

Donald Trump

Trump’s Air Force One turns back to Washington after ‘minor electrical issue’

US president boards another aircraft to continue trip to World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland



Donald Trump boards Air Force One on his way to Davos, Switzerland, at Joint Base Andrews. The plane later returned to Washington. Photograph: Jonathan Ernst/Reuters

David Smith in Washington

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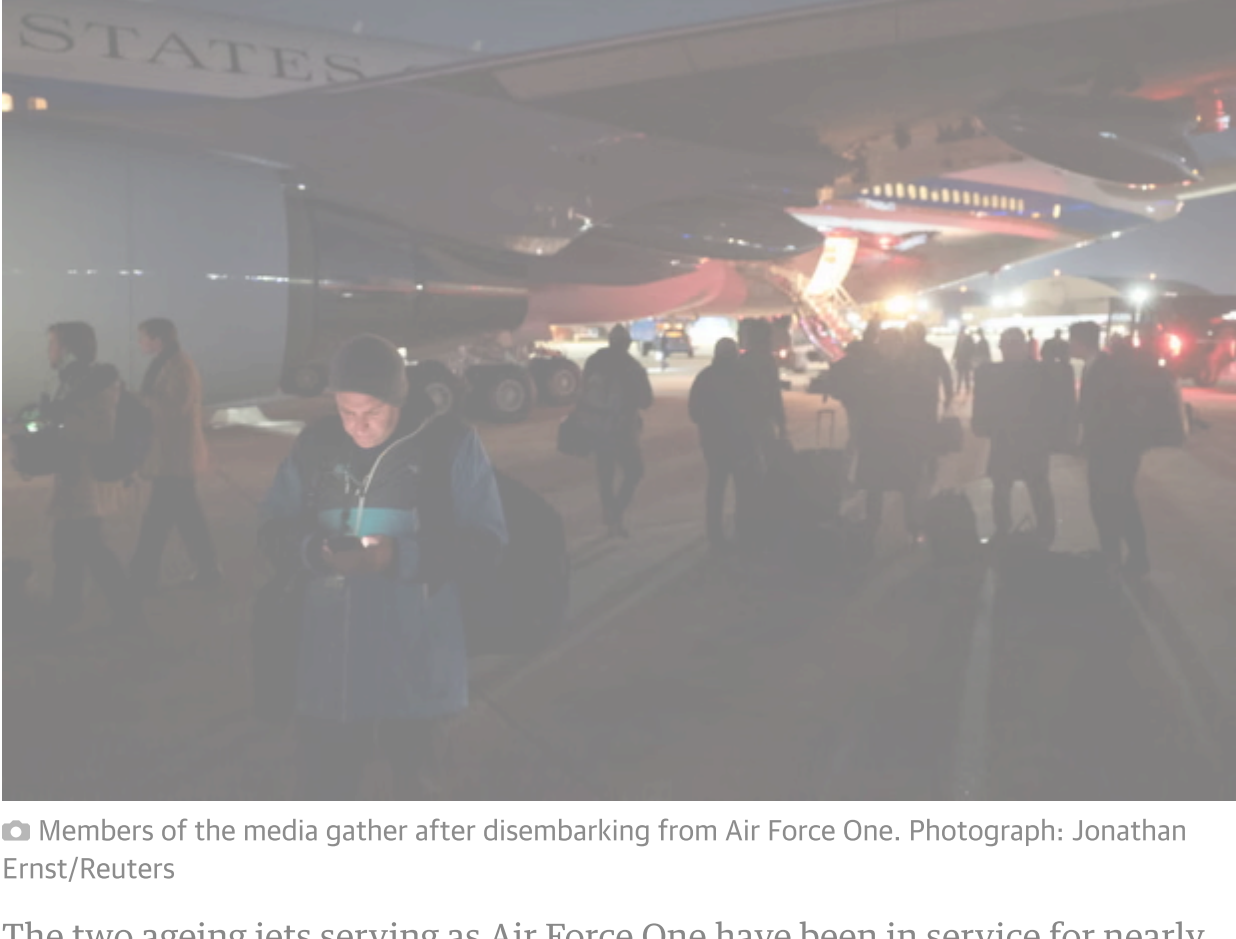
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The US president’s plane, Air Force One, has been forced to abort its flight to Switzerland and turn back after what officials described as a “minor electrical issue”.

Donald Trump boarded another aircraft, an Air Force C-32, a modified Boeing 757 normally used for domestic trips to smaller airports, and continued his trip to the World Economic Forum in Davos shortly after midnight.

Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said the decision to return to Washington DC on Tuesday evening had been taken shortly after departure “out of an abundance of caution”, once the crew detected the fault.

A White House pool reporter travelling with the president said the lights in the press cabin of Air Force One flickered off briefly after the aircraft became airborne, though no further explanation was provided at the time.



Members of the media gather after disembarking from Air Force One. Photograph: Jonathan Ernst/Reuters

The two ageing jets serving as Air Force One have been in service for nearly four decades, and efforts by Boeing to deliver replacements have been beset by repeated delays.

Controversy flared in 2025 when Qatar’s ruling family presented Trump with a luxury Boeing 747-8 to be added to the presidential fleet – a gesture that drew intense scrutiny. The aircraft is presently being refitted to meet US security standards.

Speaking in Qatar, the president said the jets were “a great gift” from the Emir of Qatar.

The unavailability of the jets in Davos, Switzerland, has caused confusion among European leaders.

Trump’s decision to board a different aircraft has been widely reported in the media.

A very important first step in acquiring a new aircraft is to ensure it meets the necessary security requirements.

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