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By Darlene Superville and AamerMadhani

‘Always working’: Biden eyes 1st summer getaway as president

"Завжди працює": Байден очікує першої літньої відпустки як президент

Після більш ніж шести місяців роботи по боротьбі з коронавірусом, обговорення двопартійного законопроєкту про інфраструктуру та відновлення іміджу США за кордоном, президент США Джо Байден повинен вирушити у традиційну серпневу відпустку. Але оскільки законодавча робота над законопроєктом про інфраструктуру у Сенаті продовжується, Д. Байден не їде далеко - просто додому до Вільмінгтона, штат Делавер, як він робив більшість вихідних з моменту вступу на посаду. "Кожен президент завжди працює, де б він не був", - сказала пресекретар Білого дому Джен Псакі, пояснивши, що президенти ніколи не можуть насправді відпочивати. Д. Байден проведе деякий час наступного тижня Білому домі, перш ніж знову поїхати, або до Делавера - він також володіє будинком у Рехобот-Біч - або до Кемп-Девіду, офіційному президентському курорту в горах Катоктин в штаті Меріленд, сказала Д. Псакі.

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-joe-biden-31dbaf1ace94549afb47c488859a08af>



In this Aug. 6, 2021, photo, President Joe Biden walks out of the Oval Office and heads to Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, as he heads to Wilmington, Del., for the weekend. Biden should be heading out on vacation and a traditional August break from Washington. But with the Senate still in session and working on his bipartisan infrastructure bill for the second straight weekend, and likely into next week, Biden hasn't gone far. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — After more than six months of work combating the coronavirus, negotiating a bipartisan infrastructure bill and repairing the U.S. image abroad, President Joe Biden should be heading out on vacation and a traditional August break from Washington.

But with legislative work on the [infrastructure bill keeping the Senate in session](#) for a second straight weekend, and likely through next week, Biden hasn't gone far — just home to Wilmington, Delaware, as he has done most weekends since taking office.

“Every president is always working no matter where they are,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said, explaining that presidents can't ever really tune out.

Biden will spend some of next week at the White House before he decamps again, either for Delaware — he also owns a home in Rehoboth Beach — or Camp David, the official presidential retreat in Maryland’s Catoctin Mountains, Psaki said.

The modern president is never completely free from work, tethered by secure telephone lines and other technology with a coterie of top aides and advisers always close by.

Like his predecessors, Biden travels with a large entourage of aides, Secret Service agents and journalists in an unmistakable motorcade of more than a dozen dark vehicles.

While the work is 24/7, presidents can — and very often do — change their surroundings when the August heat and humidity rise and Washington empties out.

George W. Bush often spent August clearing brush in the 100-degree heat that baked his central Texas ranch. Barack Obama worked on his golf game on the Massachusetts island of Martha’s Vineyard. Donald Trump spent time at his home on his private golf club in central New Jersey.

Even when on a so-called [vacation](#), presidents are still receiving briefings on national security, the economy and other issues, attending to matters of state and mapping future plans.

Biden and his aides are likely to discuss a range of issues, including getting the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill through the Senate, strategizing next steps to counter surging coronavirus infections and eyeing the Aug. 31 deadline for the U.S. pullout from Afghanistan.

“I would say a vacation for a president really means working two-thirds of a day as opposed to what they might do in Washington, giving themselves a little bit more time, perhaps for a round of golf in the afternoon or for lounging on a beach for a few hours,” said Jeffrey Engel, director of the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University.

“But a president’s never off duty,” Engel added. Bush, for example, would “sort of symbolize the vacation by having his regular morning security briefing at 8 a.m. instead of at 7 a.m.”

With luck, no crises will upend Biden’s trip, whenever he decides to leave Washington for longer than a long weekend.

Trump’s first impeachment trial loomed over his 2019 Christmas holiday at his private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida. He spent much of his final winter holiday in office stewing over his defeat in the 2020 presidential election, a loss he has refused to acknowledge.

Obama interrupted his Christmas vacation in Hawaii in 2012 to return to Washington after he was unable to negotiate a compromise with Congress to avoid across-the-board tax increases. Then he flew back to Honolulu to rejoin first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters.

Obama was on summer vacation on Martha’s Vineyard in 2014 when he responded to the beheading of American journalist James Foley by Islamic State militants. He went back to Washington for a couple of days before returning to the island.

Bush was at his Texas ranch when Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans in late August 2005. Bill Clinton ordered airstrikes against al-Qaida terrorists from Martha’s Vineyard in response to the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush, planned the U.S. response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 from his family's oceanfront compound in Kennebunkport, Maine.

During weekends at home in Wilmington, Biden has ventured out to play golf, attend Mass and head to his sister's Pennsylvania home for family dinner.

He's been to the home in Rehoboth Beach just once so far, spending several days there with first lady Jill Biden in early June to celebrate her 70th birthday. They rode bicycles on a nearby trail.

It was unclear whether Biden will get more time at the beach this summer.

Rehoboth Beach is small, about 1 square mile (2.6 square kilometers) wide, and draws tens of thousands of visitors on summer weekends, posing a challenge for travel by motorcade. Biden arrived by helicopter in June, landing at a park near the house and being driven a short distance to his front door.

"Even presidents need the opportunity to unwind and let their hair down and relax," Rehoboth Beach Mayor Stan Mills said in an interview. "We're very proud of our community here in Rehoboth Beach. We're welcoming, refreshing. We're a happy place for so many, including the president of the United States."

Superville reported from Washington.