JUNE 1998: For the sixth consecutive month, above normal precipitation was observed across most of the local area, bringing an end to the streak of eight consecutive drier than normal Junes at DCA. Four of the five local airports recorded monthly precipitation totals over 4 inches, including IAD (5.88") and DAA (7.18"). In fact, Fort Belvoir (DAA) observed its wettest June since Tropical Storm Agnes deluged the local region in 1972, and IAD reported its largest June precipitation total since 1991. In contrast, portions of Montgomery, Howard, and Baltimore counties, MD observed subnormal precipitation, including BWI, despite 20 days with measurable ($\geq$ 0.01") precipitation. At DCA, measurable precipitation fell on 18 days while IAD reported 19 such days. The most notable event of the month occurred on June 4th when severe thunderstorms spawned the strongest tornado ever observed in the state of Maryland (F4 - winds in excess of 200 mph). The twister touched down in Frostburg, Maryland and generated significant property damage. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported due in large part to early warning by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Sterling, VA. Strong thunderstorms on the 13th produced over an inch of rain in some areas and generated dangerous cloud-to-ground lightning, with one bolt striking inside RFK stadium during a concert, injuring several people. Additional storms on the 15th and 23rd again generated over an inch of rain across parts of the local area. On the 30th, a squall line brought showers and wind gusts up to 50 mph. Precipitation totals for the January-June 1998 period at both DCA (28.47") and IAD (30.16") were more than 150% of normal while BWI (27.33") exceeded 135% of normal.

Subnormal temperatures were observed across the Washington/Baltimore area with monthly departures near -1°F at both BWI & IAD and -2.6°F at DCA. There were 20 days with at or below normal temperatures at DCA, resulting in the coolest June since 1992. In addition, no prolonged periods of heat enveloped the area, but several warm days accompanied by high humidity made it feel uncomfortable at times. DCA recorded only 3 days with 90°F+ highs (the fewest since 1992) while 6 such days were observed at BWI and 2 at IAD. The first 100°F+ reading of the summer across the local area was reported at DAA (100°F) on the 26th. The first half of the month was marked by exceptionally cool weather as 14 of the first 15 days were below normal. During this period, temperatures averaged about 6°F below normal at DCA and lows dipped into the forties across many of the suburban locations on the 7th, 8th, and 9th. The last half of the month was marked by weather more typical of June as highs routinely soared into the 80's and occasionally topped the 90°F mark. The most intense heat occurred on the 25th and 26th when the mercury soared to 90°F and 95°F, respectively at DCA.

JUNE 1998 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
Location	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Yr to date
National (DCA)	81.1	64.8	73.0	75.6	-2.6	95/26	52/7	4.42	3.38	+1.04	28.48
Baltimore (BWI)	81.8	61.5	71.7	72.5	-0.8	96/26	46/9	3.23	3.38	-0.44	27.33
Dulles (IAD)	80.5	60.3	70.4	71.0	-0.6	95/26	44/9	5.88	3.92	+1.96	30.16
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	85.0	64.6	74.8	N/A	N/A	100/26	50/7	7.18	3.7	+3.5	34.73
Andrews AFB (ADW)	81.2	62.7	72.0	N/A	N/A	93/25	46/9	4.39	3.7	+0.7	30.23

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY: *Another wetter than normal month?*

As mentioned earlier, each month of 1998 (January-June) has featured above normal precipitation at DCA, marking only the third time since records began in Washington where a year has started off with six consecutive months of wetter than normal conditions. In 1924, the first six months were highlighted by above normal precipitation and followed by a drier than normal July. In 1891, wetter than normal conditions were observed during the first 8 month's (January-August) of the year, the longest such period on record in Washington. Below is a list of these three years' along with the monthly precipitation totals and departures from normal.

Year	Monthly Precipitation Totals & (Departures From Normal)							
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.
1891	6.14 (+3.42)	4.49 (+1.78)	8.84 (+5.67)	2.94 (+0.23)	3.72 (+0.06)	4.61 (+1.23)	8.40 (+4.60)	4.18 (+0.27)
1924	3.21 (+0.49)	3.05 (+0.34)	6.17 (+3.00)	5.39 (+2.68)	6.73 (+3.07)	3.89 (+0.51)		
1998	5.43 (+2.71)	5.21 (+2.50)	5.40 (+2.23)	3.95 (+1.24)	4.06 (+0.40)	4.42 (+1.04)		