

Eglin Air Force Base and Duke Field Climate Summary March 2023

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March continued the trend from the recent winter months of having above normal temperatures. While the daily mean temperature of 63.4 deg F (17.5 deg C) was only 0.4 deg F above the recent ten-year climatology data for KVPS from 2012 through 2021 for March, March of 2023 ranked in a tie (with 1955 and 2016) as the 10th warmest March on record since weather data collection began for KVPS in 1940. While much of the month had well above normal temperatures, there was a period of unseasonably cool weather which occurred from 14 to 21 March, when there was one new daily record minimum temperature recorded for KVPS (and two new record daily minimum temperatures recorded for KEGI). For precipitation, we continued to have below normal precipitation for the seventh month in a row at KVPS. In March 2023, we had a total of 3.71" of rainfall at KVPS, which is 1.79" below normal for the month. In fact, since September of 2023, the normal precipitation amount for the 7-month period from September through March for KVPS is 34.09", but our actual precipitation for KVPS during this period of time has only been 19.79", which is 14.30" below normal for KVPS. This below normal precipitation for our fall through early spring period is likely related to the La Nina El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) weather pattern which had been in effect for about 2.5 years (including over the past three winters). This La Nina ENSO pattern has transitioned into a "neutral" ENSO pattern and is expected to transition to an El Nino ENSO weather pattern by summer or early fall of this year.

During March of 2023, there were 5 days with thunderstorms reported at KVPS, compared to the normal of 3 days.

At KEGI, the daily mean temperature was 62.9 deg F (17.2 deg C), and the total precipitation for the month was 3.95", which was just slightly above the amount of rain recorded at KVPS for the month. There was a total of four days with thunderstorm activity reported at KEGI during the month.

Daily temperature and precipitation records for KVPS and KEGI:

For KVPS there was one new daily maximum and one new daily minimum

temperature record set during the month. At KEGI (with a much smaller historical climatological record than at KVPS), there were a total of two new daily maximum temperature records set during the month, and two new daily temperature minimum temperature records set. There were no daily precipitation records tied or set at either KVPS or KEGI during the month.

Daily Maximum Temperature Record for KVPS:

7 March 2023: The high temperature of 81 deg F broke the previous record maximum temperature for the date of 79 deg F, which occurred in 1997 and 1951.

Daily Minimum Temperature Record for KVPS:

20 March 2023: The low temperature of 30 deg F broke the previous record of 32 deg F set in 1960.

Daily Maximum Temperature Record for KEGI:

5 March 2023: The high temperature of 82 deg F, broke the previous record of 79 deg F set in 1974.

7 March 2023: The high temperature of 84 deg F, broke the previous record of 82 deg F set in 1974.

Daily Minimum Temperature Records for KEGI:

20 March 2023: The low temperature of 25 deg F broke the previous record of 36 deg F set in 2019.

21 March 2023: The low temperature of 27 deg F broke the previous record of 36 deg F set in 2008.