



News Release

United States Navy

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New Weather Satellite launch delayed Mission Rescheduled to Monday

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif. – The Coriolis mission scheduled for launch here today aboard a Titan II Space Launch Vehicle has been rescheduled for 6:18 a.m. Monday.

The launch was delayed when a concern developed with the booster payload separation ordinance connector – the system that separates the Coriolis space vehicle from the Titan II upper stage. The winds aloft and freezing precipitation were also concerns that could have prevented the launch.

The Air Force is reviewing information about the booster payload separation ordinance connector and is expected to make a determination about the launch later today. Should the launch proceed for Monday morning, the weather will again be a concern for the rocket flight. Thick clouds and upper level winds may exceed flight constraints.

The Air Force Coriolis mission will fly the Navy Windsat microwave polarimetric radiometer and Air Force Solar Mass Ejection Imager in a low Earth, sun synchronous orbit. The Windsat radiometer will provide important meteorological information on wind speed and direction at or near the surface of the ocean and the Solar Mass Ejection Imager will provide valuable early warning of coronal mass ejections that affect communications and power distribution systems here on earth.

The Coriolis mission is being assembled and launched by the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center's Detachment 12 Space Test Program Office at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico using a refurbished Lockheed Martin Titan II booster and a Spectrum Astro spacecraft bus. Spectrum Astro is integrating the spacecraft bus and payloads with the Titan II for launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System program off ice is participating in the Coriolis flight and will use the Windsat information in reducing risk for the Conical Microwave Imager Sounder.

For More Information:

A webcast of the launch should be available. There will be a time lag because of the networking used to bring this image to the web. The URL is: <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/payload/missions/coriolis/>

Vandenberg Public Affairs Office operates a launch update line at 805-606-1857. This service will have the latest launch information. A photo of the Titan II Space Launch Complex and other images are available on the SPAWAR home page at <http://www.spawar.navy.mil>

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