this is Atlas launch control we were now just under two and a half hours away from the launch of the Mars Science Laboratory and the Curiosity rover tap-tap Ani the large Alliance Atlas five rocket from launch complex 41 at Cape Canaveral the launch window today extends from 1002 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. a duration of one hour and 43 minutes the Curiosity rover will gather the soil or rock samples for the onboard laboratory equipment to attempt to detect chemical building blocks they provide clues about life processes on Mars with the liftoff
today the Mars Science Laboratory begins

an eight and a half month journey to

Mars

arriving in 2012 on August the 6th the

landing will occur at 3 p.m. local time

at Gale Crater on Mars at that point the

radio signals will take 13 minutes and

42 seconds to cover the 154 million mile

distance between Mars and Earth about 10

minutes ago the launch pad was cleared

of all personnel to begin preparations

for loading cryogenic liquid hydrogen

and liquid oxygen liquid oxygen will be

loaded into the Atlas booster stage the
first stage and will be followed by

loading liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen into the Centaur upper stage or

the second stage we've just had a weather briefing by our launch weather officer clay Flynn and we remain at a 70% go 30% no-go as far as our launch weather criteria at launch time the temperature will be approximately 73 to 74 degrees we'll have easterly winds 18 to 21 knots occasionally gusting to 24 relative humidity of 70 percent visibility of 7 to 10
and we'll have scattered clouds for the

most part occasionally there is a chance

for a variable broken layer to appear

and as that occur should the ceilings

become a lunch constraint then we will

just simply wait that out as they pass

over which they're expected to do and go

into the next pane of the launch window

which occurs every five minutes at

t-minus two hours and holding this is

Atlas launch control