

SEPTEMBER 1989: After the streak of 6 consecutive months with above normal precipitation at DCA and ADW was abruptly halted with August's paltry rainfall (DCA total = 1.15", or 26.1% of normal; ADW total = 0.55", or 12.5% of normal), ample September rains pushed National's and Andrews' 1989 total precipitation to 40.37 and 43.59 inches, respectively. Only two of the first nine months in 1989 have recorded subnormal precipitation at DCA (January and August), a complete reversal from last year's situation when 9 of 12 months were drier than normal. The same situation in 1989 holds true for ADW, while April and August are the only two drier than normal months in 1989 at BWI. The 6.68 inches observed by Washington/National was by far the greatest of the five airports, primarily due to a localized thunderstorm on September 13 (1.62"). Amounts were well above normal south and east of the city as 5.31" and 4.35" fell at Ft. Belvoir (yearly total = 45.69") and Andrews AFB, respectively. An extreme total of 8.12" was noted by cooperative observer WG in Calvert County, whose yearly amount is already 50.04 inches. Meanwhile, lesser totals were common in some northern and western suburbs, such as the 3.64" at BWI and the slightly below normal September amount of 3.14" at Dulles. On September 22, preparations were taken as the remnants of Hurricane Hugo, which had caused immense damage in South Carolina, were forecast to move directly over the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and bring torrential rains, flash flooding, and high sustained winds. Fortunately, Hugo moved much farther west than expected (over West Virginia and eastern Ohio), and the only effects from the storm were gusty winds (up to 43 mph at IAD) and light rain showers.

Similar to July and August, September temperatures averaged near normal (within 2°F of normal) at DCA, BWI, and IAD. Daily temperatures, however, were anything but normal as several brief warm and cool spells were interspersed throughout the month. The highest temperatures of 1989 occurred at DCA and IAD on the 10th as the thermometer hit 96°F (tied with July 11) and 97°F, respectively, a far cry from last year when 7 days topped the century mark at National. Towards the end of the month, cool Canadian air generally kept maximum temperatures in the sixties or low seventies at all five locations, and lows plunged into the thirties and forties in the western suburbs (34°F at IAD on Sep. 28).

SEPTEMBER 1989 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	79.5	63.2	71.4	71.1	+0.3	96/10	46/28*	6.68	3.22	+3.46
Baltimore (BWI)	77.6	60.0	68.8	68.9	-0.1	93/10	40/28	3.64	3.46	+0.18
Dulles (IAD)	79.6	57.7	68.7	67.4	+1.3	97/10	34/28	3.14	3.26	-0.12
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	81.4	61.1	71.3	69	+2	96/10*	41/28	5.31	3.6	+1.7
Andrews AFB (ADW)	78.2	61.3	69.7	69	+1	91/11	42/28	4.35	3.6	+0.7

Other dates of occurrence: *Sept 24 *Sept. 11

OCTOBER ORIGINS:

THREE IN A ROW?

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR OCTOBER 1988 WAS 54.4°F, DUPLICATING THE AVERAGE FOR THE PREVIOUS OCTOBER. THIS MADE 1987 AND 1988 THE COLDEST OCTOBERS SINCE 1925 (52.0°F) AND THE COLDEST BACK TO BACK OCTOBERS IN THE PAST 70 YEARS (1916 AND 1917 AVERAGED 54.3°F).