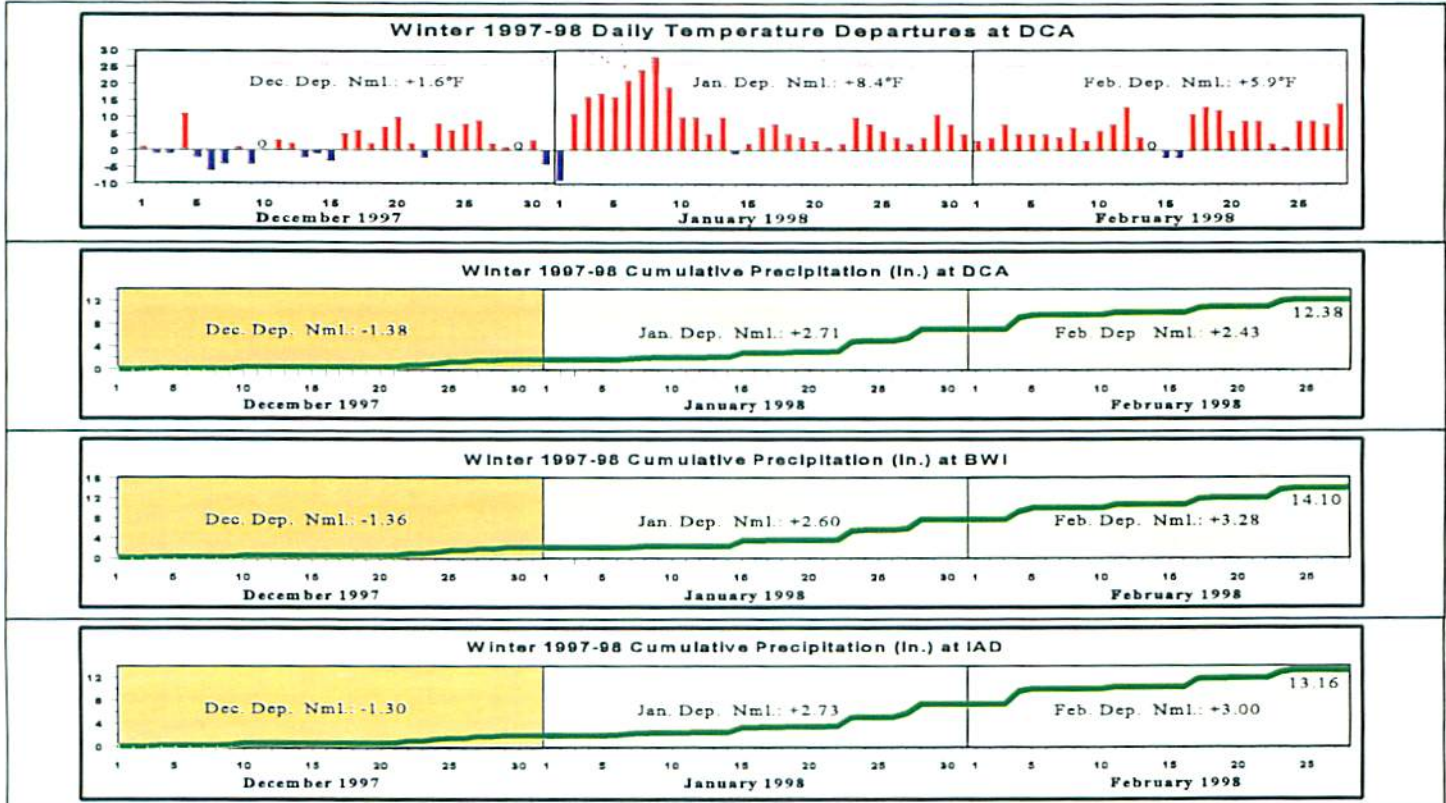




PRECIPITATION SUMMARY AND TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS
FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC & BALTIMORE, MD AREA

FEBRUARY 1998 & WINTER REVIEW

WARM AND WET WITH NEGLIGIBLE SNOWFALL



HIGHLIGHTS

MONTHLY

- Third warmest February on record at both BWI and IAD, eighth at DCA;
- Only 2 February days with subnormal temperatures at DCA;
- Second consecutive February with monthly departures exceeding +5°F at the three major airports;
- Only 7 days with lows at or below 32°F at DCA, the fewest such February days ever recorded in Washington;
- Eleven days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ") at DCA;
- Wettest February on record at IAD, second at BWI and wettest since 1979 at DCA;
- Least snowiest February on record at BWI (tied w/ 7 other years) & least snowiest since 1977 at DCA (tied w/ 5 other years), with only a trace recorded at both locations;
- Strong thunderstorms on the 17th spawned a tornado (F1; 100 mph winds) near Fredericksburg, VA, only the 6th such winter occurrence in the local area since detailed records began in 1950;

SEASONAL

- Warmest winter on record at both BWI & IAD, second at DCA (4th overall in Washington), with seasonal temperature departures of +5.8°F, +6.2°F, and +5.3°F, respectively;
- 75 winter days (83%) with at or above normal temperatures at DCA (see graphic above);
- No days with highs of 32°F or lower at DCA;
- Only 26 days with lows at or below 32°F, the fewest ever recorded in Washington;
- Second wettest winter on record at both BWI (14.10") and IAD (13.16");
- More than a foot of precipitation at the 3 major airports, with most falling during last 6 weeks (see graphics above);
- Least snowiest meteorological winter at DCA (0.1" - tied w/ 1972-73) & BWI (1.1");
- Wettest January-February period since 1979 at DCA (10.63"), BWI (12.05") & IAD (11.24").

Andrew H. Horvitz, Office of Meteorology/NWS, (301) 713-1867

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