

Heightened security for inauguration

Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th US president, replacing Donald Trump, on Wednesday. Security has been beefed up following the recent protest at the Capitol. Sixteen groups which are supporters of the outgoing President have planned to stage protests in Washington. The inauguration's theme is 'America United'.

CONCERNS

- 1 Encrypted WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram groups have circulated fliers calling for an "armed march on Capitol Hill and all state capitols" at noon today.
- 2 Far-right extremist groups continue to plot online. Nearly 400 people had joined a private group online dedicated to what is being billed as the Million Militia March.
- 3 The group 'Let America Hear Us, Roar for Trump' has applied for a permit from National Park Service for a demonstration of at least 300 people in Washington.



16 groups of Trump's supporters, some of them armed, have registered to stage protests in Washington.

50 state capitols are under threat of armed protests.

THE INAUGURATION



Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th US president.



Kamala Harris will be the first black female US vice-president.



The oath

- Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath of office to the President-elect.
- Bethel AME Church pastor Silvester Beaman, a friend of Biden, will be administering the oath by giving the benediction.
- The oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."
- Inaugural address will also be given here.

Attendance

- Trump will not be attending the inauguration but outgoing Vice-President Mike Pence will.
- Typically, 200,000 tickets are up for grabs but due to Covid-19, only 1,000 tickets are made available this year, limited to each member of Congress plus a guest.
- In 2009, two million people attended the Obama inauguration but this time, the celebration size will be 'extremely small', says the Biden team.

The show

Virtual parade

After the swearing-in, the president and vice-president will be escorted from 15th Street to the White House by every branch of the military. The traditional parade normally set up along the president's

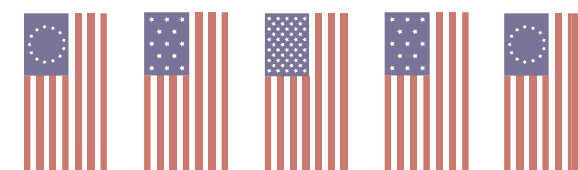
route to the White House will be replaced with a virtual parade featuring music, poets and dancers "paying homage to America's heroes on the front lines of the pandemic".

Prime-time special

A prime-time TV special, Celebrating America, will be aired on inauguration night. It will be hosted by Tom Hanks and will feature a

slew of celebrities like Demi Lovato, Justin Timberlake, singer-songwriter Ant Clemons and Jon Bon Jovi.

There will be **five flags** flown on the day. The 50-star flag will be flanked by two 13-star flags and two 13-star Betsy Ross flags.



Betsy Ross flag

13-star flag

50-star flag

The early Betsy Ross flag represented the original 13 colonies.

SECURITY

21,000 armed National Guard troops will be deployed – more than twice the number of troops for Trump's inauguration.

The Secret Service is establishing a "healthy, layered buffer" with vehicle checkpoints and metal detectors beyond the Capitol.

Washington Monument barricaded and tours are shut down until **Jan 24**

Roads and access to parking garages around the White House will be closed. Also closed are airports and hotels around the nation's capital. Airbnb has cancelled all bookings around the area.

WORST-CASE SCENARIOS

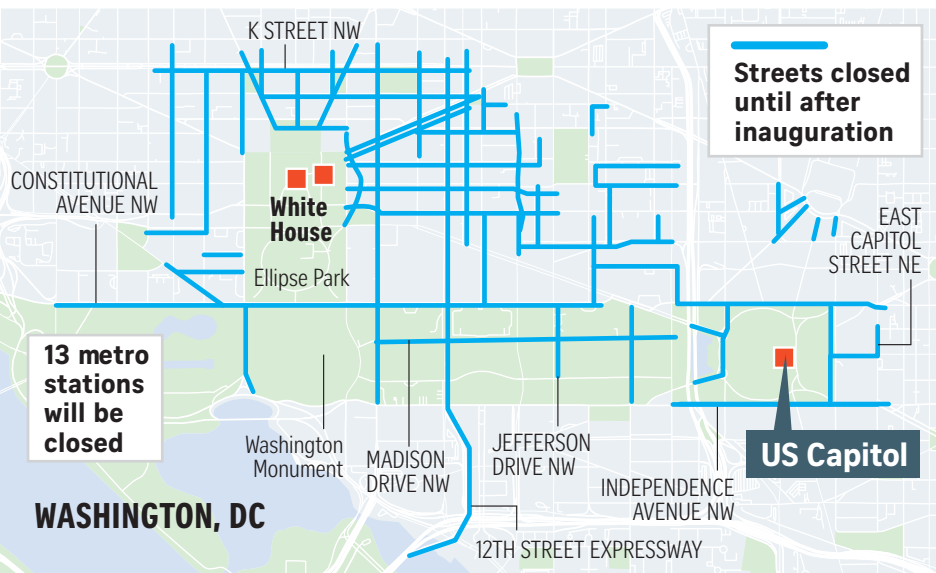
Law enforcement agencies are planning for any number of possible events that include:

Snipers targeting inauguration dignitaries.

Suicide-type aircraft entering restricted airspace or remote-powered drones attacking crowds.

Multiple active-shooter situations flaring up simultaneously.

Use of improvised explosive devices, such as pipe bombs and Molotov cocktails.



Inaugural platform construction

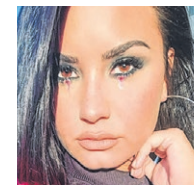
- 430 sheets of foam insulation
- 1,363 sheets of plywood
- 33,528m of lumber
- 117,000kg of sand
- 9,144kg of grout and mortar
- 357 cinderblocks



Tom Hanks



Jon Bon Jovi



Demi Lovato

There will be a rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner by Lady Gaga and a performance by Jennifer Lopez.



Jennifer Lopez



Lady Gaga



The inauguration is being compared with the first inauguration of Abraham Lincoln, whose procession to the half-built Capitol was surrounded by heavily armed cavalry and infantry troops marching through a city on the brink of civil war.