seconds prior to launch the umbilical cord disengaged and at 7:20 a.m. on July 21 the free world's second manned suborbital mercury flight was airborne inside the mercury Control Center astronaut Shepard verified Grissom's condition and systems reports and advised the test pilot of pitch and trajectory disposition the fuel system was gold Griffin was experiencing 1 and 1/2 G cabin pressure was 8 pounds per square inch and the oxygen system was go all systems were go the flight surgeon maintained close observation of the test
pilots physiological status as the flight progressed

Grissom's electrocardiogram showed no abnormalities his heartbeat respiration and body temperatures were within the expected tolerances at engine cutoff the spacecraft made its turnaround and the astronaut was now weightless the environmental system was monitored in the control center as the astronaut reported his cabin pressure holding at 5.5 pounds per square inch suit pressure was good the flights progress was charted on the plot boards the
spacecraft position as well as the probable landing point were observed on the worldmap.