



Harry Potter

AND THE NOT-SO-SMART PROXY WAR

Jos Wetzels – Midnight Blue

WHOAMI?



JOS WETZELS

—
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► Security Research & Consultancy
Security Researcher @ **Midnight Blue**
Principal Security Consultant @ **Secura**

► Focus: Embedded Systems
ICS, Automotive, IoT, Comms, ...

► Previously
Protection of Critical Infrastructure @
University of Twente [NL]



VAULT 7

—
7 MARCH 2017

- ▶ 8761 documents & files
Belonging to CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence (CCI)
Mainly dated 2013-2016
- ▶ Exploits, Implants, TTPs
iOS, Android, OSX, Linux, Windows, Samsung Smart TVs, Routers, ...
- ▶ Most entries got in-depth coverage
By press, security researchers, IC enthusiasts, ...



EXCEPT FOR 1 ...

All Releases

[Protego](#) - 7 September, 2017

[Angelfire](#) - 31 August, 2017

[ExpressLane](#) - 24 August, 2017

[CouchPotato](#) - 10 August, 2017

[Dumbo](#) - 3 August, 2017

[Imperial](#) - 27 July, 2017

[UCL / Raytheon](#) - 19 July, 2017

"protego" "vault 7"



"protego" "vault 7"

Alle

Shopping

All

Images

Ongeveer 1.890 resultaten

2.980 Results

Da

PROTEGO



Follow

RELEASE: CIA suspected assassination module for GPS guided missile system 'Protego' #vault7 wikileaks.org/vault7/#Protego



▶ Wikileaks Claimed Purpose

“Raytheon-developed guided missile system installed on Pratt & Whitney aircraft”

▶ 4 secret documents

And 37 related proprietary hardware/software manuals from Microchip Technology Inc.

▶ Maintained between 2014-2015

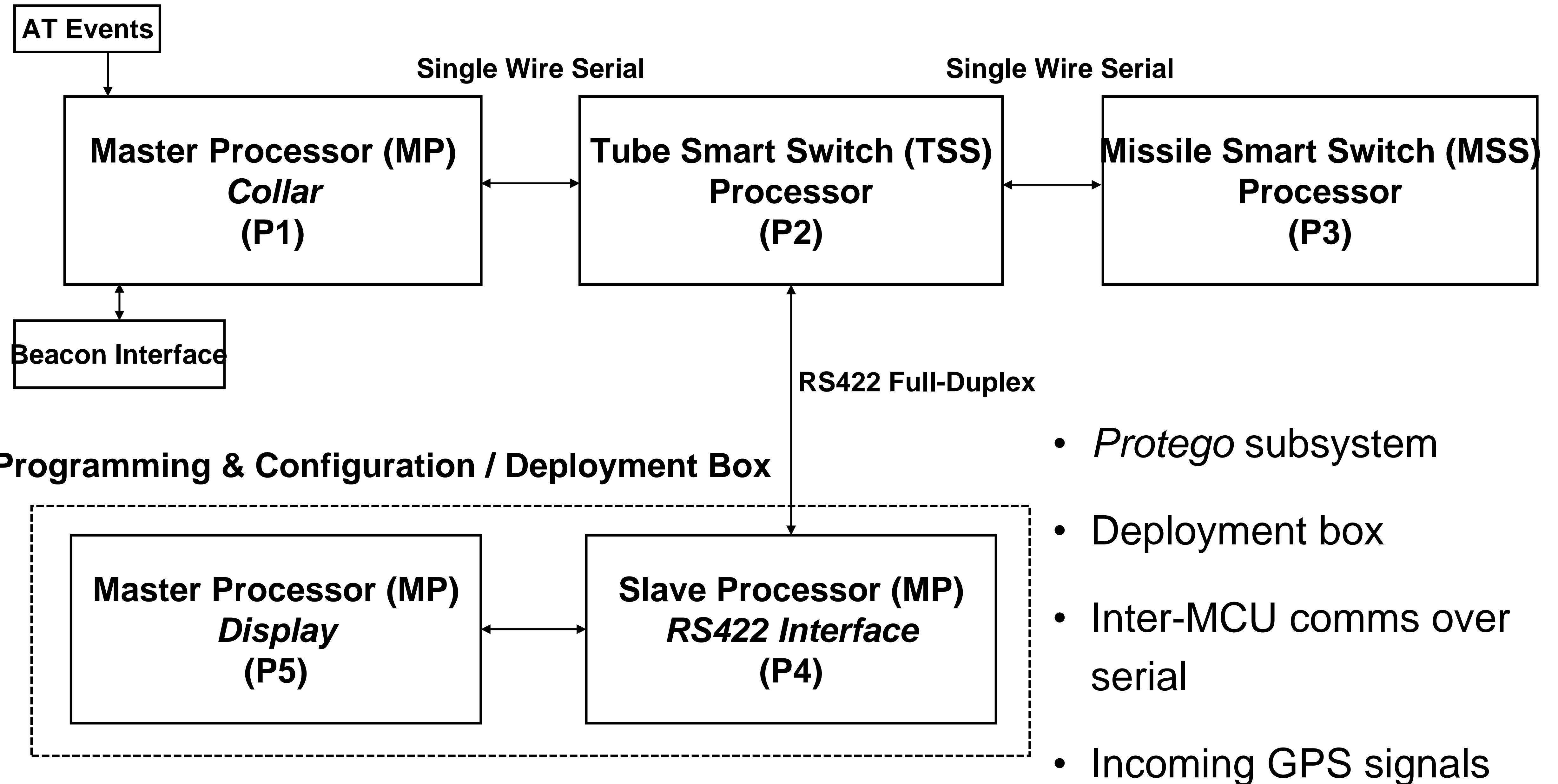
▶ Very different from other CCI/Vault 7 projects

No clear indication why it was in the repos ...

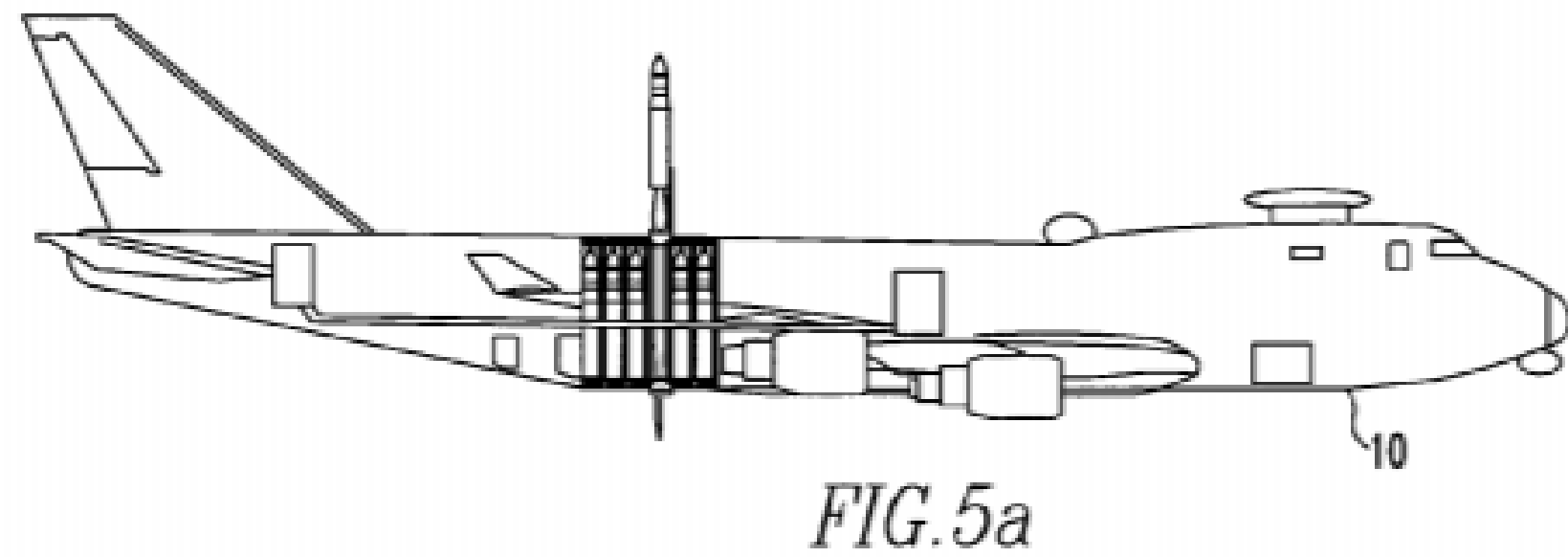


SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT ...

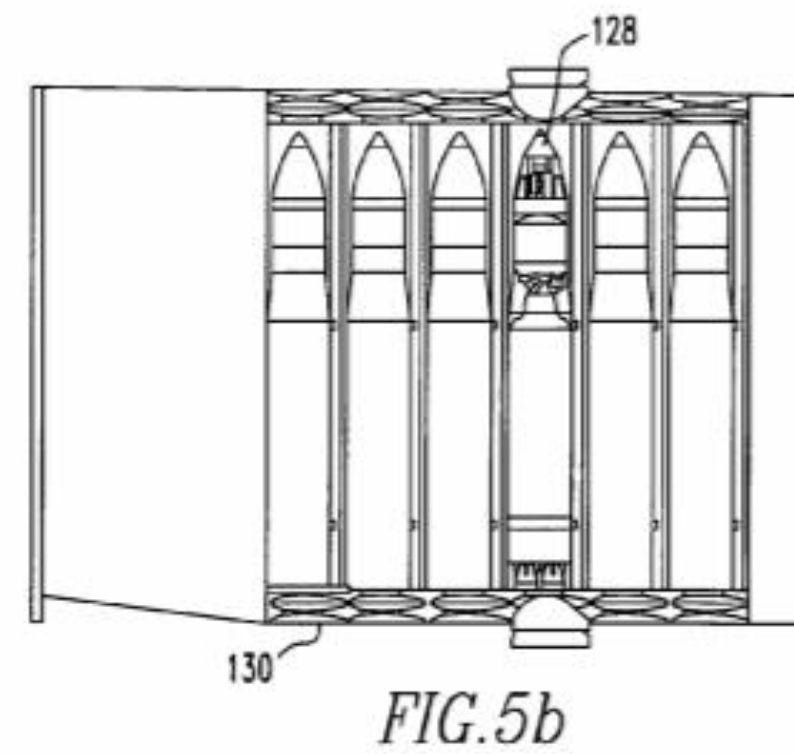
PROTEGO ARCHITECTURE (SIMPLIFIED)



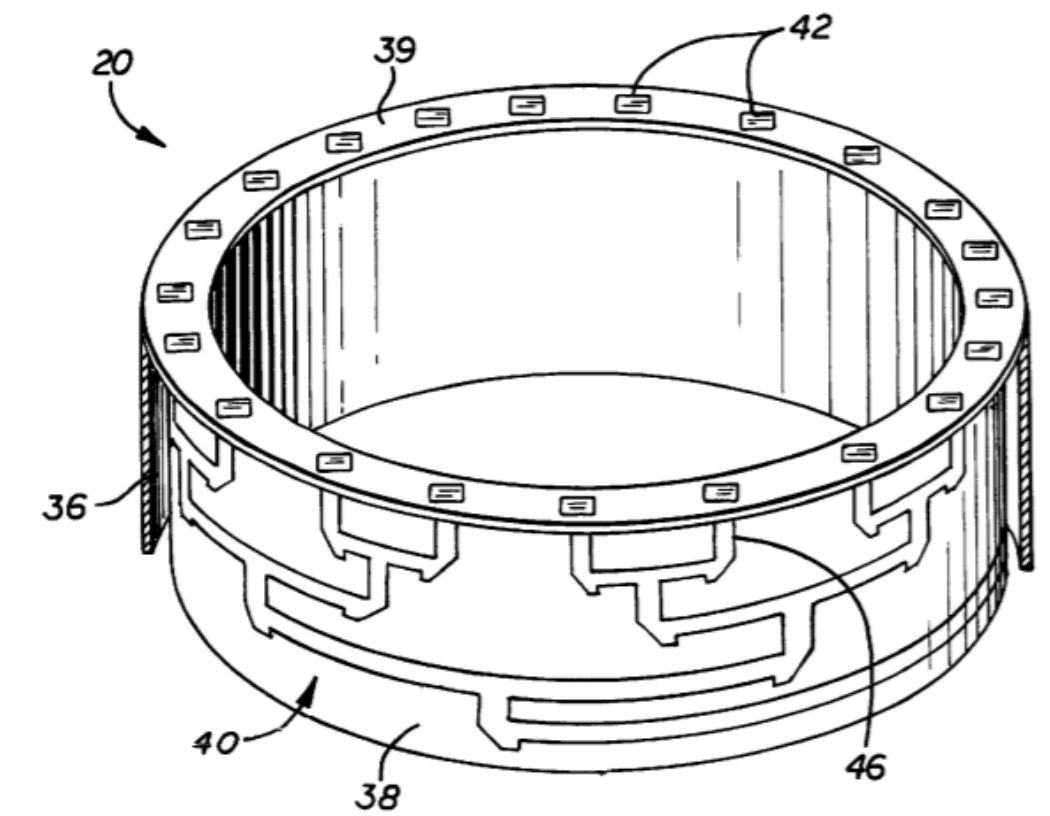
SO FAR, SO GOOD RIGHT?



Missile



Tube



Collar

THIS IS ALL CLEARLY MISSILE SYSTEMS TERMINOLOGY

BUT #1: PWA?



documents indicate that the system is installed on-board a [Pratt & Whitney](#) aircraft (PWA) equipped with missile launch systems (air-to-air and/or air-to-ground).



Pratt & Whitney

A United Technologies Company

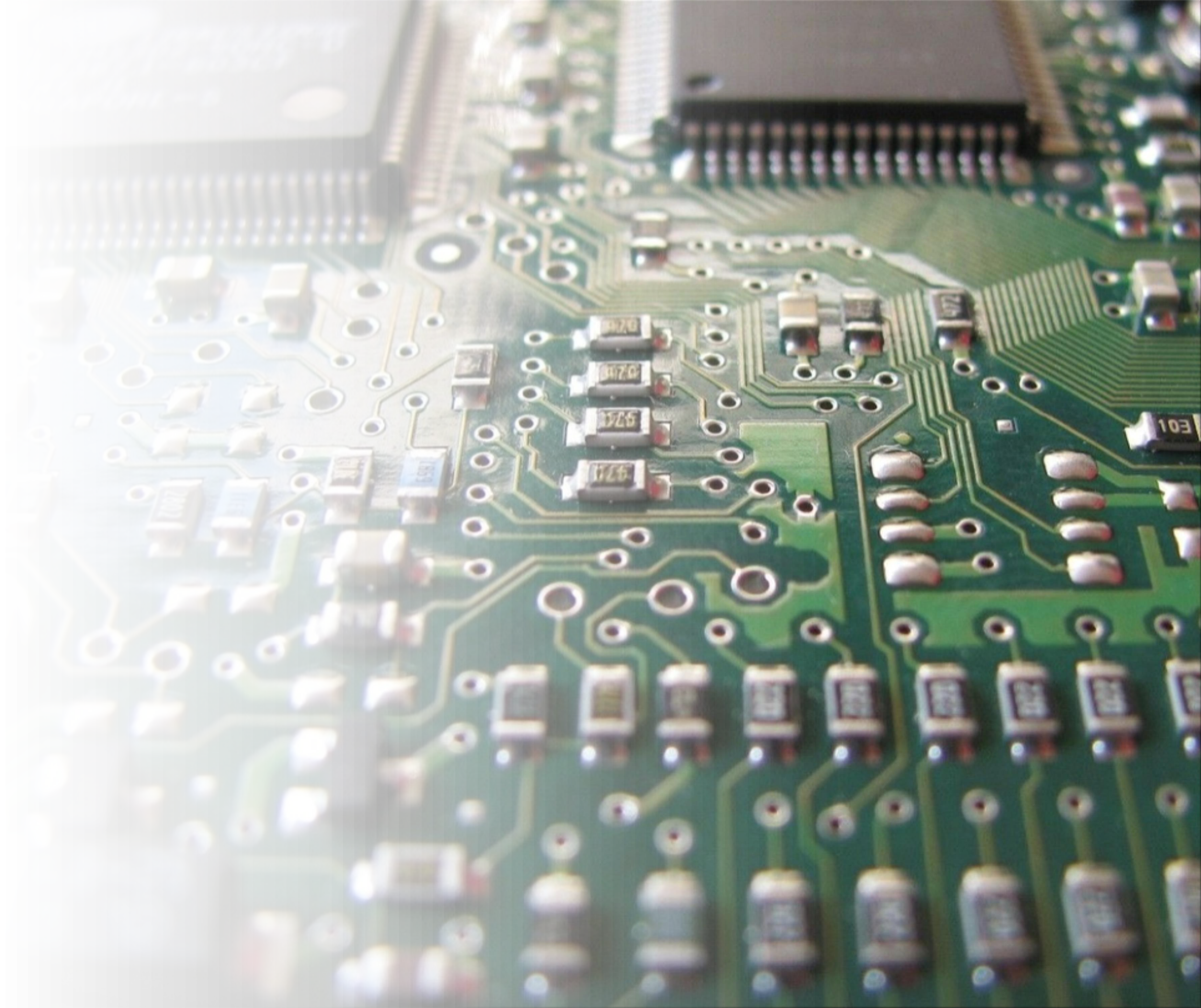
P1 - Master Processor (MP), Master Processor on PWA

P1_S - Master Processor (MP), Slave Processor on PWA

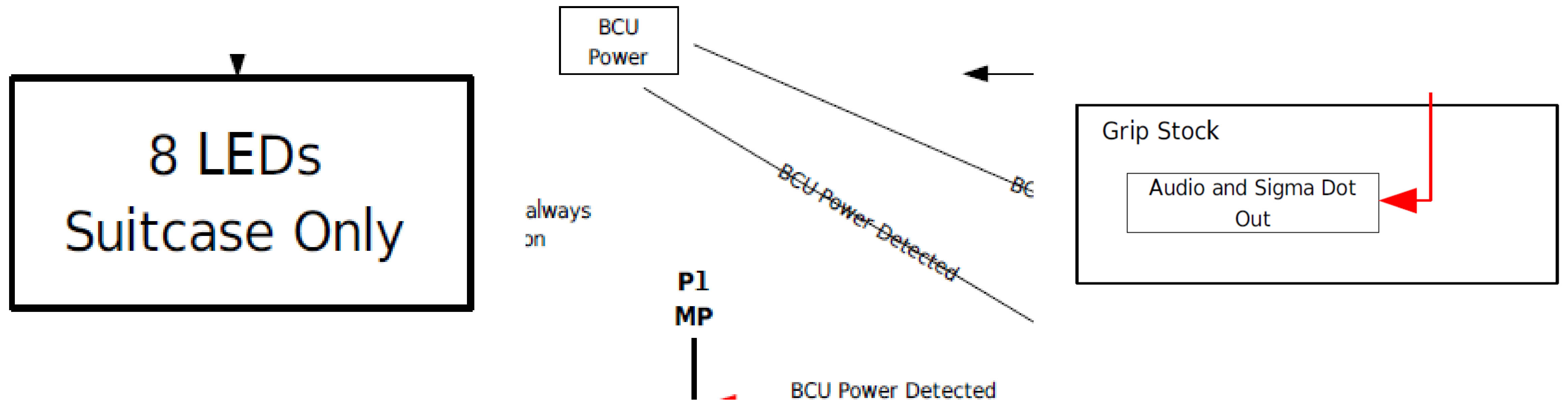
- P&W assertion seems based solely on PWA abbreviation
- P&W manufacture engines, not aircraft
- Doesn't make sense for *Protego's* MCUs to reside "on" the engine
- ...

PWA = PRINTED WIRING ASSEMBLY

- PWA is a PCB after all electrical components are attached
- Makes sense that MCUs are referred to as residing “on” PWA



BUT #2: COMPLICATING TERMINOLOGY



NOT TYPICAL AIR-TO-SURFACE (ASM) / AIR-TO-AIR (AAM) MISSILE TERMINOLOGY ...



ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS



PROTEGO IS A MANPADS 'SMART' ARMS CONTROL SOLUTION

Man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) are portable surface-to-air missile systems eg. famous FIM-92 Stinger manufactured by Raytheon

ASSEMBLED, INCLUDING LAUNCH TUBE



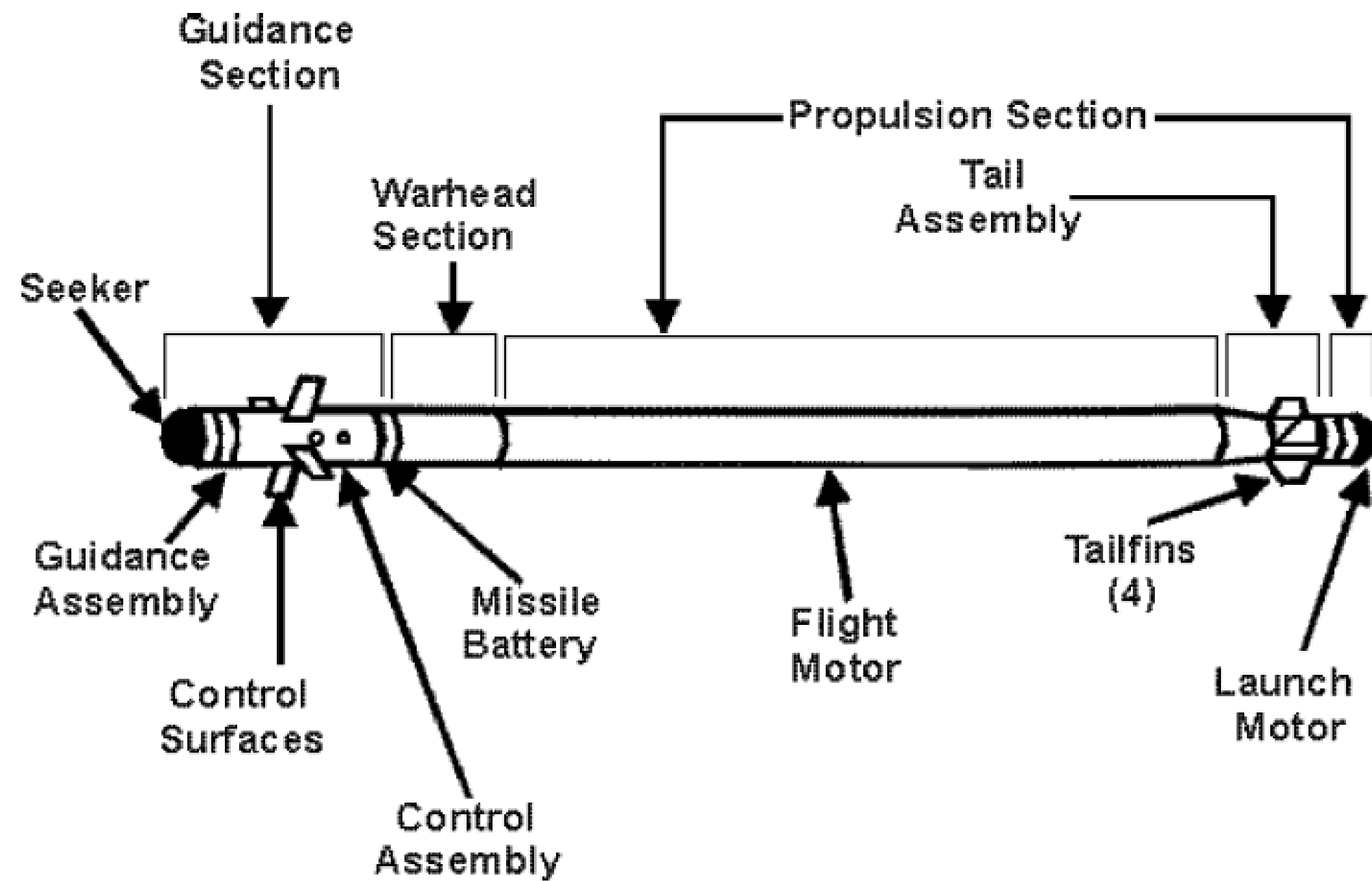
MISSILE



LAUNCH TUBE

- Missiles typically delivered in discardable launch tube (includes sight assembly)
- Tubes can be reused but done at depot, not on battlefield
- Transported in dedicated case

* Images: FIM-92 Stinger via Stratfor



MISSILES

- IR seeker allows for 'passive homing' (fire & forget)**
- Guidance & control steer missile during chase
- Warhead goes boom

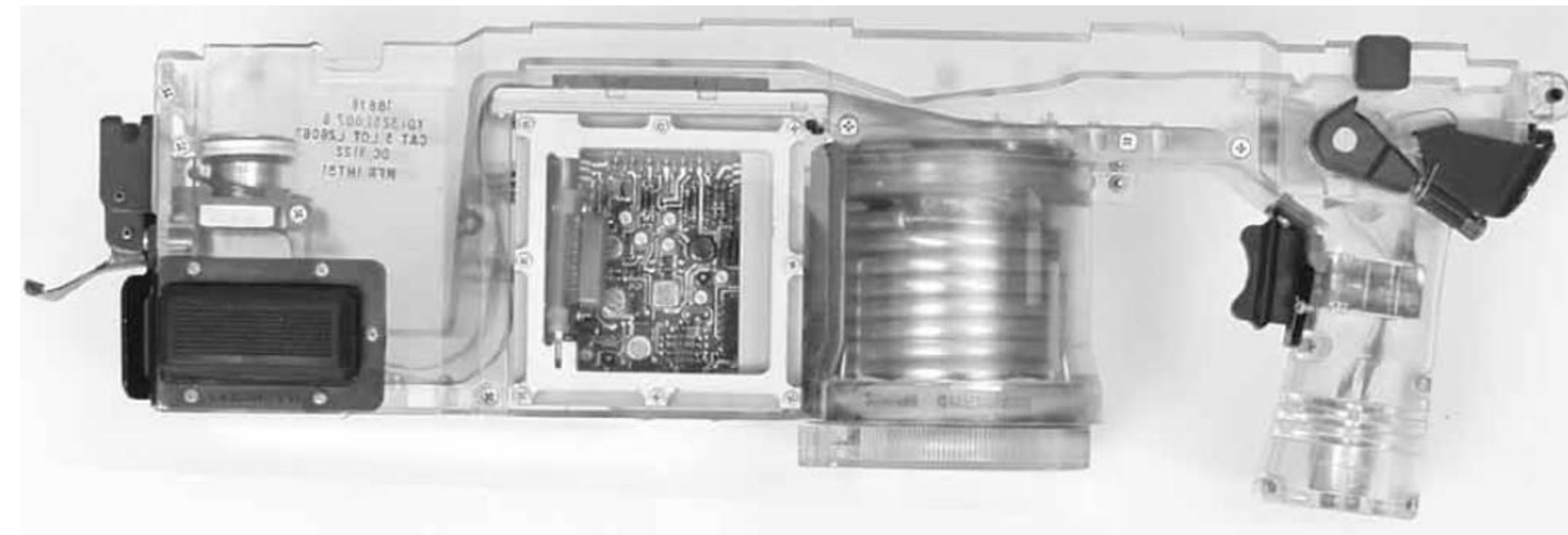
** note that there are also active homing 'command guidance' MANPADS

* Images: FIM-92 Stinger via C. Kogler/B.I.C.C. & US Marine Corps Warfighting Publications

GRIPSTOCK



BATTERY COOLANT UNIT (BCU)

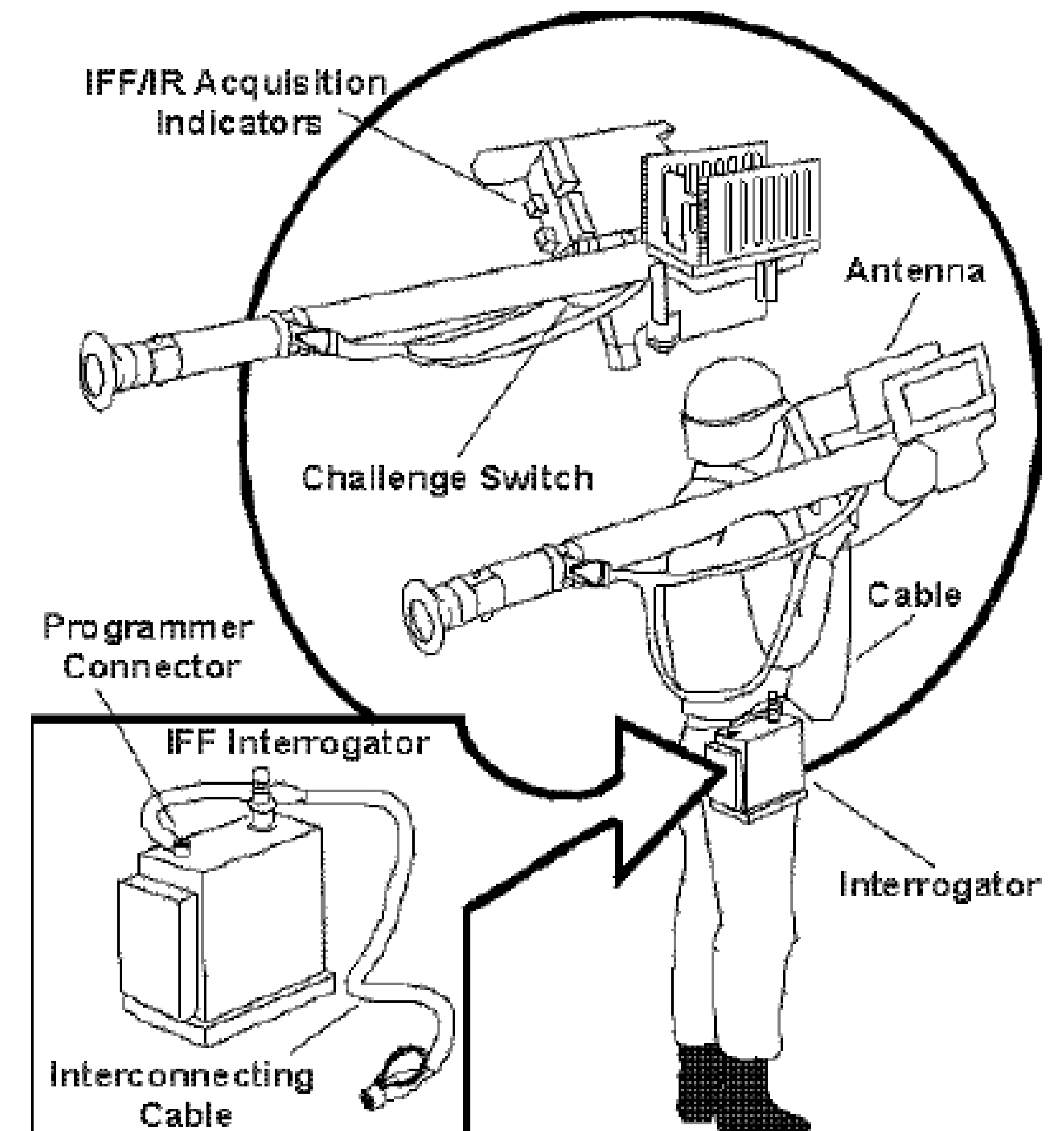


GRIPSTOCK

- Detachable gripstock with trigger & targeting electronics
- Talks to missile to unlock seeker, initiate target lock, trigger launch
- Connection to optional IFF transceiver
- BCU for power & cooling inserted into gripstock

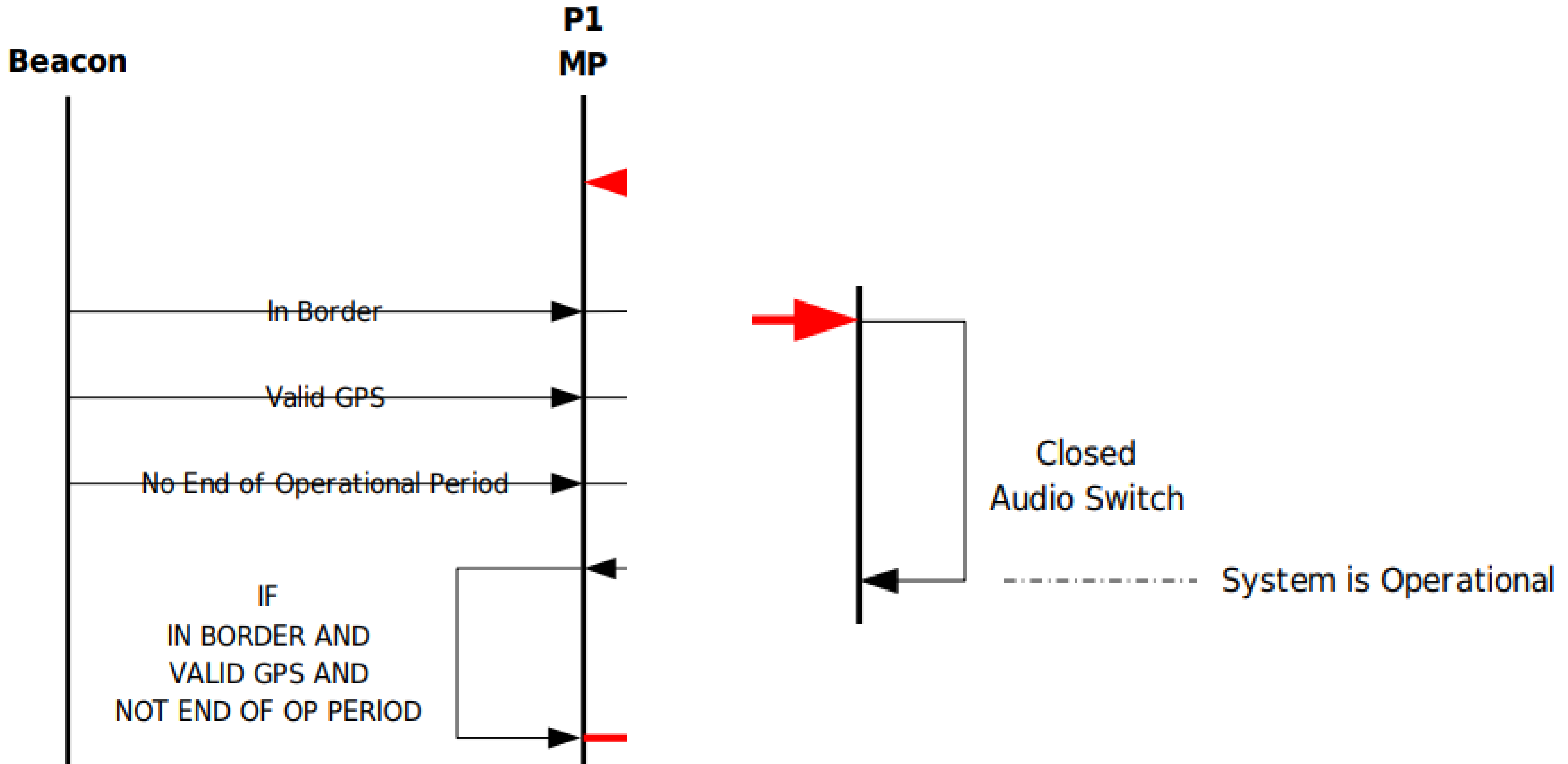
LAUNCH PROCEDURE

1. Attach gripstock & IFF to launch tube
2. Use sight to track aircraft
3. Get audio feedback from IFF on target status
4. Insert BCU
5. Get audio feedback from gripstock on target lock
6. Pull trigger to fire



** Images: US Marine Corps Warfighting Publications*

PROTEGO OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS





Entering



Exiting

GEO- & TIME-FENCING



* Image: mobgen.com



WHY WOULD THE CIA WANT THIS?

CIA 'Plan B' for Syria would give rebels MANPADs to 'counter Russia' - report

Russia must find out where Syrian militants got MANPADS that downed Su-25 – MPs

The pressure on the U.S. and its allies in the region to provide heavier weapons to opposition militias will increase if Russian-backed Syrian forces fully break the ceasefire, which has held in most of Syria for six weeks, the official said. Last month, [the Wall Street Journal reported](#) that the CIA is preparing a “Plan B” in case the ceasefire completely crumbles that involves supplying vetted moderate rebel fighters with MANPADS.

Taliban still have Reagan's Stingers



In recent days, U.S. officials have **hinted** that they may be willing to provide the weapons — known in military circles as MANPADS, short for “man-portable air defense system” — with one major caveat: They include technical controls that would limit where they can be used to ensure they don’t one day fall into terrorist hands.

Using GPS, the missiles could be programmed to lock out users in certain locations, according to the Small Arms Survey report – but

* Source: LA Times, RT, WSJ, FP



TIMBER SYCAMORE

Operational scope	Weapons sales, training of Syrian rebel forces
Location	Eastern Europe, Jordan, Syria
Planned by	Central Intelligence Agency
Target	Syrian Army
Date	2012 – 2017

- Program supposedly barred MANPADS ...
- Other reports claim US-supplied MANPADS did make it into Syria
- Unclear whether PROTEGO was part of this or ever fielded



Charles Lister  @Charles_Lister · [5 Apr 2016](#)

Replying to @Charles_Lister

- A small number (+/- 12) of MANPADS were sent into northern #Syria in late-'15 as an immediate reaction to #Russia's intervention in Sept.

 10  66  28



Charles Lister  @Charles_Lister · [5 Apr 2016](#)

- Those MANPADS were to be used for select political purposes.
- x2 were likely used in March '16 downing.
- Looks likely x1 was used today.

THE HARRY POTTER CONNECTION

To aid in keeping the key numbers grouped, the **Devil Snare** Keys numbers start at 1000 and **Protego** Keys numbers start at 2000



Devil's Snare is a **magical** plant with the ability to constrict or strangle anything in its surrounding environment or something that happens to touch it. Devil's Snare does not seem to be common, but certain **Herbologists** have access to it.



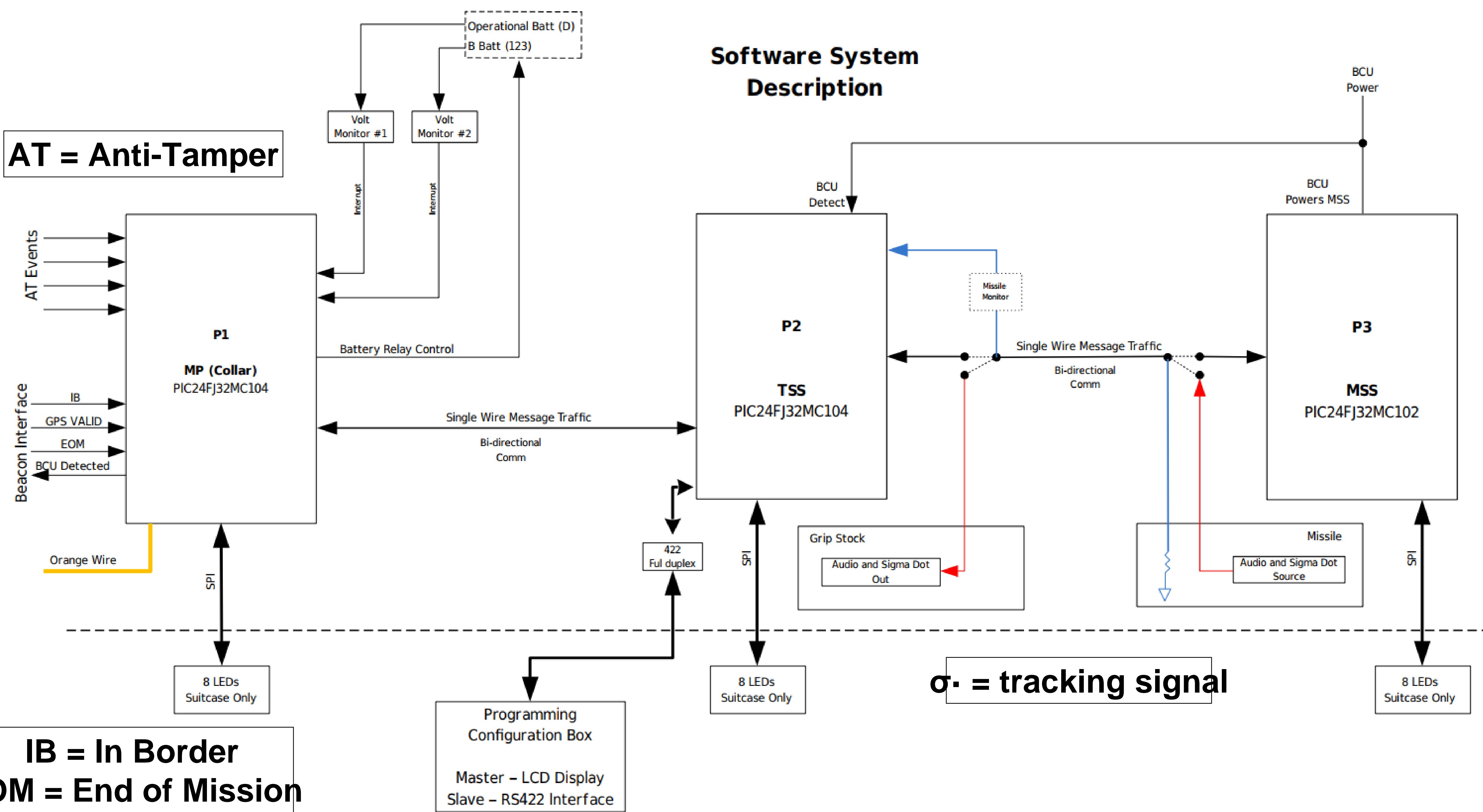
The **Shield Charm** (*Protego*) is a **charm** that protects the caster with an invisible shield that reflects spells and blocks physical entities.



TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Software System Description

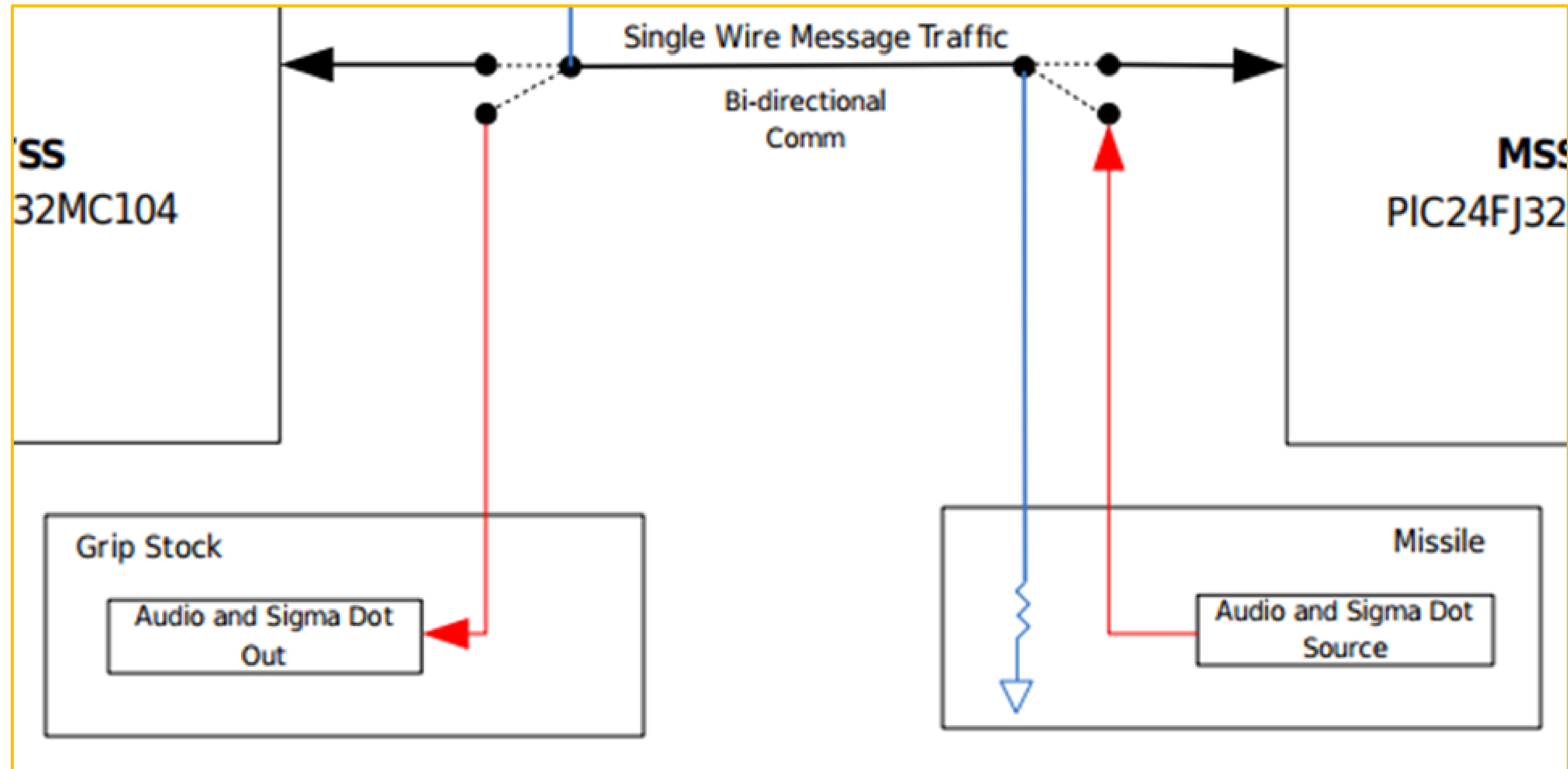
AT = Anti-Tamper



IB = In Border
EOM = End of Mission

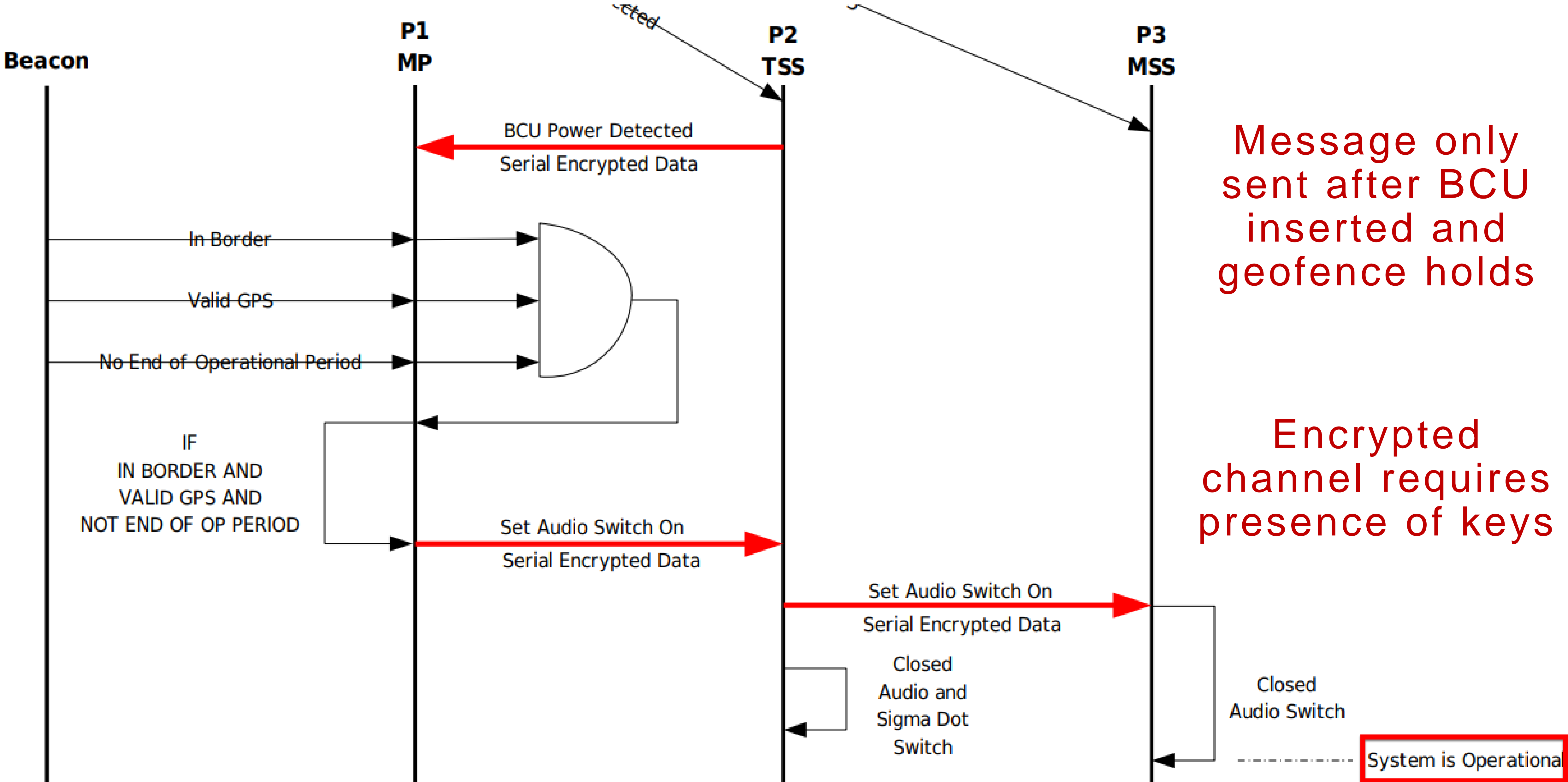
σ = tracking signal

SMART FENCE MECHANISM



Open switch = no signal from missile seeker to gripstock targeting system

MSS CLOSES SWITCH AFTER MESSAGE FROM MP VIA TSS



KEY ERASURE

Beacon

After entering in border once

MP

AT or low battery event

TSS

Out of border or End of Mission

Erase MP key

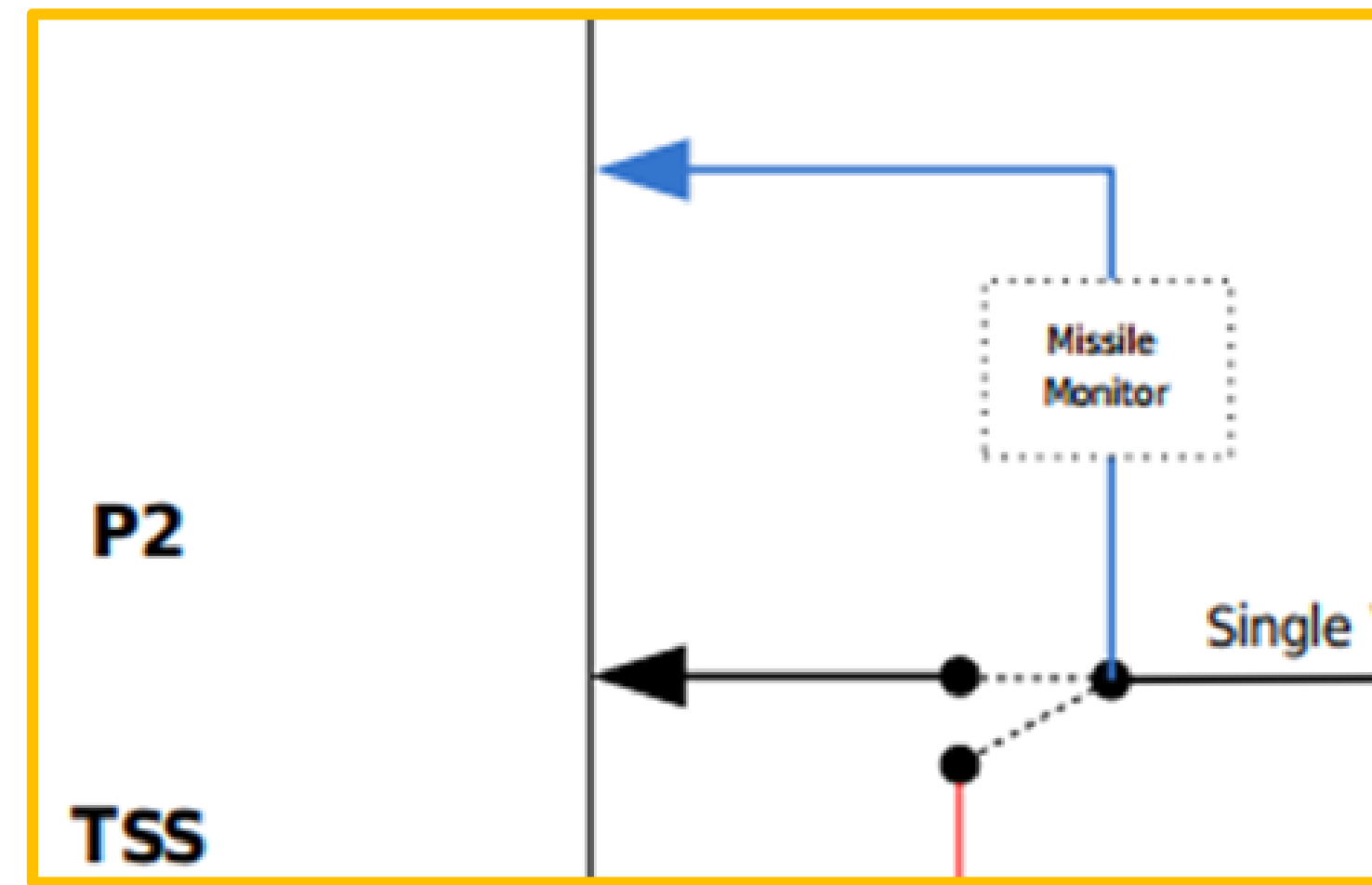
Erase pulse

Erase MP key

Erase pulse

Erase TSS key

Missing missile detected

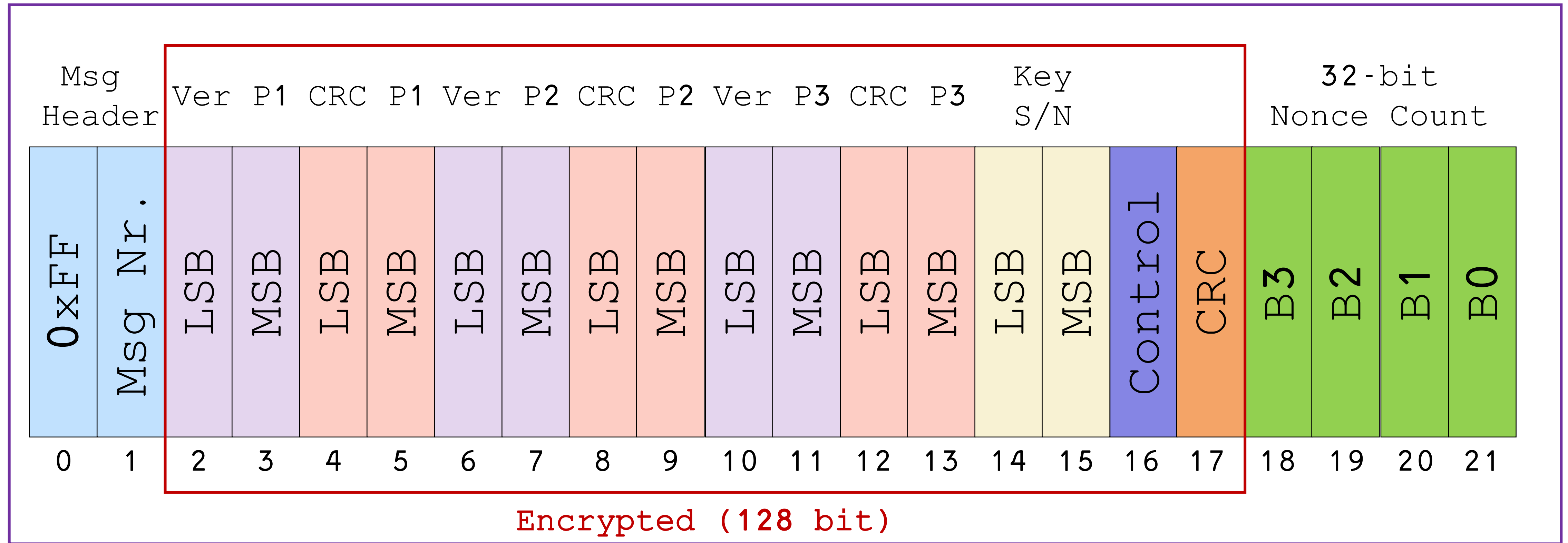


STATUS INDICATION LEDS

		LEDs on Suite Case							
LED		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MP	Green	Tactical	Batteries On	Batt Ok	No AT Event	In Fence	GPS Validity Good	Mission Time Good	Operational
	Off	Storage					Unknown		Sleep
	Red	Factory	Batteries Off	Batt Low	At Event	Out of Fence	GPS Validity Bad	EOM	Erased*
		These three LEDs reflect what the MP is seeing at it's inputs							
TSS	Green	Tactical	BCU Detected		Missile Present		Prog MP	Prog Box Connected	Operational
	Off	Storage	No BCU	Audio Relay Off	No M Check				Sleep
	Red	Factory		Audio Relay On	Missile Missing		Prog Beacon		Erased*
MSS	Green	Powered On							Erased*
	Off	Powered Off	Audio Relay Off						
	Red		Audio Relay On						

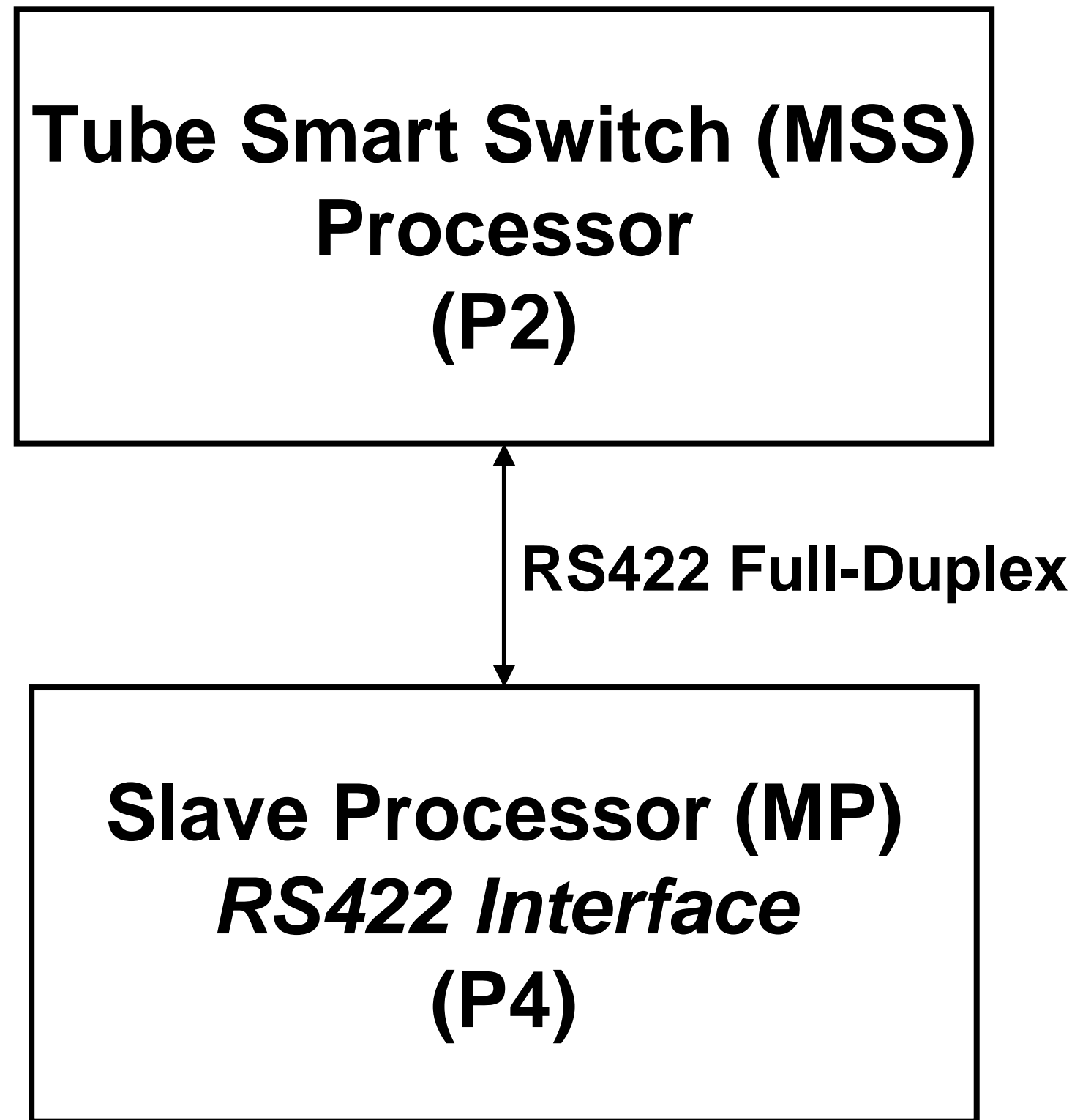
Operators need to know system is 'good-to-go'
before running up to aircraft ...

P MESSAGE FORMAT



- Sent over **RS422** and **internal serial bus** between different MCUs
- For unencrypted messages, only Key S/N and control/CRC bytes are set

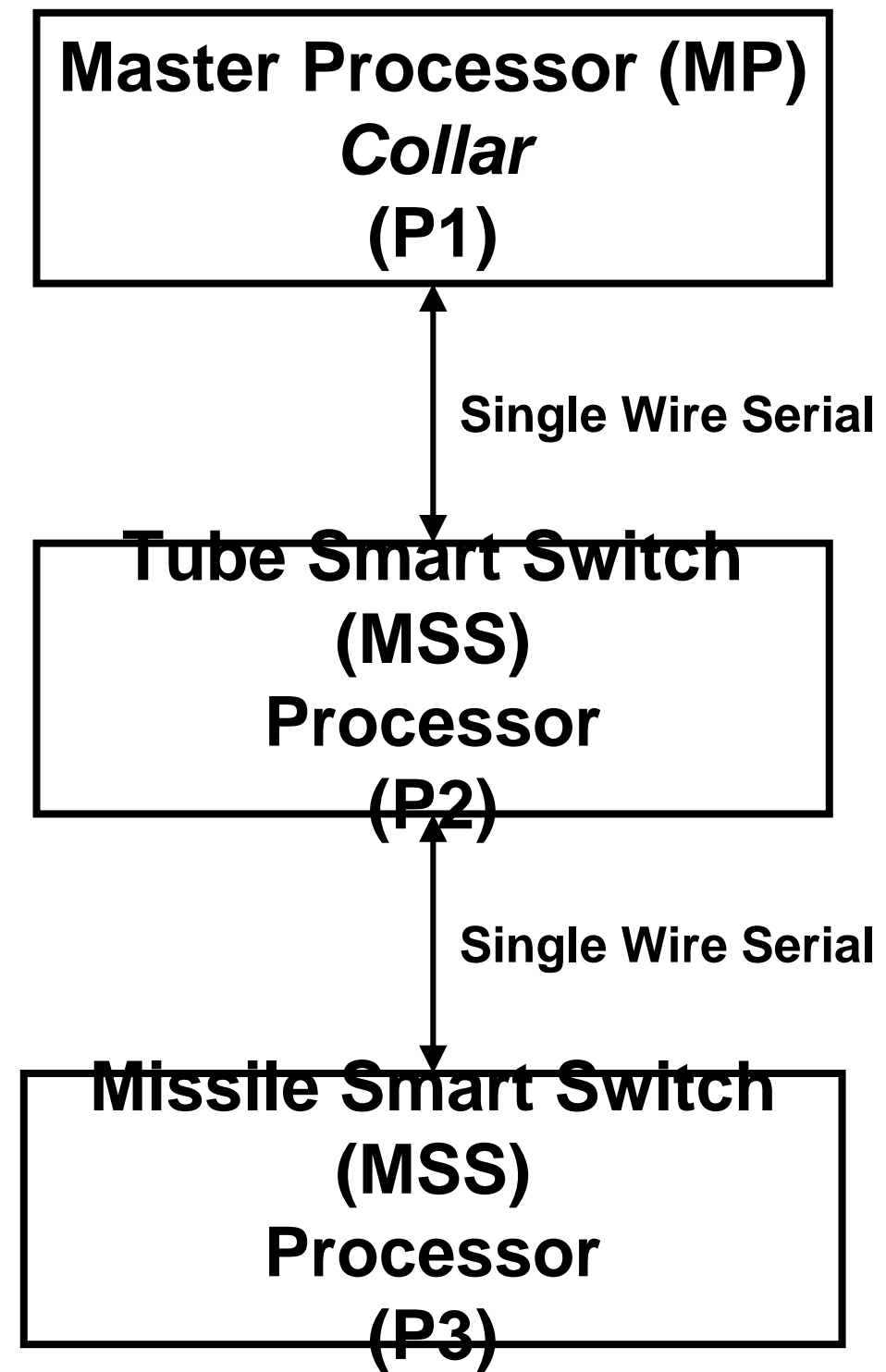
PROGRAMMING BOX <-> PROTEGO



Messages of Interest

RS422 Messages		Msg Tx By		Msg Rx By	
Ctrl	Command	P4	TS S	P4	TS S
0x00	Do nothing (ret Ver+CRC)	X	X	X	X
0x01	Request MSS Ver	X			X
0x02	Request MP Ver	X			X
0x03	Request TSS Ver	X			X
0x04	Set MP to Prog Mode	X			X
0x05	Set MP to Prog State	X			X
0x06	Set Beacon to Prog State	X			X
0x07	Stop Prog States (MP+Beacon)	X			X
0x08	Set to Factory Test Mode	X			X
0x09	Set to Storage Mode	X			X
0x0A	Set to Tactical Mode	X			X
0x0B	Turn Batteries On	X			X
0x0C	Turn Batteries Off	X			X

PROTEGO INTERNAL



Operational Messages

Serial Messages		Msg Tx By			Msg Rx By		
Ctrl	Command	MP	TSS	MSS	MP	TSS	MSS
0x00	Do nothing (ret Ver+CRC)	X	X	X	X	X	X
0x01	Set Audio Relay	X				X	
0x02	AT or low battery detect	X				X	
0x03	BCU inserted		X		X		
0x04	BCU removed		X		X		
0x05	Missile Missing		X		X		
0x06	Set MP to Prog Mode		X		X		
0x07	Set MP to Prog State		X		X		
0x08	Set Beacon to Prog State		X		X		
0x09	Stop Prog States (MP+Beacon)		X		X		
0x0A	Set to Factory Test Mode		X		X		
0x0B	Set to Storage Mode		X		X		
0x0C	Set to Tactical Mode		X		X		
0x0D	Turn Batteries On		X		X		
0x0E	Turn Batteries Off		X		X		
0x0F	Missile Detected		X		X		



SECURITY ANALYSIS

HYPOTHETICAL PROTEGO LIFECYCLE

1. Programmed with key material, switched to storage mode



2. Shipped to (covert?) facility in/near theater



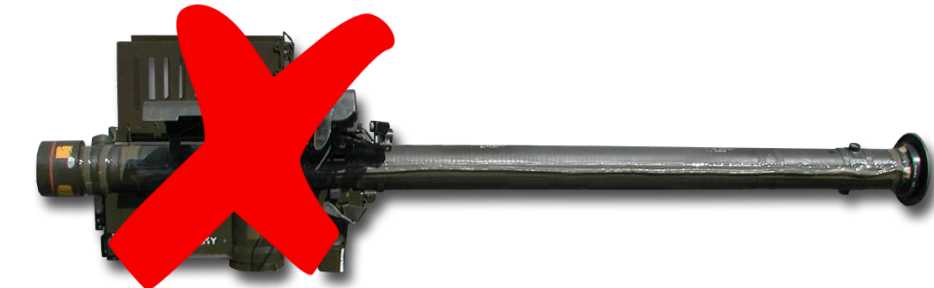
3. Programming box configures geo- & time fence, enables tactical mode



4. Handover to "less-than-trusted" 3rd party



5. If stolen, rendered inoperable outside fence



6. If mission period expires without use, returned to facility

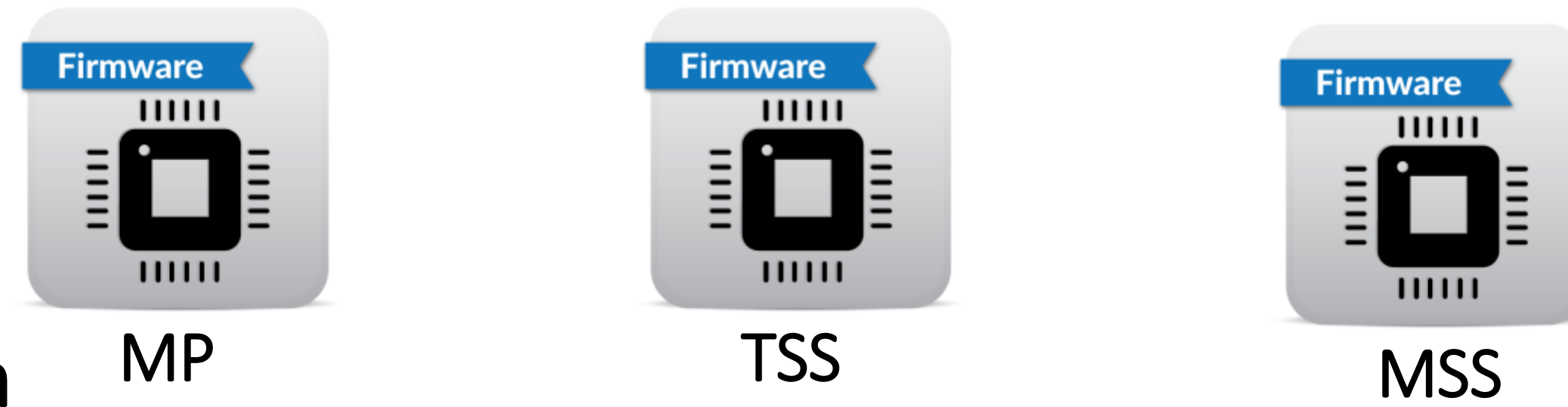
7. Status check (LEDs), either put in storage mode or reconfigure



8. If AT event detected, raise alert



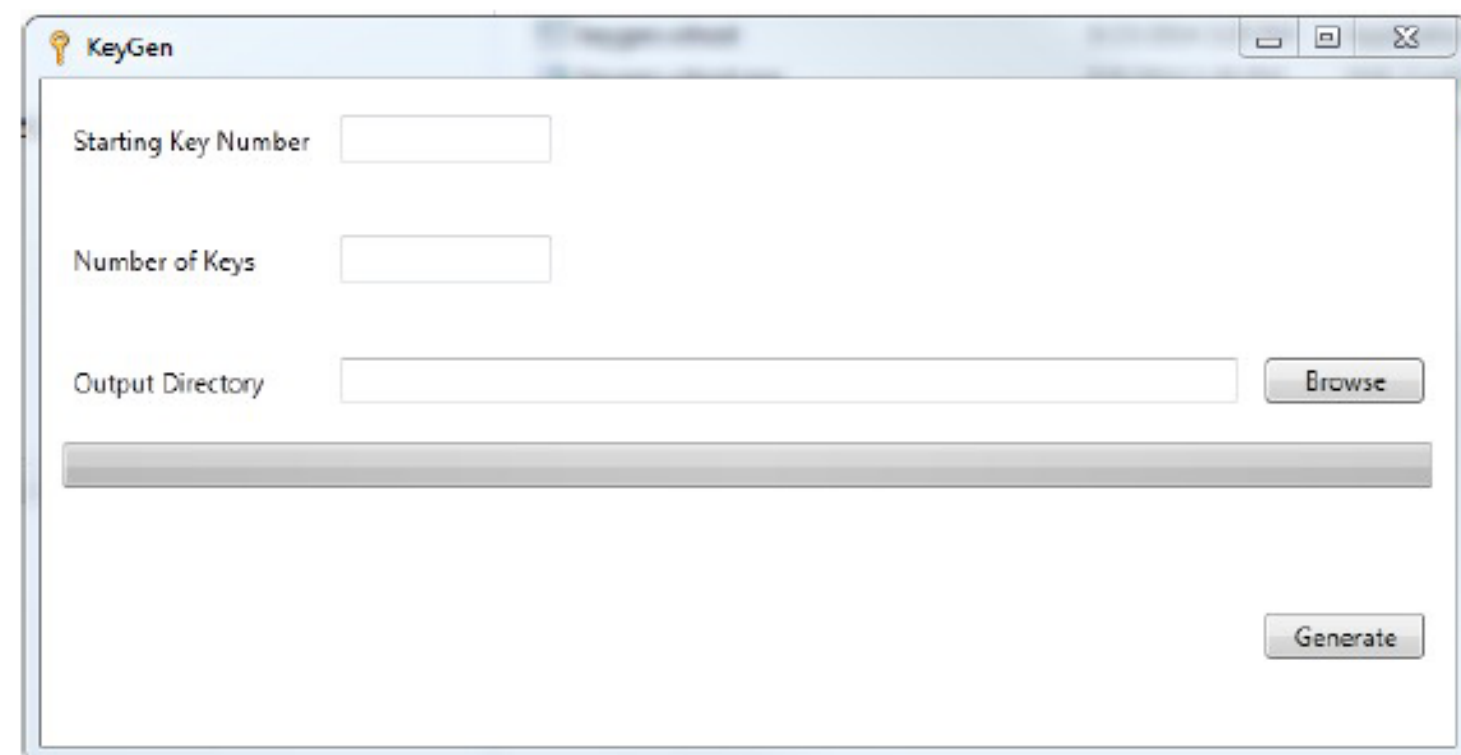
CRYPTOGRAPHIC ARCHITECTURE



1 maintenance key embedded in fw images, *identical* for all PROTEGO instances
Never erased

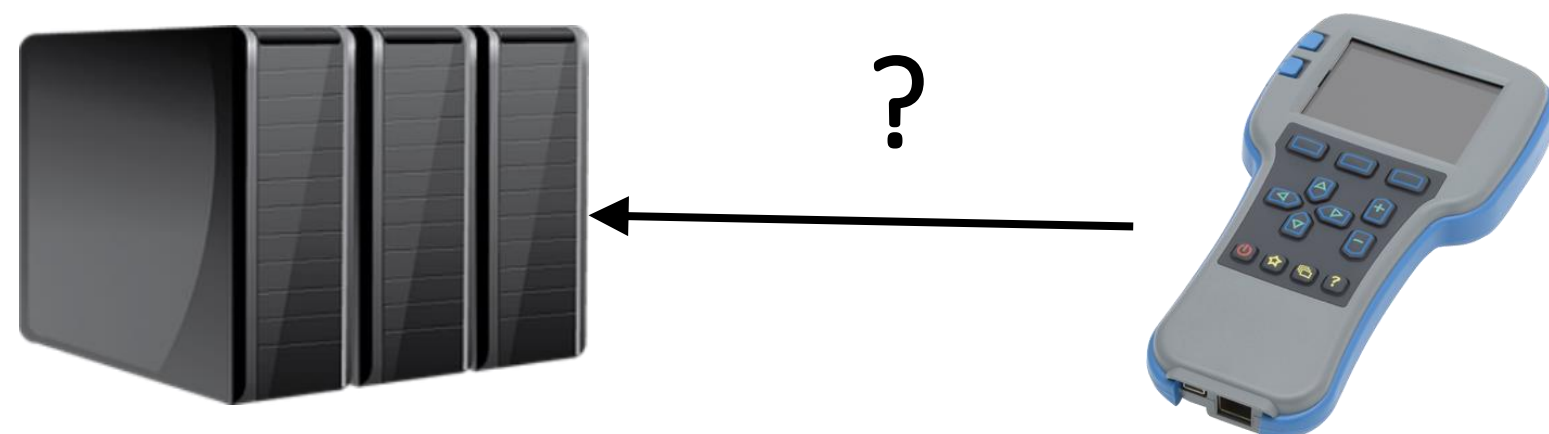


1. Keys are generated & written into MP, TSS & MSS fw images



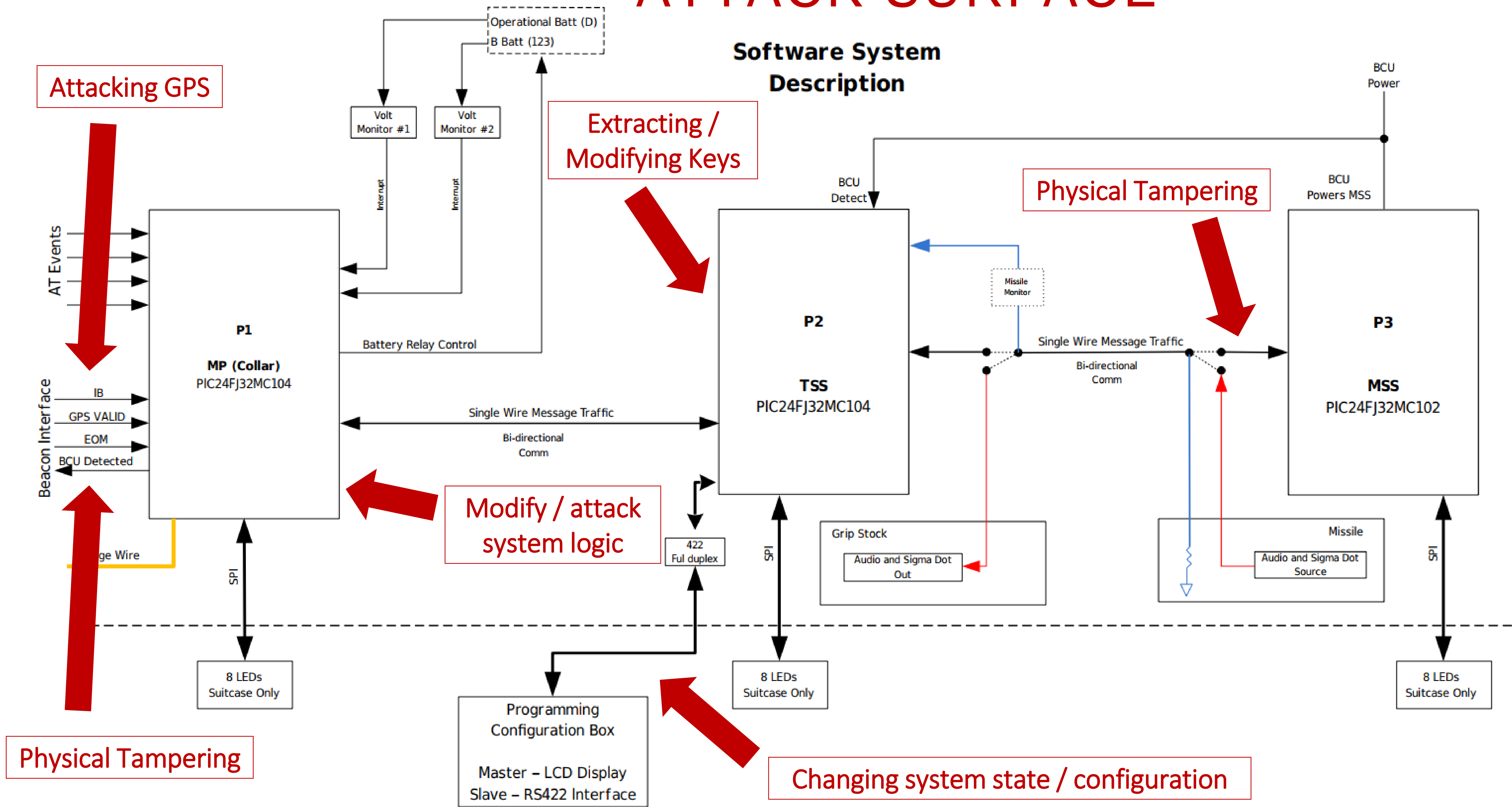
- One 128-bit key per MANPADs
- Identical for MP, TSS & MSS
- MSS never erased
- Suggests AES-128 in ECB mode (since msg is 128-bit)

2. Programming box does not contain any keys, possibly queries them from a backend?

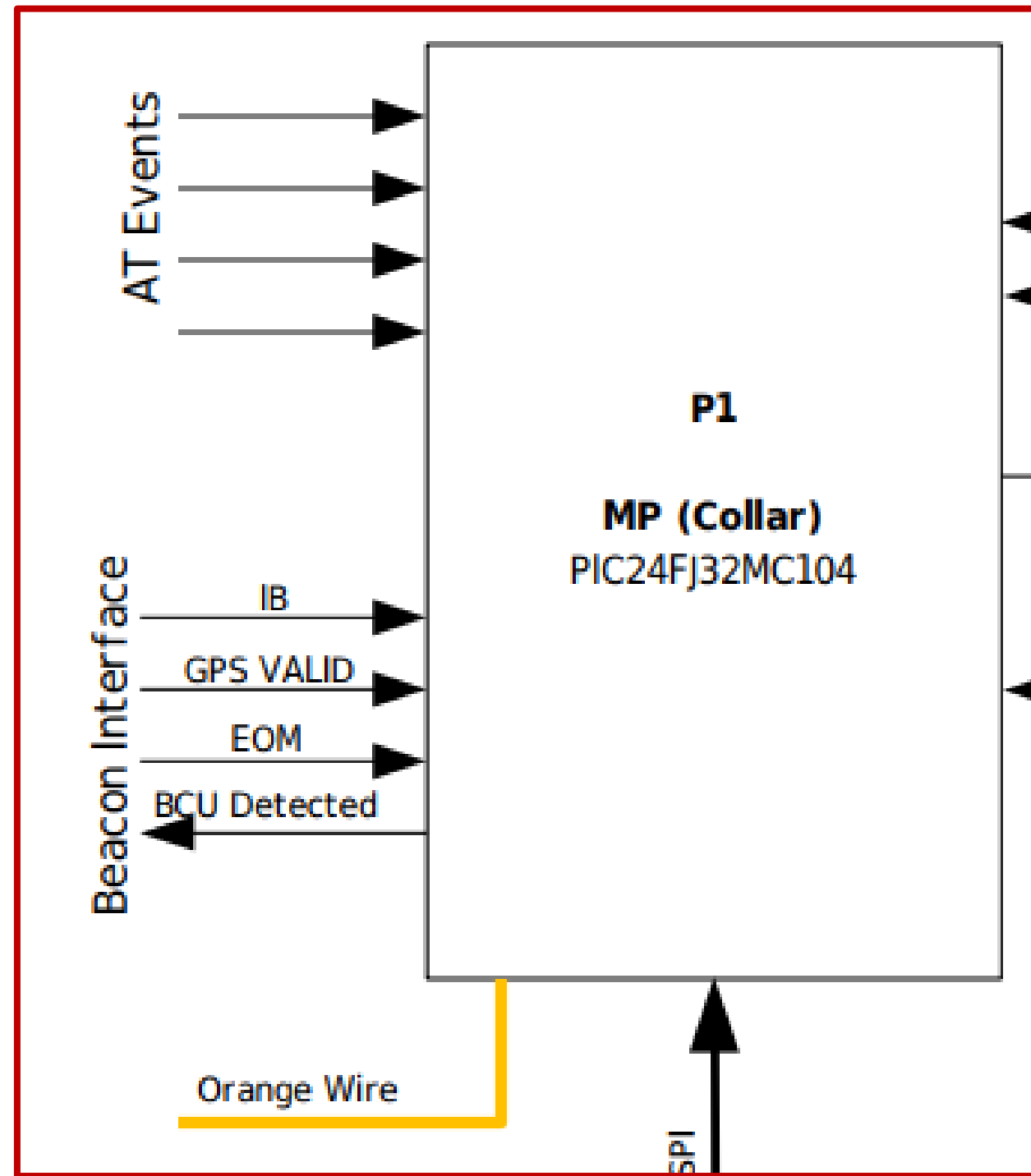


3. Unclear how reconfiguration is done exactly, but after key erasure still need to talk to PROTEGO. Makes sense system falls back to global maintenance key.

ATTACK SURFACE

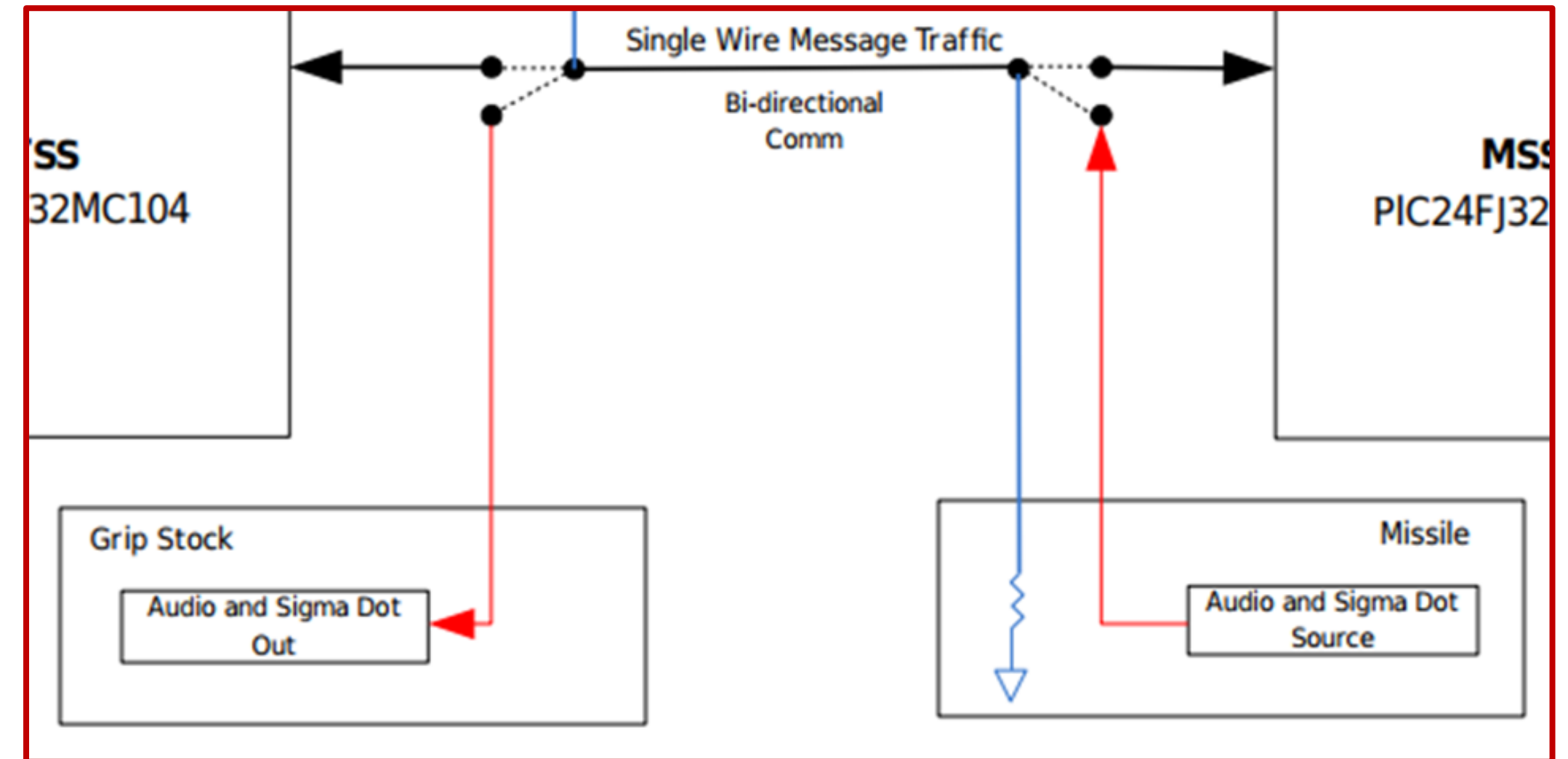


PHYSICAL TAMPERING



Beacon Interface signals

Eg. Cause default-true evaluation

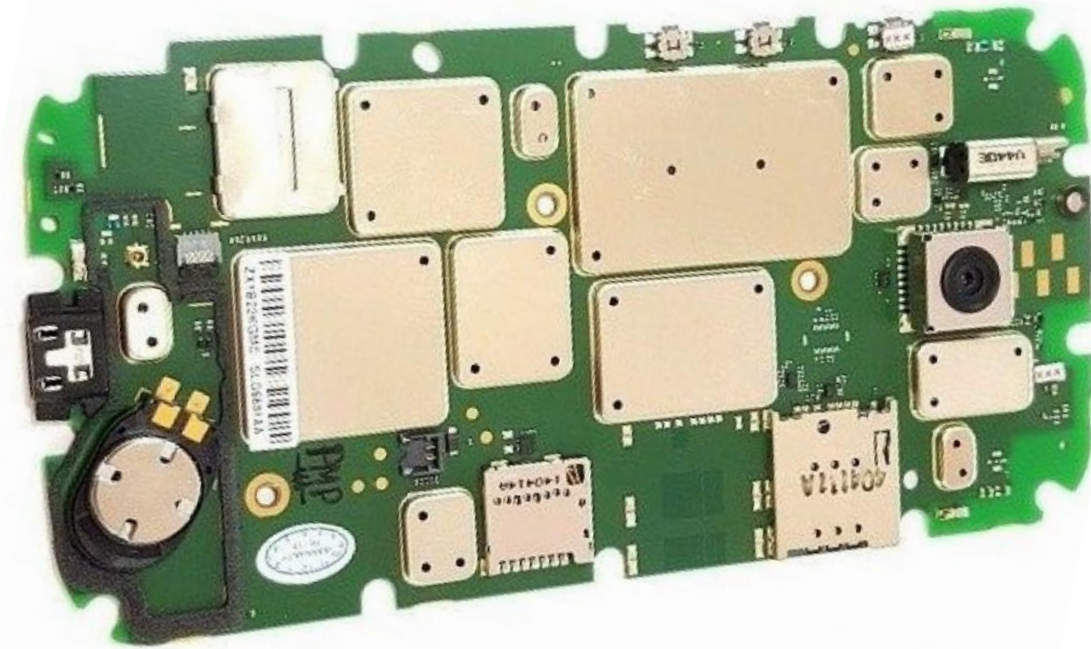


Smart Switch

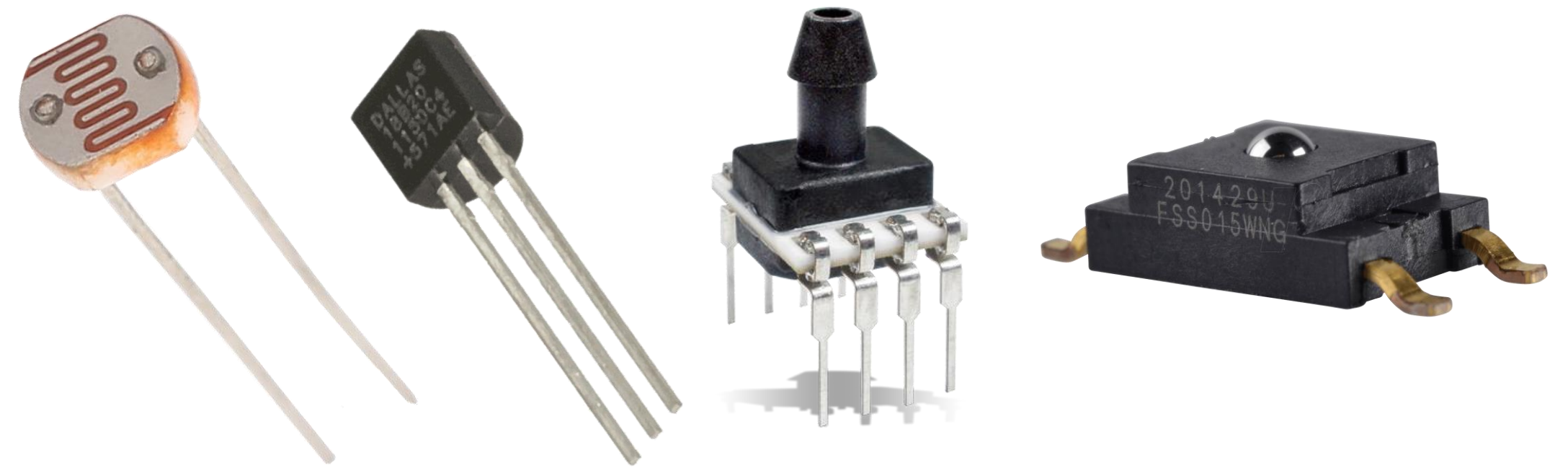
Eg. Ensure it's normally-closed

ANTI-TAMPER MEASURES

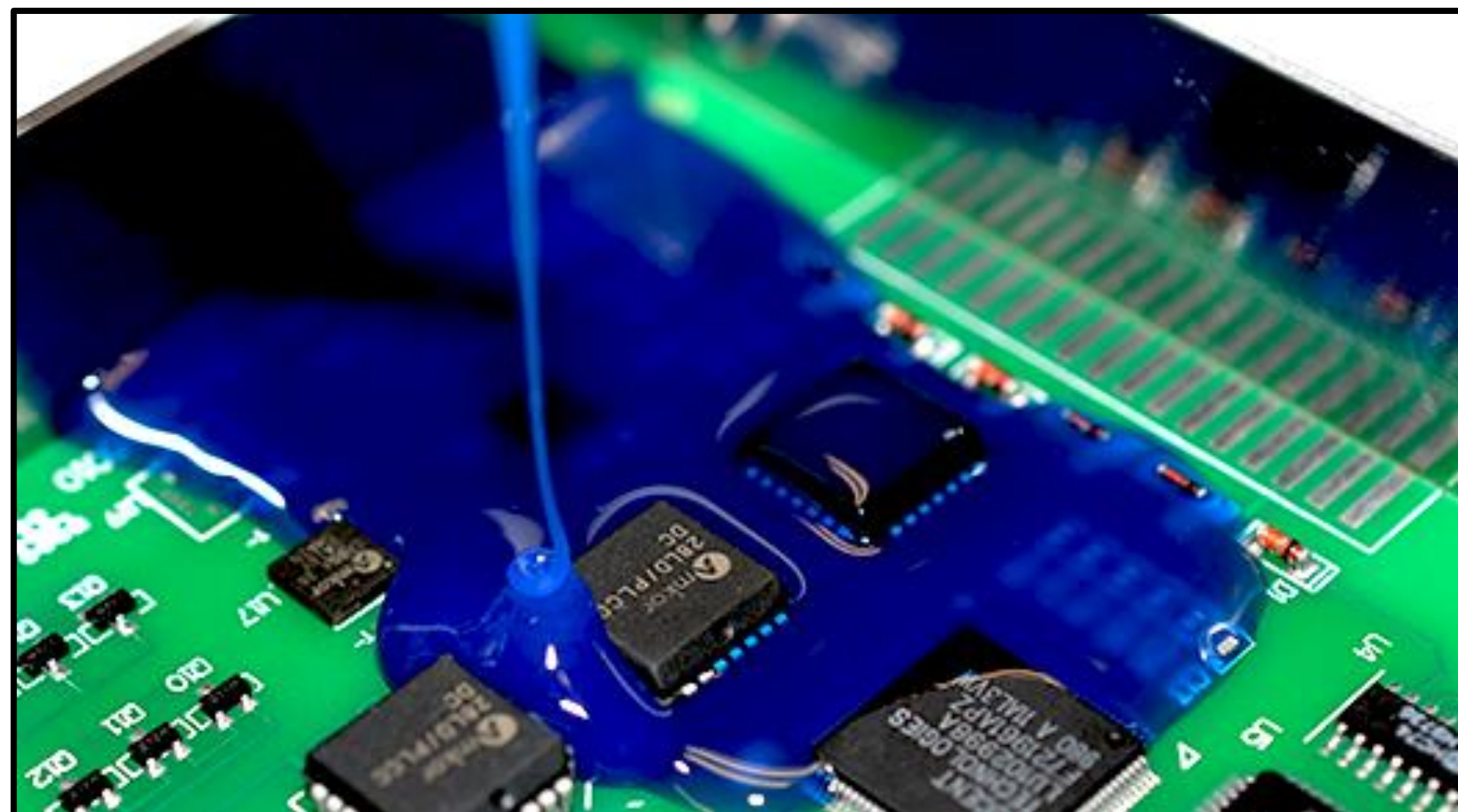
Metal Shielding



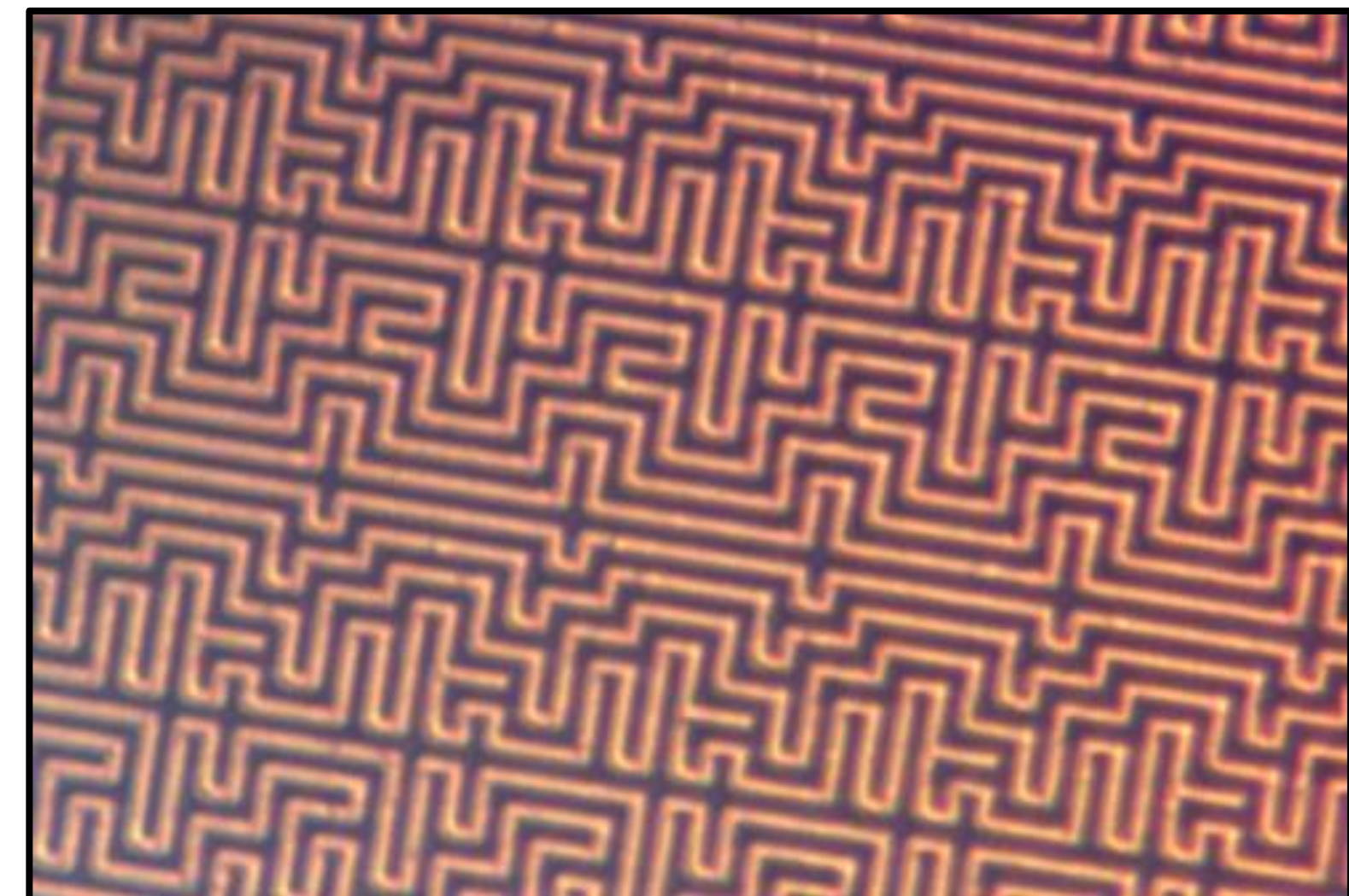
Light/Temp/Pressure/Force Sensors



Encapsulation



Active Meshes



ANTI-TAMPER MEASURES

- Many well-explored invasive techniques, also via backside*
- Keys stored in flash, not battery-backed SRAM
 - *Attacker who cuts write-enable line might prevent erasure*
- Issues: Knowledge & capital intensive
- Also: there's a warhead there...

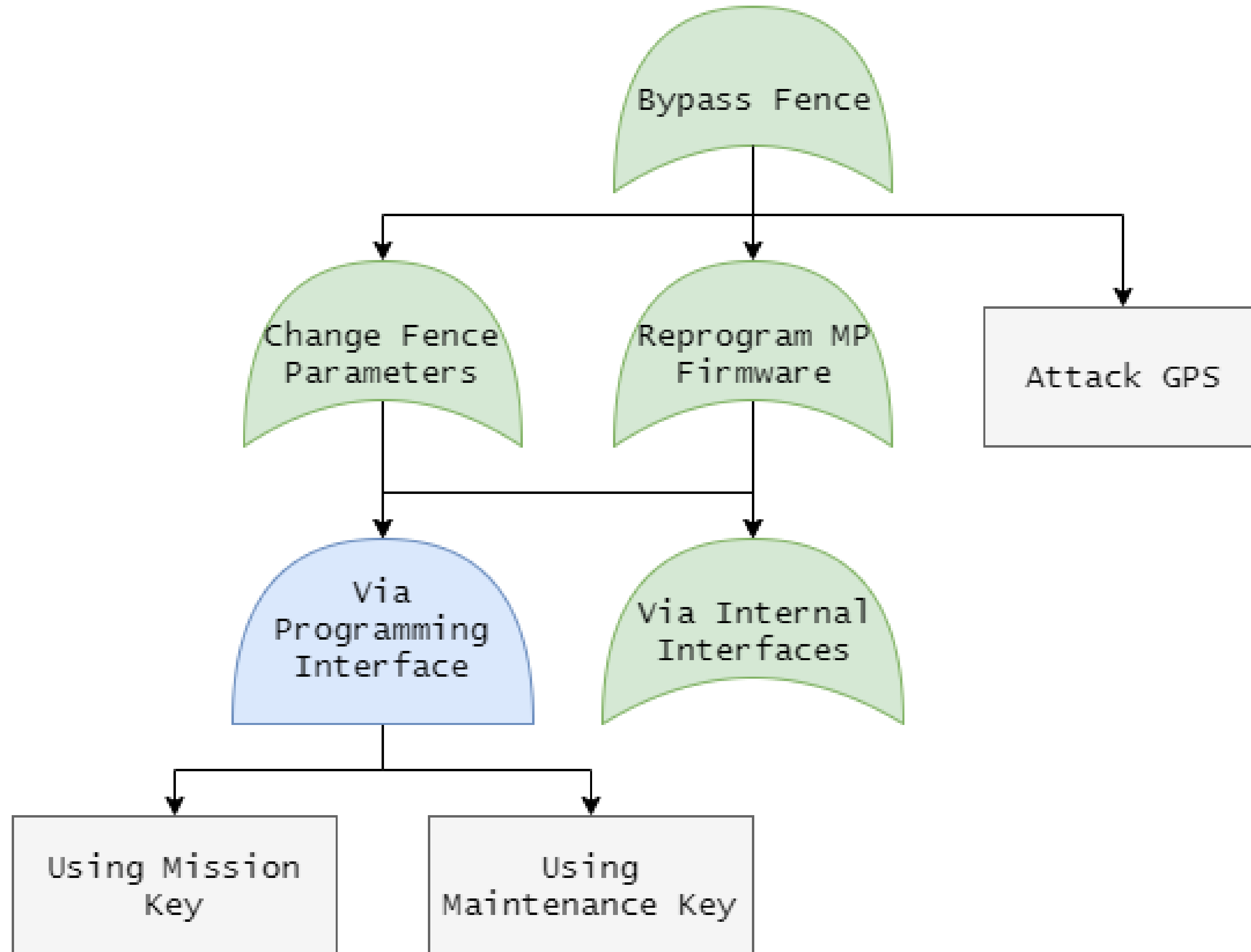


* <https://www.blackhat.com/docs/us-15/materials/us-15-Thomas-Advanced-IC-Reverse-Engineering-Techniques-In-Depth-Analysis-Of-A-Modern-Smart-Card.pdf>,
https://pacsec.jp/psj13/psj2013-day2_Dmitry_starbug_slides_PacSec.pdf

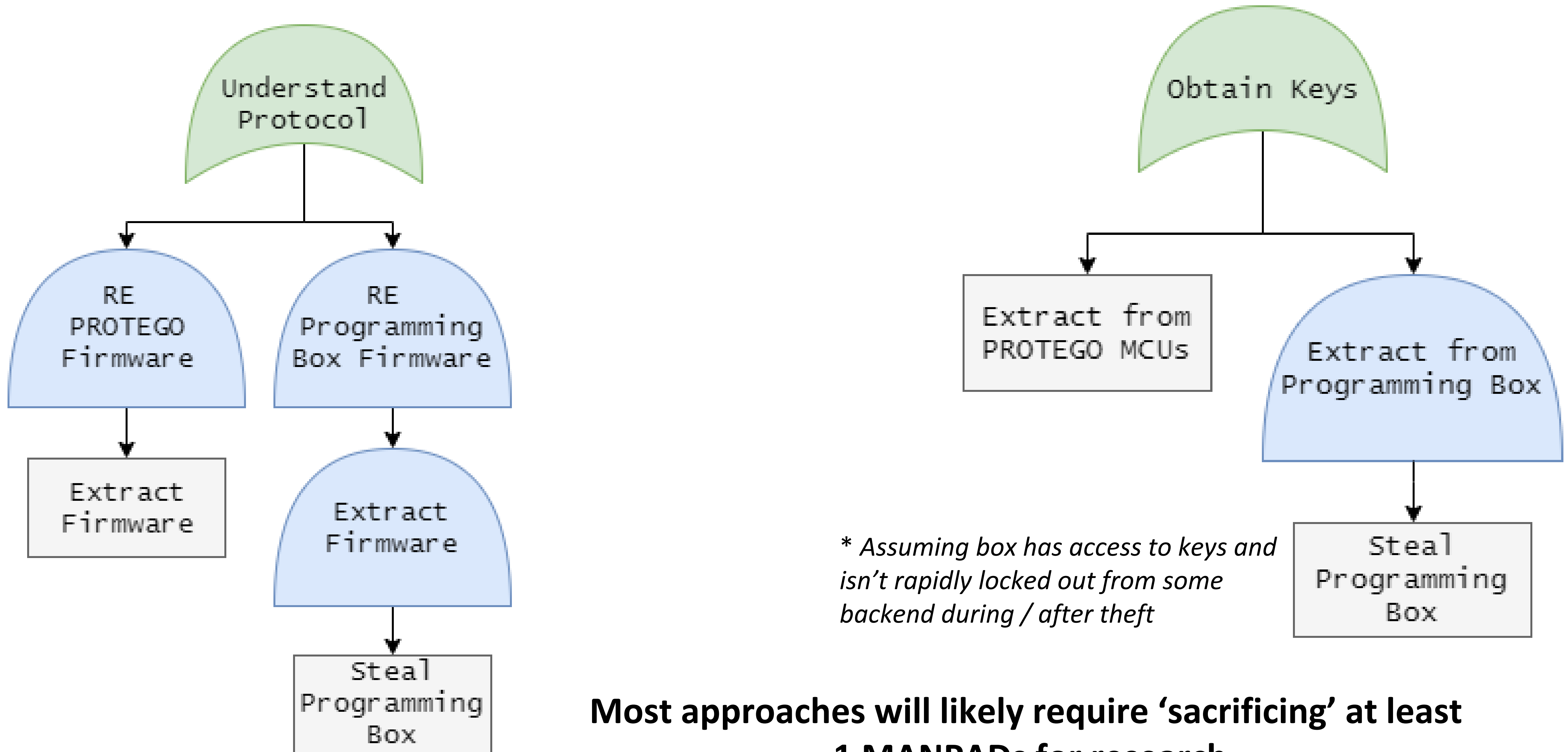
ANTI-TAMPER MEASURES

- Bigger issue: unencrypted seeker signals would mean tampered smart switch could render PROTEGO moot
 - *If seeker can get lock-on & fire signal from gripstock, it's over*
- Don't know if this is the case
- Don't know how hard tampering with that switch is

LOGICAL TAMPERING



LOGICAL TAMPERING



Most approaches will likely require 'sacrificing' at least 1 MANPADs for research

EXTRACTING AND/OR MODIFYING KEYS & FIRMWARE

Debugging Interfaces



Side-Channel Analysis



Invasive Attacks



Software Bugs

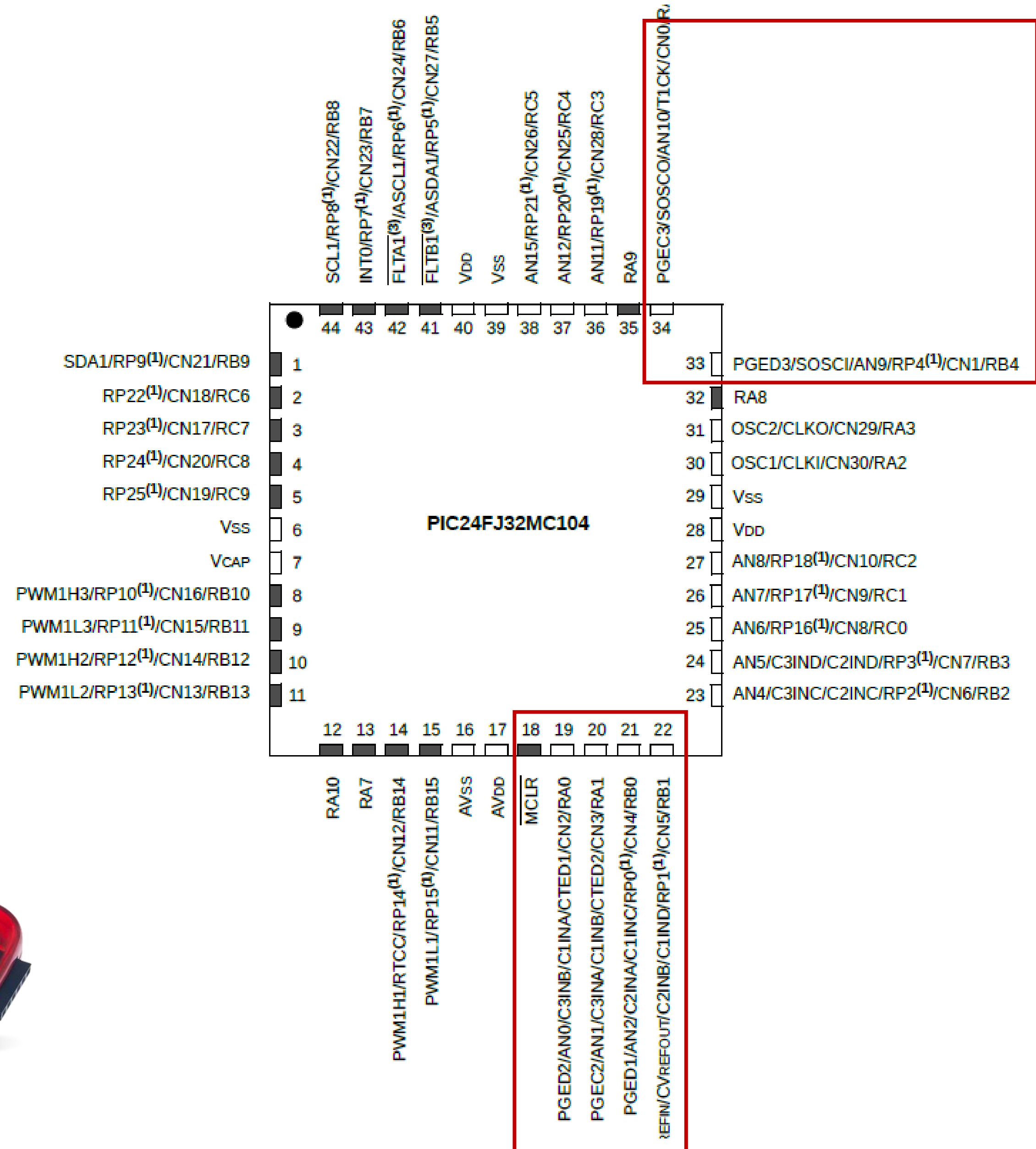


These approaches might trigger AT
BUT: maintenance key is never erased!

DEBUGGING INTERFACES

In-Circuit Serial Programming (ICSP)

1. Master Clear (MCLR)
2. Power (Vdd)
3. Ground (Vss)
4. Data (PGD)
5. Clock (PGC)

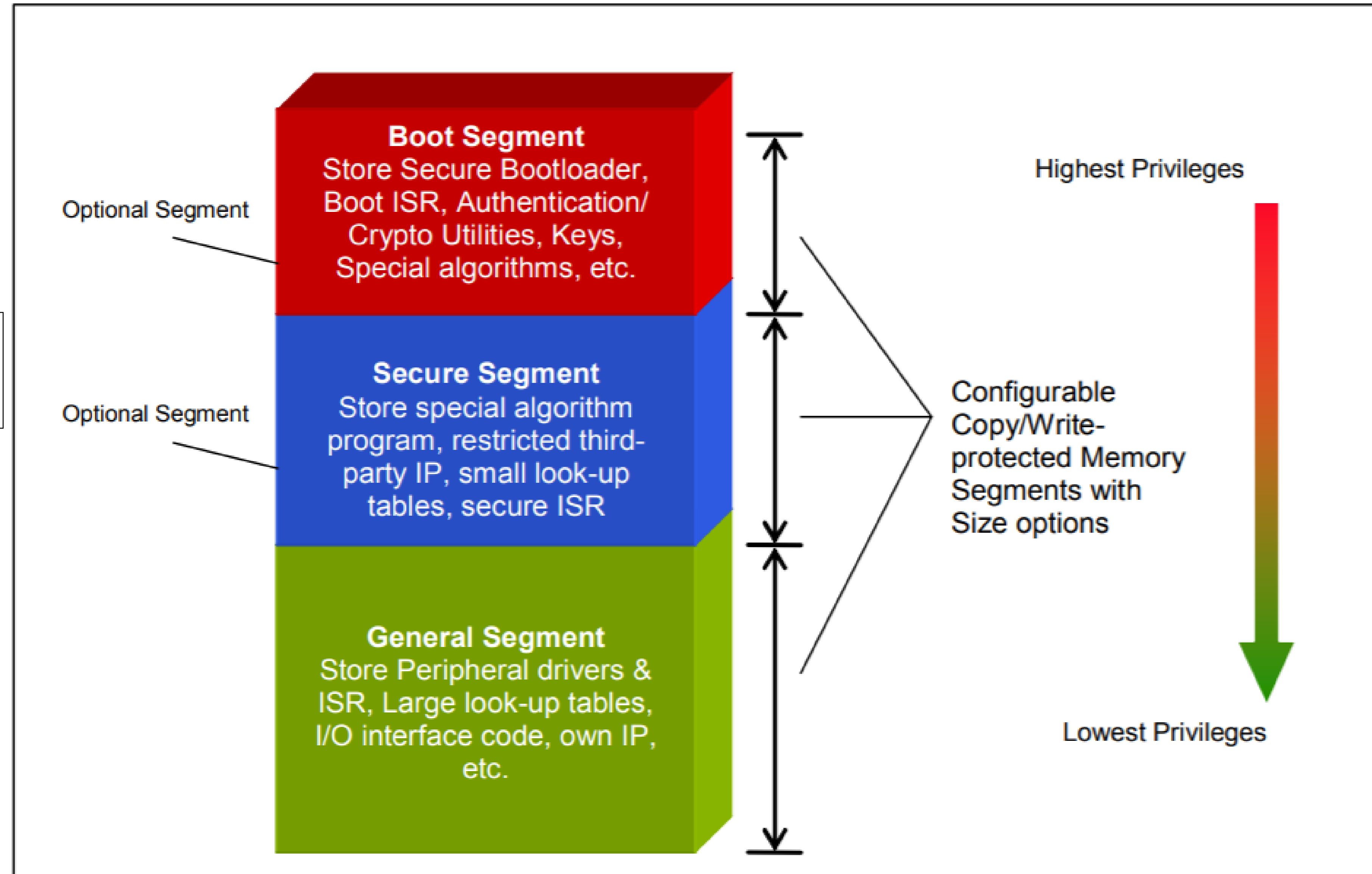


ISSUE: MICROCHIP CODEGUARD

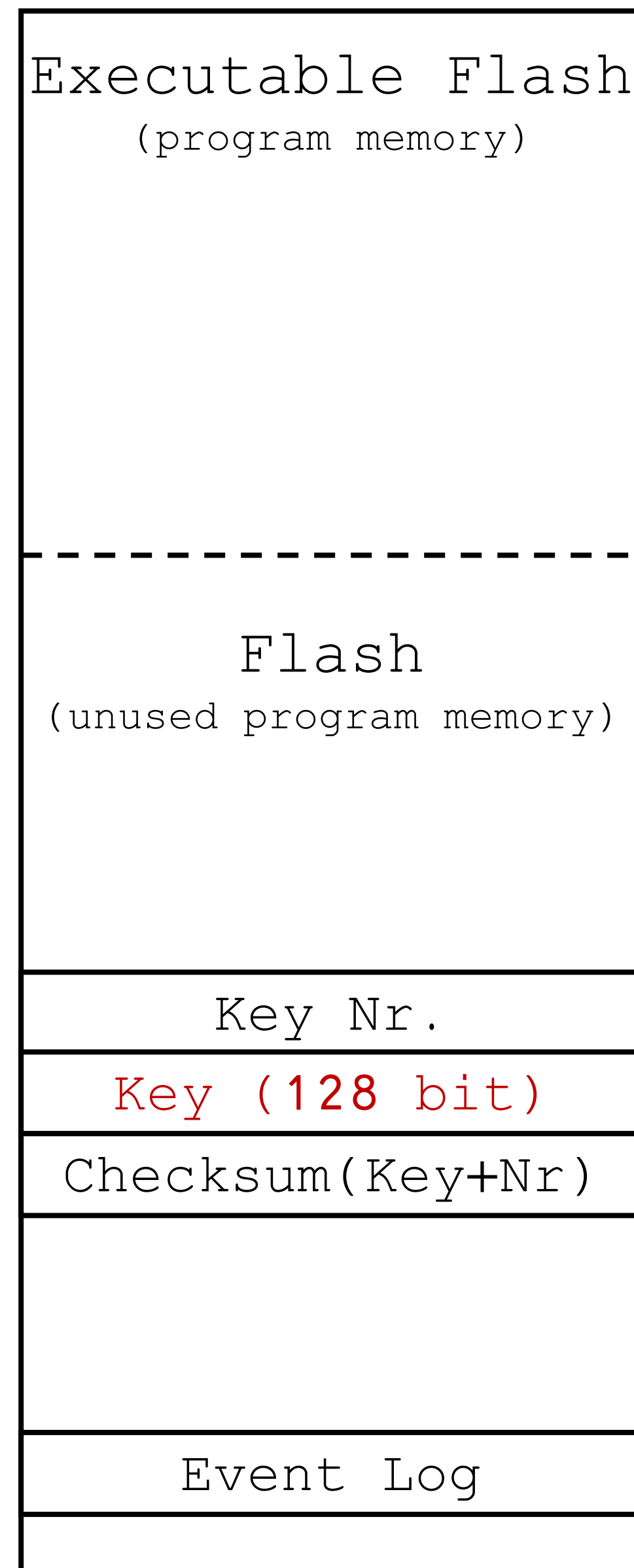
**Read-out &
Write Protection**

**Configured via
Configuration Words (CW)**

**Violation triggers
Security Reset**



PROTEGO MCU MEMORY LAYOUT



1. Version Number
2. 16-bit image CRC calculated at startup

No mention of firmware authentication

No mention of hardware root of trust or secure element

Nothing beyond CodeGuard

If checksum does not match,
key will not be loaded

Probably holds AT events that can
be read out by programmer

CODEGUARD DISCLAIMER

Note the following details of the code protection feature on Microchip devices:

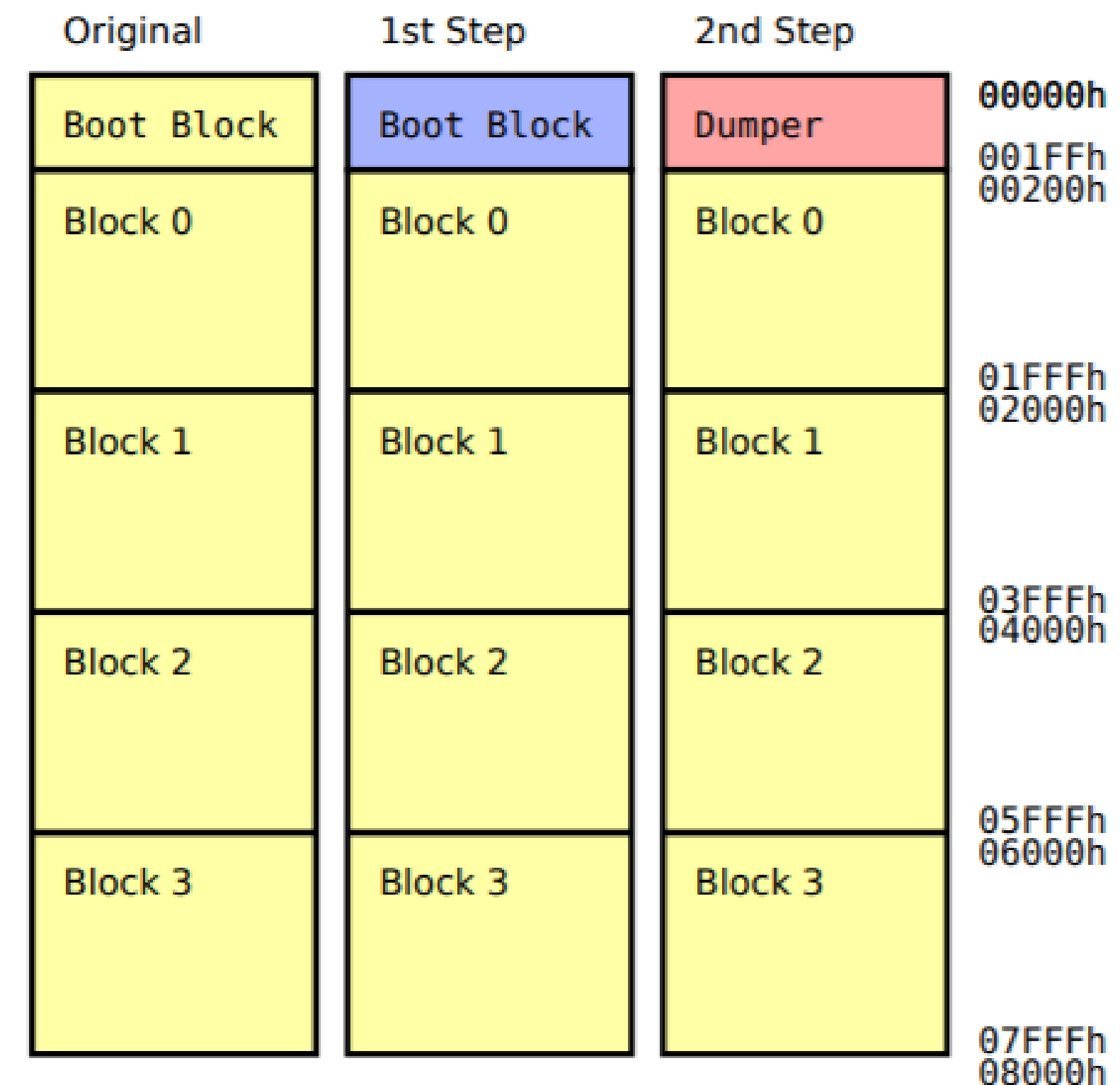
- Microchip products meet the specification contained in their particular Microchip Data Sheet.
- Microchip believes that its family of products is one of the most secure families of its kind on the market today, when used in the intended manner and under normal conditions.
- There are dishonest and possibly illegal methods used to breach the code protection feature. All of these methods, to our knowledge, require using the Microchip products in a manner outside the operating specifications contained in Microchip's Data Sheets. Most likely, the person doing so is engaged in theft of intellectual property.
- Microchip is willing to work with the customer who is concerned about the integrity of their code.
- Neither Microchip nor any other semiconductor manufacturer can guarantee the security of their code. Code protection does not mean that we are guaranteeing the product as "unbreakable."

Code protection is constantly evolving. We at Microchip are committed to continuously improving the code protection features of our products. Attempts to break Microchip's code protection feature may be a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. If such acts allow unauthorized access to your software or other copyrighted work, you may have a right to sue for relief under that Act.

CODEGUARD BASIC

Device Family	CodeGuard™ Security Implementation Type	Maximum Memory Segment Size (Bytes)		
		Boot Segment	Secure Segment	General Segment
All PIC24F devices	Basic	—	—	All on-chip Flash memory

- Only support for *General Segment Code & Write Protect*
- No separate segments for bootloader or keys
- PIC18FX2/XX8 suffered from '*heart of darkness* attack, unclear whether similar attack applies to PIC24F

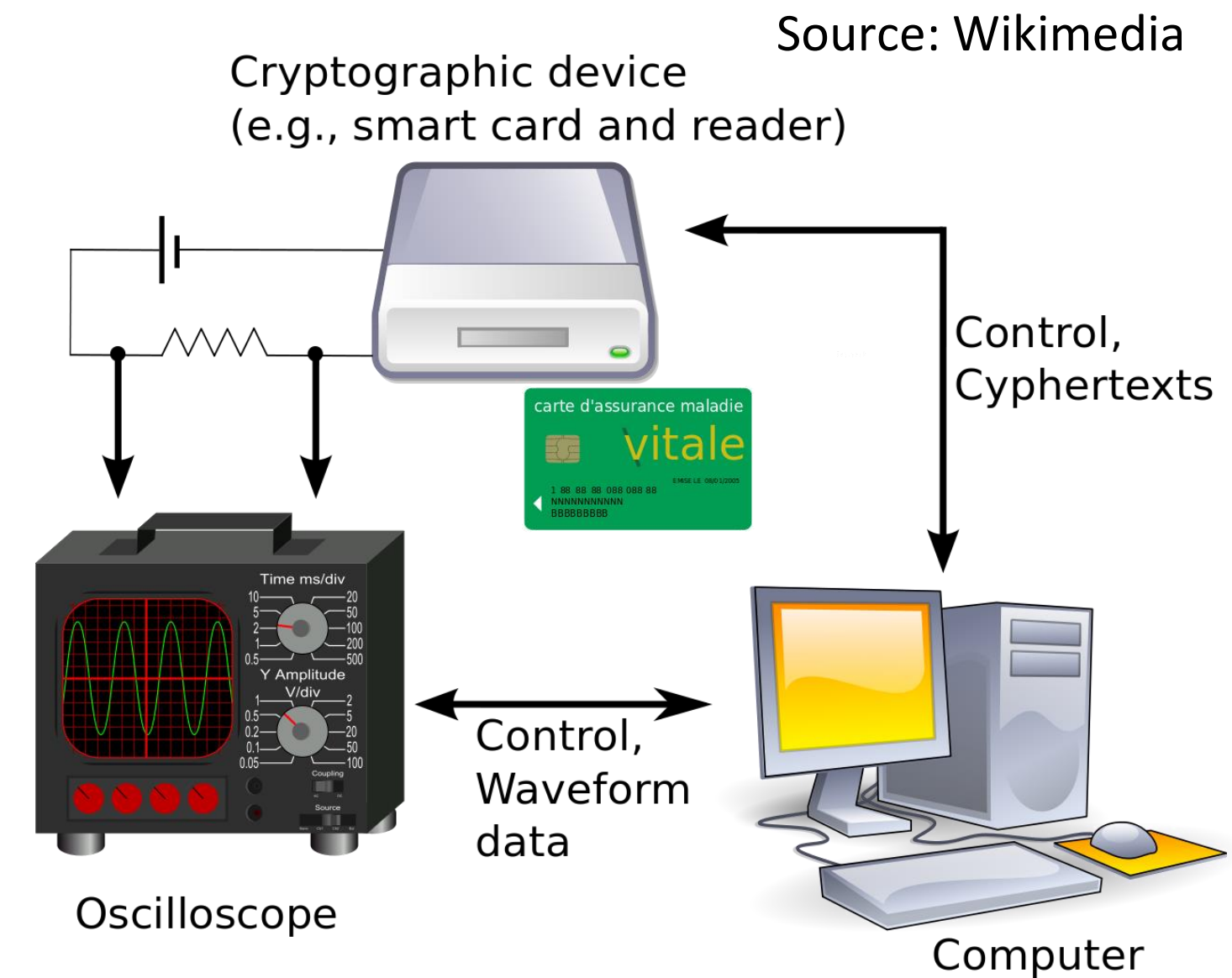
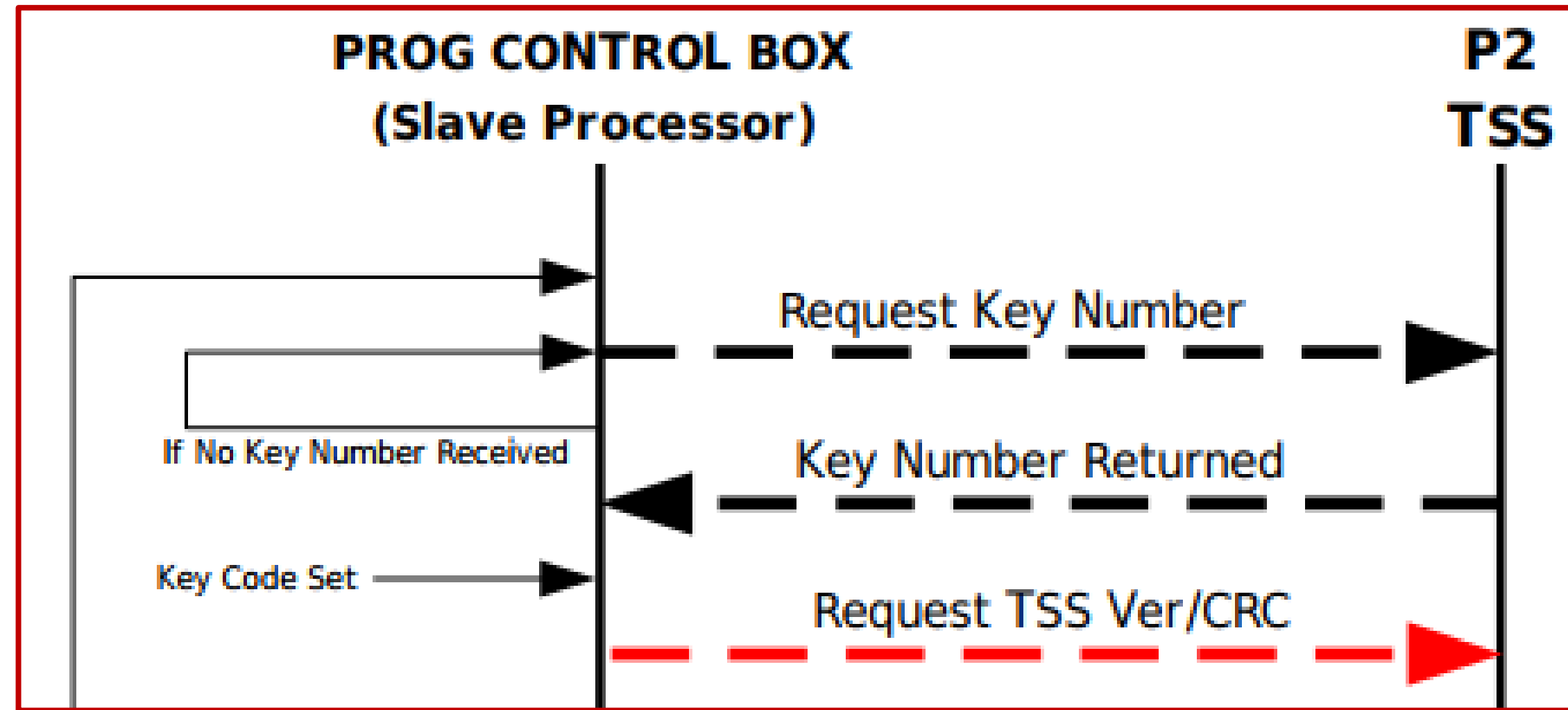


* <https://www.openpcd.org/images/HID-iCLASS-security.pdf>

SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS (SPA/DPA/CPA)



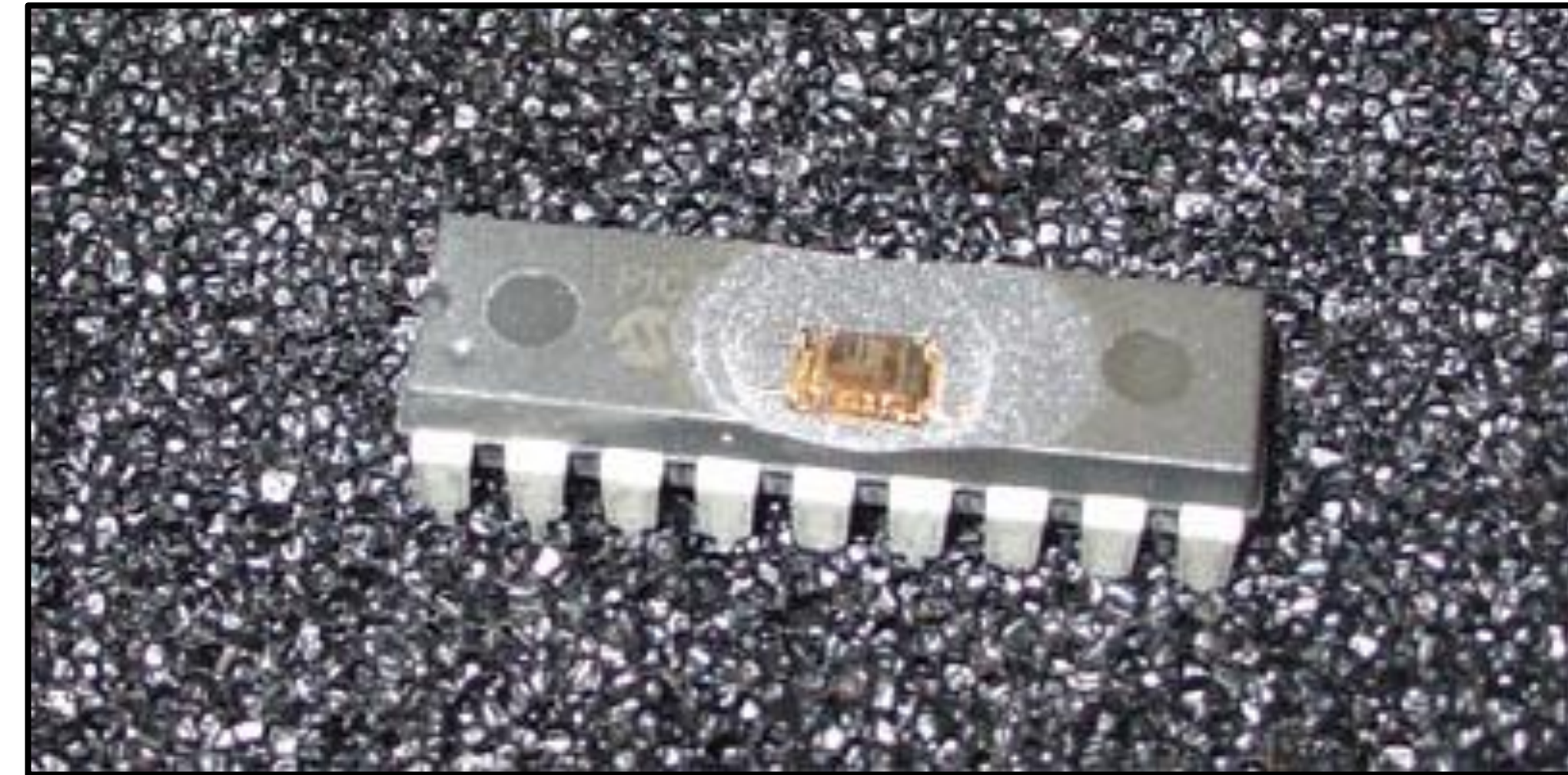
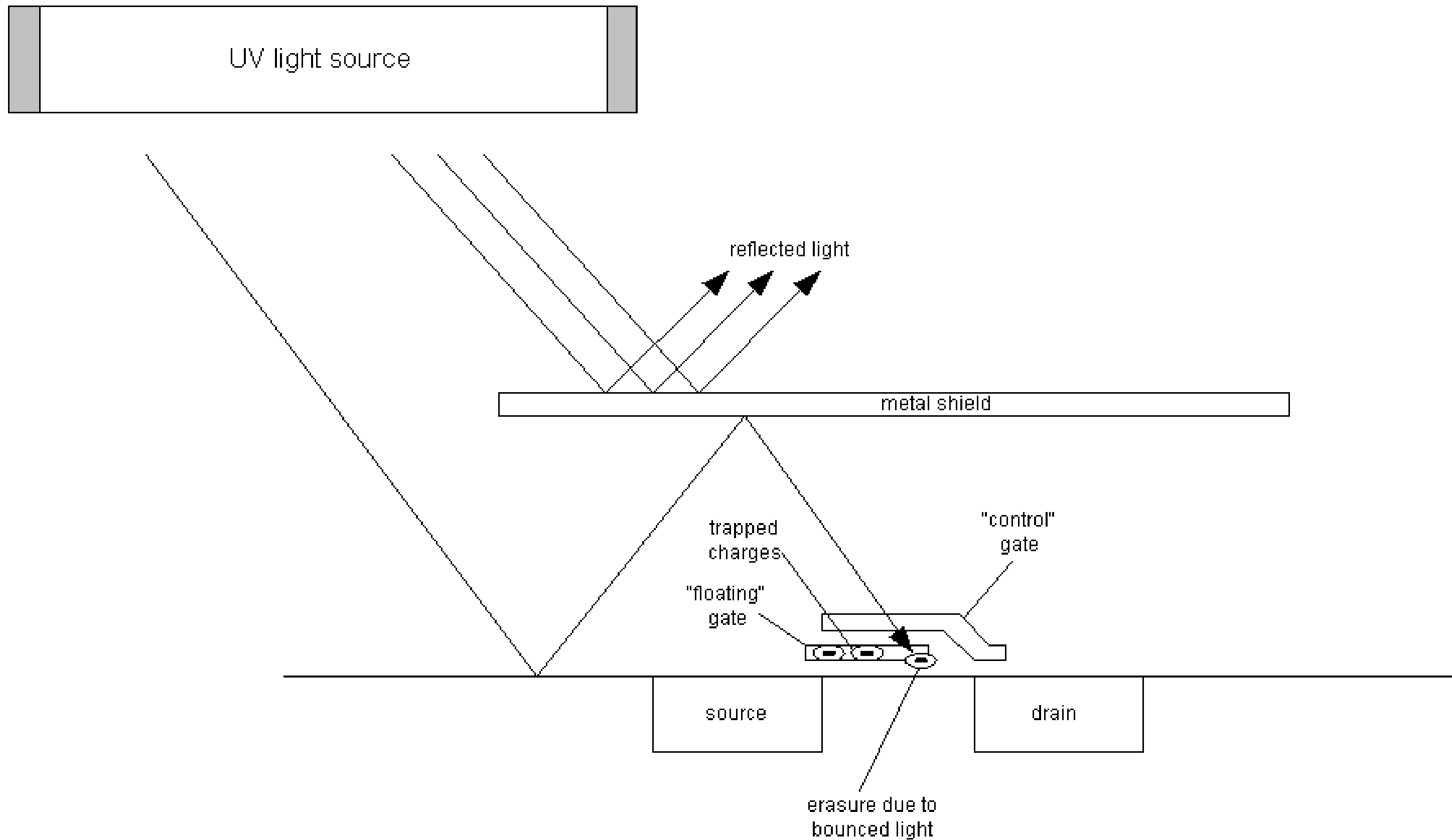
**No hardware crypto,
no SCA counter-
measures**



Probably no SW C-Ms in PROTEGO FW
Might affect power consumption adversely

Target maintenance key, extract & apply
to different MANPADS

INVASIVE ATTACKS



PIC24FJ2 Series Microcontrollers MCU Code Extraction Crack,Break,Unlock

PIC24FJ32GB002

PIC24FJ32GB004

PIC24FJ32MC101

PIC24FJ32MC102

PIC24FJ32MC104

PIC24FJ48GA002

PIC24FJ48GA004

PIC24FJ64GA002

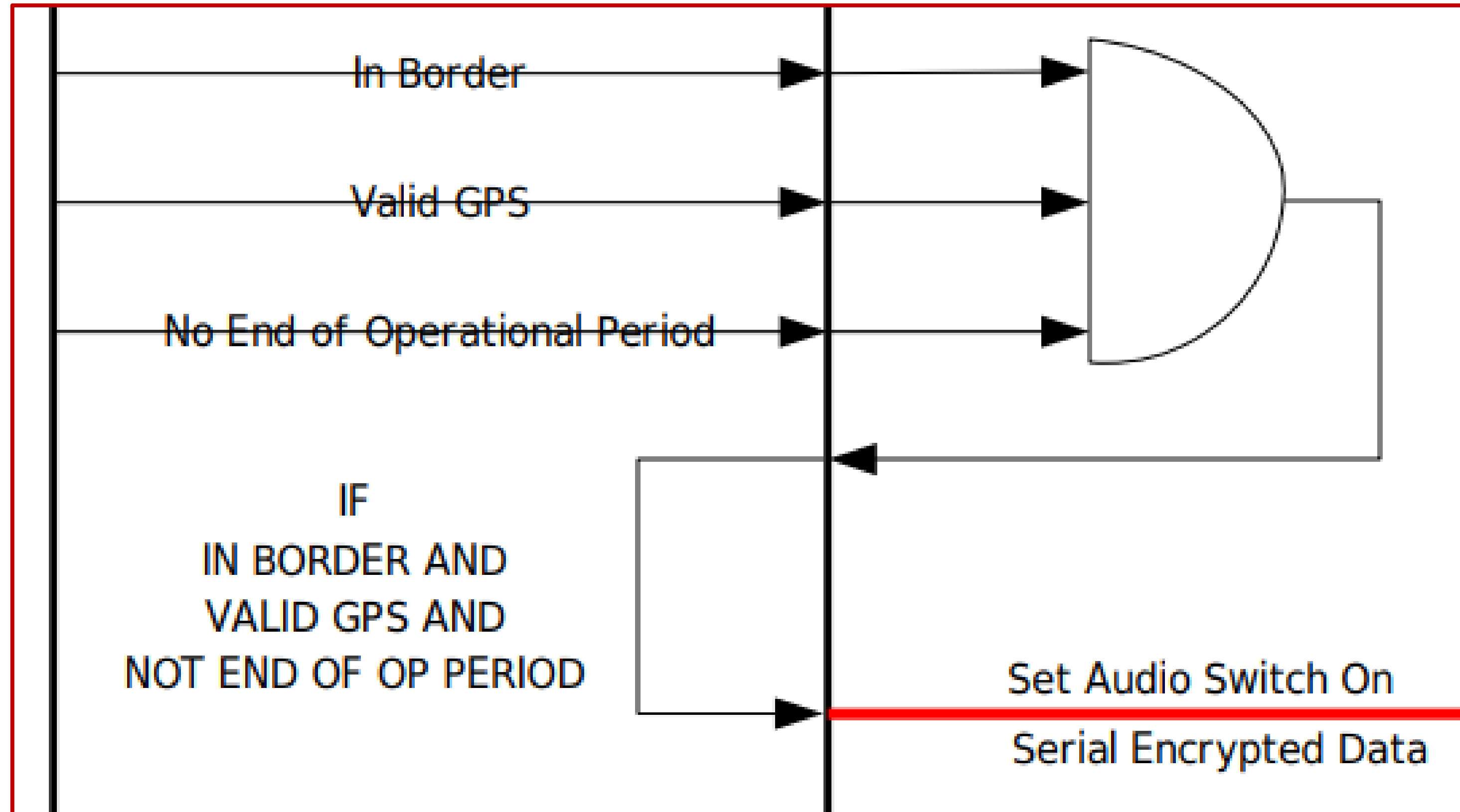
SOFTWARE VULNERABILITIES

ID	Summary
<input type="checkbox"/> 20	<u>During an erase on MP and TSS turn off all unnecessary interrupts</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 40	<u>When UART is connected, the state of MP Master is stale</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 41	<u>MP and TSS were going to sleep when erase condition existed</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 42	<u>Configuring Beacon Only Works Once in Tactical Mode</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 43	<u>HW - SW Add control of AND2 (OB after being in once)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 46	<u>When BCU power is applied and them missing missile is activate, erase does not occur</u>

- Memory corruption or State machine logic bugs
- Exploit a vuln to send a *smart switch close* command or exfiltrate keys
- Issue #1: tiny attack surface exposure over programming interface
- Issue #2: full-blackbox VR & XD is hellish, need firmware extraction

ATTACKING GPS

PROTEGO core security decision based on GPS-derived info (location & time)



GPS 101

- Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)
GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, Beidou
- PROTEGO probably uses plain C/A codes from civilian signal

Band	Freq.	Description
L1	1575.42 MHz	Coarse acquisition (C/A) & encrypted precision (P(Y)) codes Civilian (L1C) & Military (M) codes on future block III satellites
L2	1227.60 MHz	P(Y) code, L2C & military codes on Block IIR-M and newer
L3	1381.05 MHz	Nuclear detonation detection (NUDET)
L4	1379.91 3 MHz	Studied for ionospheric correction
L5	1176.45 MHz	Proposed civilian Safety-of-Life (SoL) signal

GPS JAMMING

- If GPS is unavailable: MANPADS won't fire.
- If GPS is unavailable: Possibly no key erasure
- Naïve approach: overpowering noise on L1 & L2 bands
- Jamming might be detected (signal anomalies)
- And corrected for (multi-src correlation, noise filtering)
- Or trigger key erasure



GPS JAMMING

* Effects of GNSS jammers and potential mitigation approaches - H. Kuusniemi
A look at the threat of systematic jamming of GNSS - J. Curran et al.

- Smarter approach:
combine jammer with GNSS info
- Trigger short & sparse bursts aligned with specific msg portions

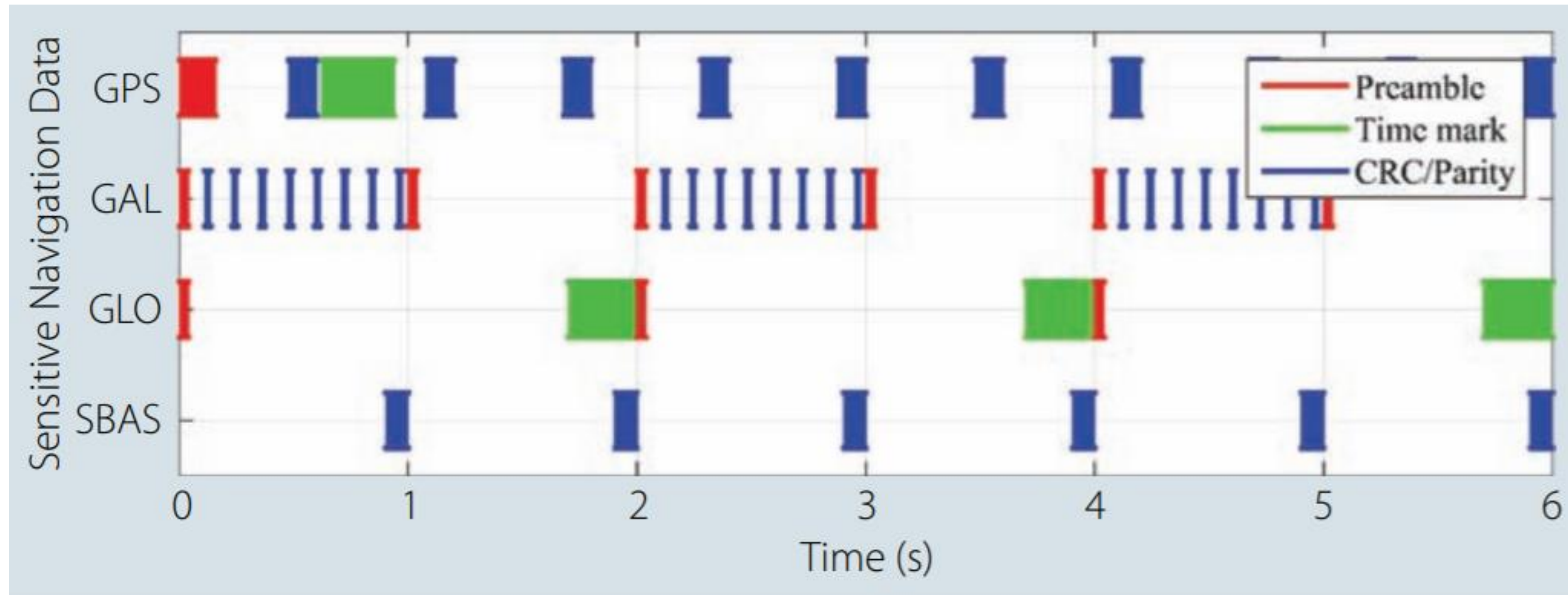


FIGURE 2 Position in time of various portions of sensitive data contained in each of the GPS, Galileo and GLONASS

GPS SPOOFING



- GPS is unauthenticated, weak signal
- Allows for signal replay / forging
- Commercial / SDR solutions have made this pretty accessible
- Collect in-fence signal, move MANPADS in Faraday cage, replay loop



GPS SPOOFING

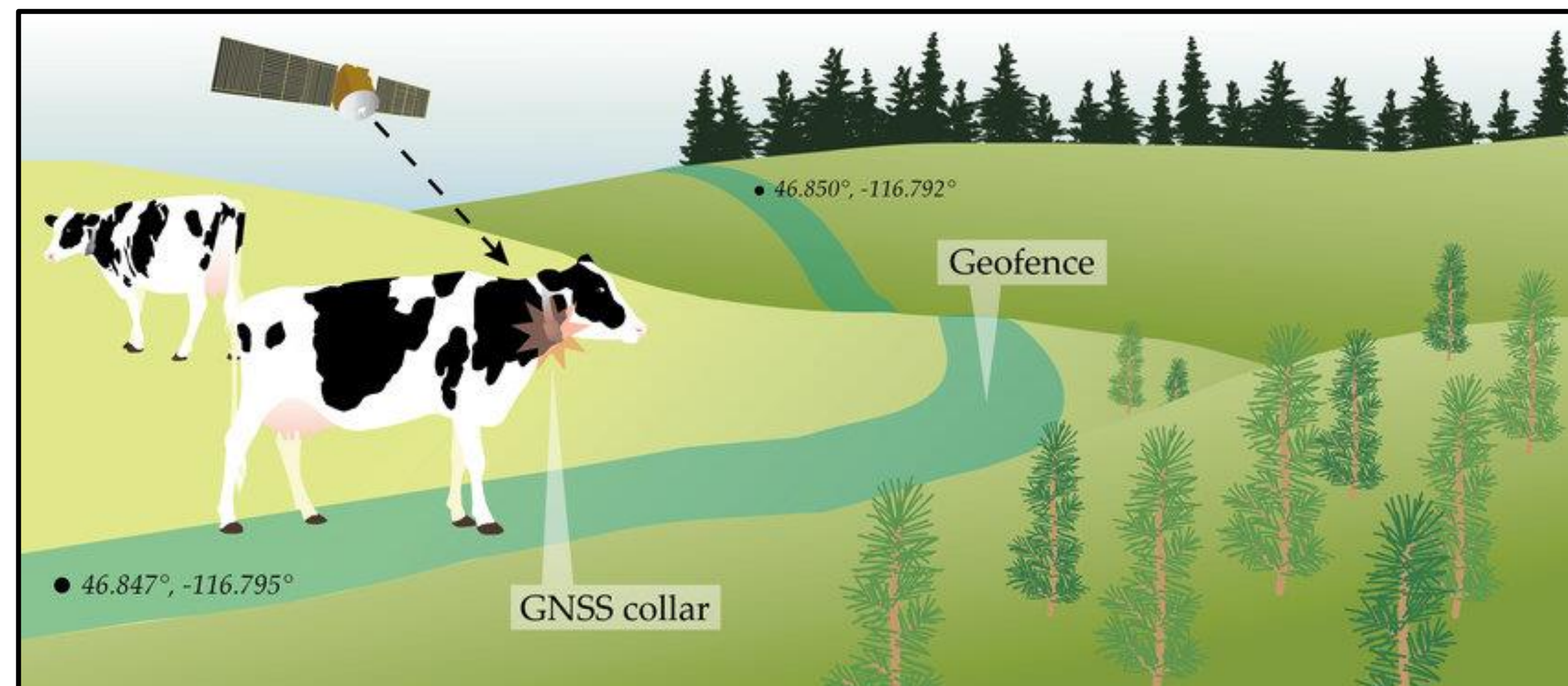
- Counter-Measures:
anomaly detection: signal strength, latency, loss of lock, etc.
multi-source correlation
internal reference clock
etc.
- Issue: active counter-measures drain power, not likely in PROTEGO
- Carry-off attack: carefully align spoofed signal, gradually increase power and take over while avoiding loss of lock or triggering CMs

The background is a dark, atmospheric scene. In the center, there is a glowing cross. To the right, a large, glowing, ethereal figure is visible, possibly a ghost or a spirit. The overall color palette is dark with blue and green tones, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the central elements.

CONCLUSION

SIMILAR SYSTEMS = SIMILAR ATTACKS

- Theft prevention (eg. Armored trucks)
- Ankle monitors
- Smart guns
- UAV area denial
- Autonomous driving
- Employee monitoring
- Livestock management (cyberpunk cattle rustlers?)





IS THIS STUFF ATTACKED IN PRACTICE?

Yes, especially through GPS jamming

Feds arrest rogue trucker after GPS jamming borks New Jersey airport test

Car thieves using GPS 'jammers'

'Jammers' overwhelm anti-theft devices on cars and lorries - and later versions could be used to disrupt air traffic

Organised crime 'routinely jamming GPS'

GPS Under Attack as Crooks, Rogue Workers Wage Electronic War



TLP: GREEN

FBI CYBER DIVISION

Private Industry Notification

DATE: 2 October 2014

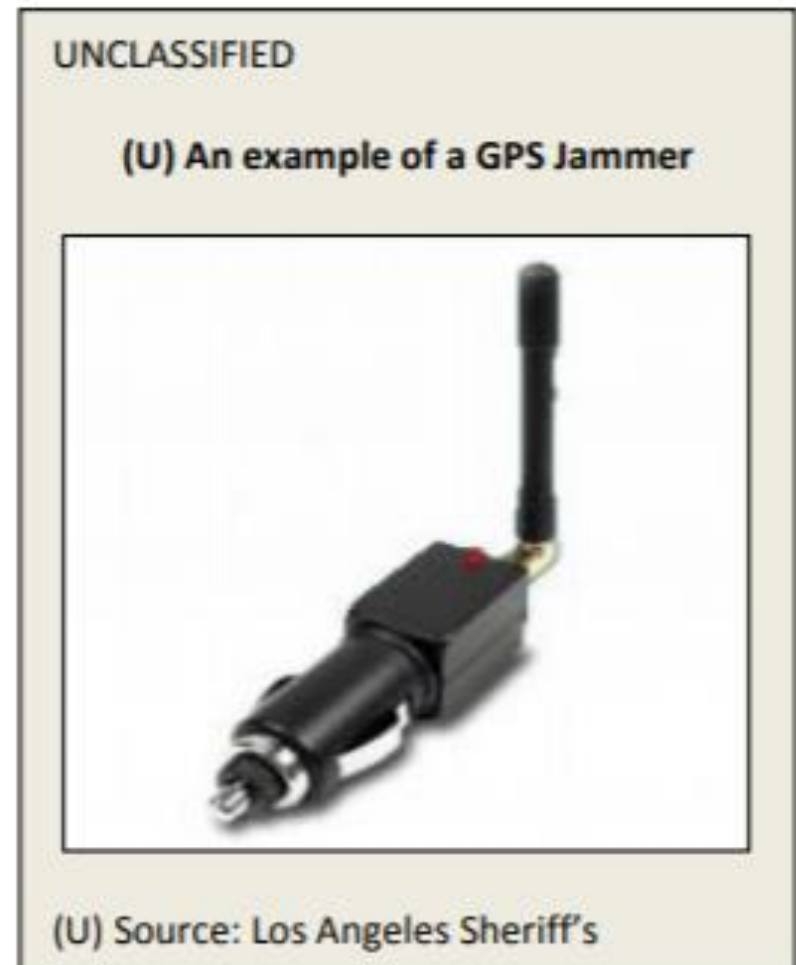
PIN #: 141002-001

(U) Cargo Thieves use GPS Jammers to Mask GPS Trackers

(U) This Private Industry Notification (PIN) highlights the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) jammers by criminals to thwart law enforcement response and investigation into cargo thefts in the United States. Since at least February 2012, various law enforcement and private sector partners have reported that GPS tracking devices have been jammed by criminals engaged in nefarious activity including cargo theft and illicit shipping of goods. Although banned by federal law, the jammers are readily available over the Internet and easy to employ.

(U) GPS Jammers are Small and Unobtrusive

(U) GPS jammers are transmitters that block tracking devices from acquiring GPS broadcast signals by transmitting electromagnetic interference^a (noise) on the same frequency^b. They come in many shapes and sizes, with varying capabilities. Plugged into a standard cigarette lighter jack, a small jammer (pictured right) operating in the vehicle will disrupt GPS logging or GPS tracking systems for a radius of up to five yards. Mid-sized and larger jammers typically block a combination of GPS, cellphone, Wi-Fi, and other signals and thus also prevent the tracker from wirelessly reporting any location or status data. In a test conducted by a federal law enforcement agency, GPS jamming devices were determined to be effective to approximately 65 feet. A large GPS jammer can disrupt any tracking device or receiver within a radius of several hundred yards.



* <https://publicintelligence.net/fbi-cargo-thieves-gps-jammers/>

CONCLUSION

- PROTEGO: Not a GPS-guided aircraft assassination module
- But likely MANPADS geofencing for covert arms supply
- Unclear where, when or if ever fielded. TIMBER SYCAMORE?
- Utilizes COTS technology in similar fashion to commercial systems
A geofence is a geofence
- **Possible Achilles heels:**
 - Unencrypted seeker signals?
 - Lack of secure boot & firmware authentication
 - Global maintenance key
 - Reliance on civilian GPS without clear EW counter-measures



QUESTIONS?

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