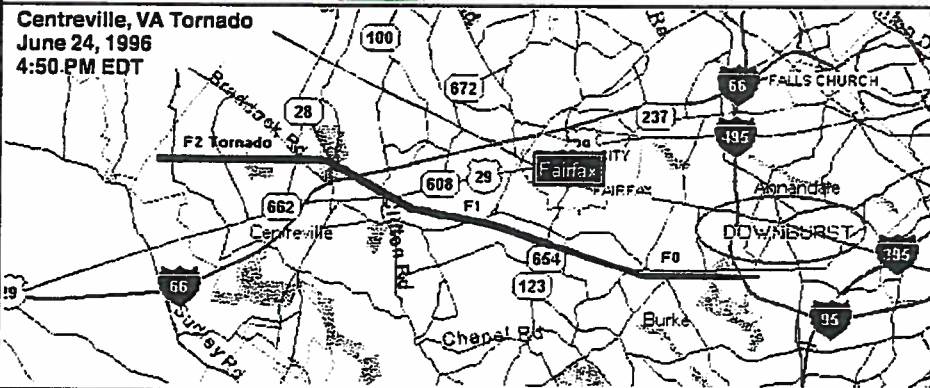
JUNE 1996

STRONG THUNDERSTORMS BATTER MUCH OF THE LOCAL AREA



The figure above is the NWS Doppler weather surveillance radar (WSR-88D) depiction of the *relative velocity* of the wind field (knots) in the June 24th thunderstorm complex that produced a tornado in Fairfax County, VA (Centreville) and damaging winds across much of the Washington area. The radar is located in eastern Loudoun County (black circle). The green and blue colors indicate wind motion toward the radar (inbound winds) while the yellow and red shades depict wind motion away from the radar (outbound winds). The closeness of the red and blue shading indicates a circulation within the wind field approaching Fairfax, VA. The red inverted triangle is a *Tornado Vortex Signature* (TVS), which is produced by the radars algorithm and indicates a strong possibility of a tornado. The yellow circle near the TVS indicates a mesocyclone (a tight circulation within the atmosphere).

The figure to the left shows the path of the *confirmed* tornado as determined by meteorologists from the NWS Forecast Office (Sterling, VA). The twister touched down in western Fairfax County and moved eastward before dissipating near Annandale, VA. (graphic courtesy of the NWS Forecast Office - Sterling, VA).



HIGHLIGHTS

- Above normal temperatures at all 5 local airports and above normal precipitation at BWI, IAD, DAA, and ADW;
- Strong, slow-moving thunderstorms on the 19th dumped up to 7 inches of rain across parts of Washington, Frederick & Carroll counties, MD and over 13 inches on Gettysburg, PA, causing significant flooding and property damage;
- Thunderstorms on the 11th generated up to 5 inches of rain across parts of northern Loudoun County, VA and northwestern Montgomery County, MD;
- Severe thunderstorms on the 24th generated heavy rain, frequent lightning and a tornado in Fairfax County, VA (F2 - winds up to 150 mph; see graphics above) and Prince Georges County, MD (F1); Numerous homes damaged by twister in Centreville, VA and power outages were common across much of the local area;
- Monthly rainfall totals between 6 and 12 inches across portions of the northern and western suburbs of Washington, but the sixth consecutive June with subnormal precipitation at DCA;
- Fifth warmest June (Avg. Temp: 77.2°F) on record at DCA (7th overall in Washington);
- Six days with readings at or above 90°F and only the second month since November 1995 with warmer than normal conditions at DCA.

Andrew H. Horvitz & Richard Lane, Office of Meteorology/NWS, (301) 713-1867
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(for more details turn over)