

# *Trump to leave Washington just before Biden is sworn in*

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**The Donald will leave town the morning of Inauguration Day with 21-gun salute.**

Washington, January 15 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump now plans to leave Washington the morning of Inauguration Day next Wednesday. Officials are considering an elaborate event that would have the feel of a state visit, with a red carpet, color guard, military band and 21-gun salute all being discussed.

A source familiar with the matter said on Friday that Trump was considering a departure on Tuesday, but decided to do it the same day as the inauguration of Biden, apparently in an effort to take the spotlight off the new incoming president.

The outgoing president will be sent off with a departure ceremony at Joint Base Andrews, said a person familiar with the planning who spoke with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Trump's plans have not been formally announced.

Trump, who had already announced plans not to attend President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, will then fly on to Palm Beach, Florida, to begin his post-presidency at his Mar-a-Lago Club, the source told Reuters.

Trump will be the first president to skip his successor's inauguration since President Andrew Johnson refused to attend Ulysses S Grant's swearing-in ceremony in 1869. Vice President Mike Pence will attend in Trump's place.

Trump broke another tradition by not officially conceding the election to Biden, becoming the first not to offer a concession since the presidential tradition began in 1896. The president has not reached out to Biden or invited him to the White House for a meeting prior to his swearing in as many others have in recent history.

Trump will leave Washington after spending months making baseless allegations of voter fraud in an attempt to delegitimise Biden's presidency and two weeks after he incited a violent insurrection, with his supporters storming the US Capitol building in an attempt to halt the peaceful transition of power.

Trump is expected to remain in Florida with a small group of aides as he mulls his future. Some White House advisers have been urging the Republican president to host Biden for a White House meeting ahead of Inauguration Day, but there has been no sign Trump is willing to do that, an administration official said.

Trump, the only president in U.S. history to be impeached twice, is planning to issue more pardons before leaving the White House. Sources say he has been considering the unprecedented option of pardoning himself.

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