



# Vehicle Control Unit (VCU) for the HMMWV



## Report Documentation Page

<b>Report Date</b> 29May2001	<b>Report Type</b> N/A	<b>Dates Covered (from... to)</b> -
<b>Title and Subtitle</b> Vehicle Control Unit (VCU) for the HMMWV	<b>Contract Number</b>	
	<b>Grant Number</b>	
	<b>Program Element Number</b>	
<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Project Number</b>	
	<b>Task Number</b>	
	<b>Work Unit Number</b>	
<b>Performing Organization Name(s) and Address(es)</b> TACOM	<b>Performing Organization Report Number</b>	
<b>Sponsoring/Monitoring Agency Name(s) and Address(es)</b> NDIA (National Defense Industrial Association) 211 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 400 Arlington, VA 22201-3061	<b>Sponsor/Monitor's Acronym(s)</b>	
	<b>Sponsor/Monitor's Report Number(s)</b>	
<b>Distribution/Availability Statement</b> Approved for public release, distribution unlimited		
<b>Supplementary Notes</b> Proceedings from 2001 Vehicle Technologies Symposium - Intelligent Systems for the Objective Force 29-31 May 2001 Sponsored by NDIA		
<b>Abstract</b>		
<b>Subject Terms</b>		
<b>Report Classification</b> unclassified	<b>Classification of this page</b> unclassified	
<b>Classification of Abstract</b> unclassified	<b>Limitation of Abstract</b> UU	
<b>Number of Pages</b> 17		



# Background of HMMWV Starting Problems

- **Protective Control Box (PCB)**
  - **25,000** Units Fail **Every** Year
- **Glow Plug Failures Due to Stacking**
  - Repeatedly Turning Starter Switch Lengthens Pre-Glow Time –  
**This Burns out Glow Plugs**
- **Results:**
  - **Truck Doesn't Start**
  - **1/3 of Fleet Down at any Given Time!!**



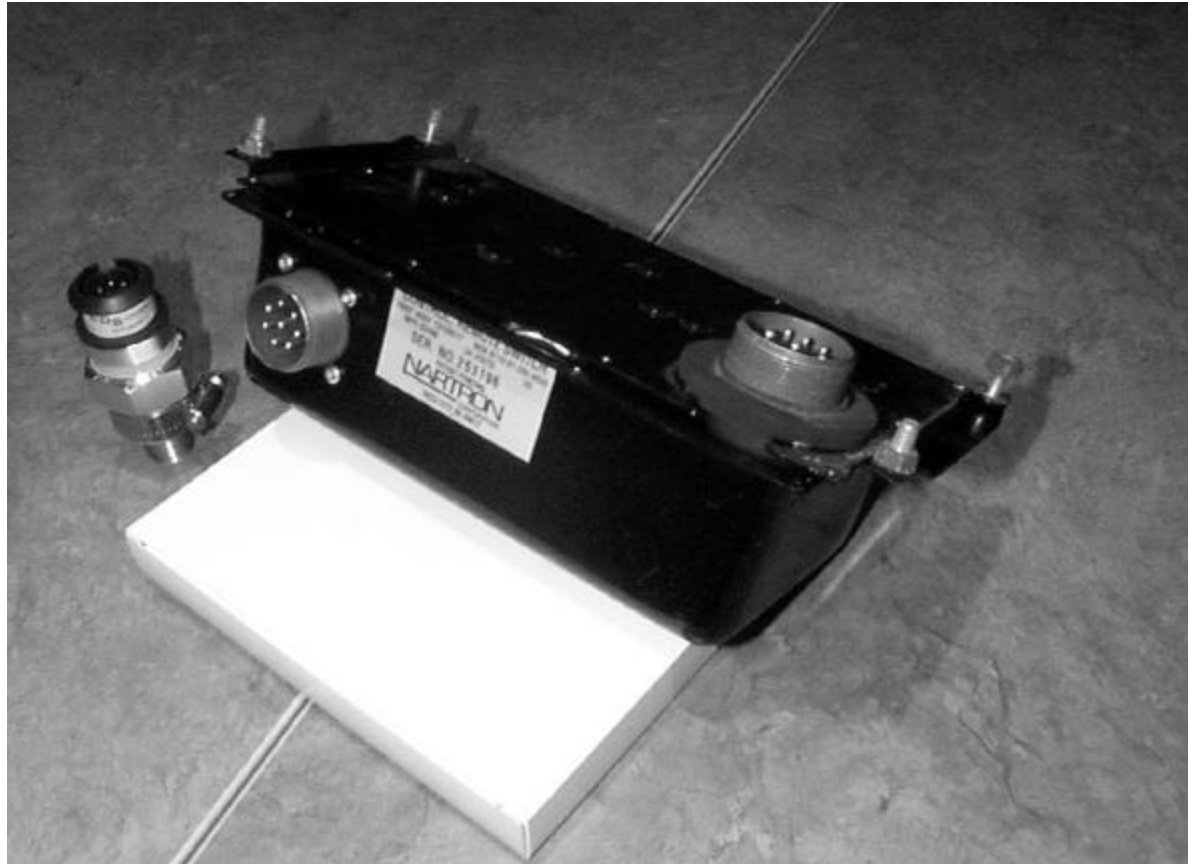
## Protective Control Box (PCB) : The Main Problem

- **Most Failed Item** in the Army's Inventory:
  - **25,000 PCBs Failed** Every Year (\$150/Box)
- **PCB Failures Caused:**
  - **480,000** Glow Plugs to Fail Every Year (\$4.50/Plug)
  - **72,000** Glow Plug Controllers (GPC) to be Replaced Every Year (\$45/Controller)





## Obsolete PCB & GPC





## Failure Causes Identified

- **Some PCB Versions Not Properly Water-Sealed, Nor EMI-RFI Tested**
- **Relays NOT Military Rated – Per Manufacturer**
- **Results:**
  - **Relay Coils Burn out Much too Quickly**
  - **Relay Contacts Weld Shut – Causes Glow Plug Burn-out and Phantom Cranking Leading to Vehicle Fires**



## HMMWV Fire at Ft. Stewart, GA.





## PCB - Interior View



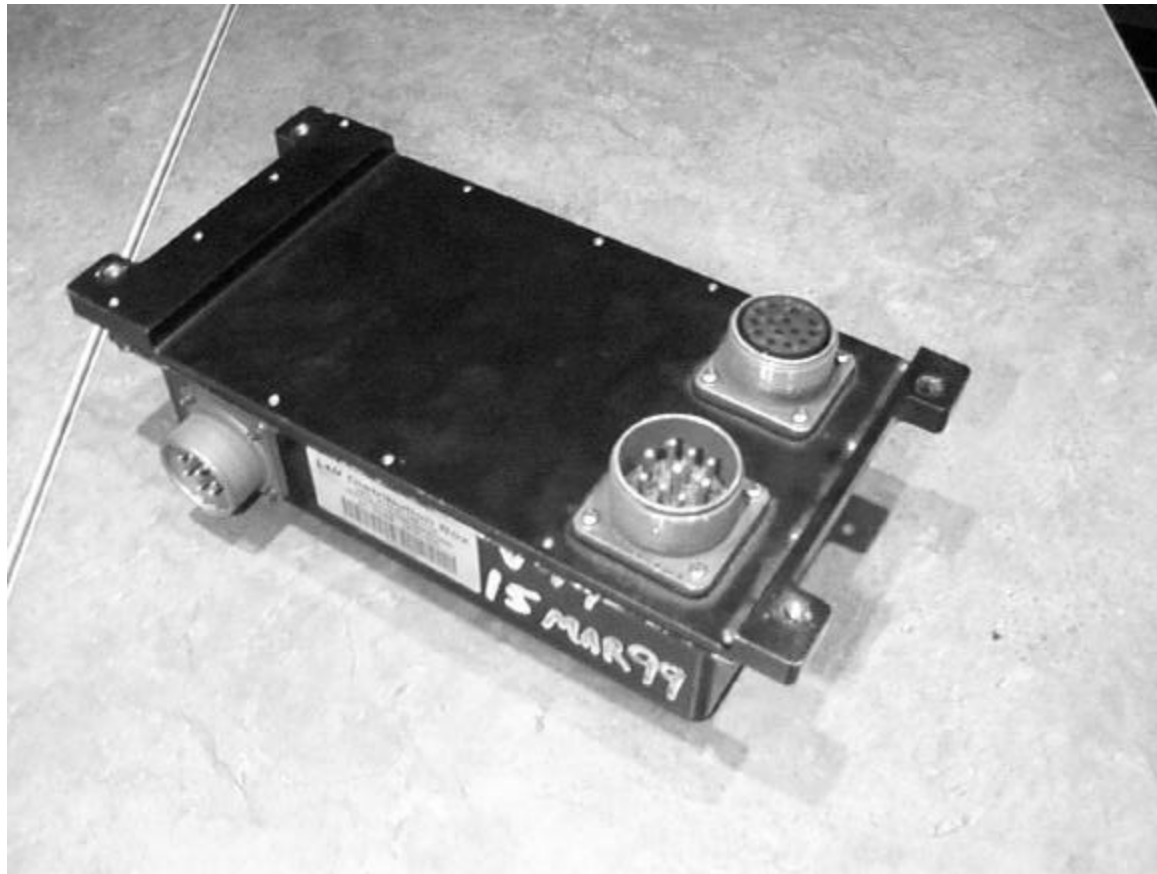


## **Approach Taken to Solve the Problem**

- **Design Team Takes an “Outside the Box” to Approach to Solving the Problem By:**
  - **Leveraging Commercially Available, Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Technology**
  - **Eliminating all Relays to Increase System Reliability**



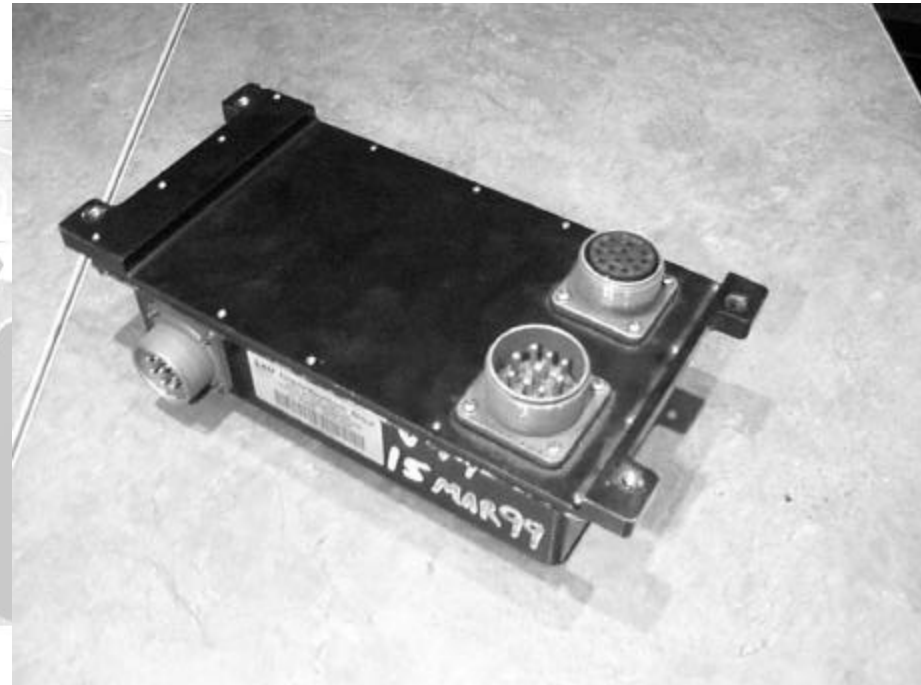
## Enter The VCU





## Vehicle Control Unit (VCU) for the HMMWV

- **VCU Upgrades Improve Fleet Readiness by +25%:**
  - **Increase in Starting System Reliability**
  - **Reduced Maintenance Costs**
  - **Reduced Spare Parts Costs: \$9.54M over 3 Years**





## VCU Innovations

- **GPC and PCB Functions Integrated Into one Box.**
- **True Microprocessor Control of all Functions Enables:**
  - **Precise Control of Power to Glow Plugs**
- **All PCB Relays Eliminated - Replaced by Ultra-High-Current Power MOSFETs.**
- **Multi-Channel Glow Plug Operation Enables:**
  - **Starting with Multiple Glow Plug Failures (Previously Impossible with old PCB System).**
  - **Simplified Glow Plug Troubleshooting/Diagnostics.**



## VCU - Interior View





## VCU Results

- **Successful Completion of 200,000+ Test Starts. (Roughly 4 Starts per Day for 137 Years!!)**
- **Major Increase in System Reliability**
- **Cold-Starting and Stacking Problems Resolved**
- **Fleet Glow Plug Usage Down +25%, First Year**
- **Reduced Maintenance/Spare Parts Costs**
- **HMMWV Fleet Readiness Increased by This Effort.**



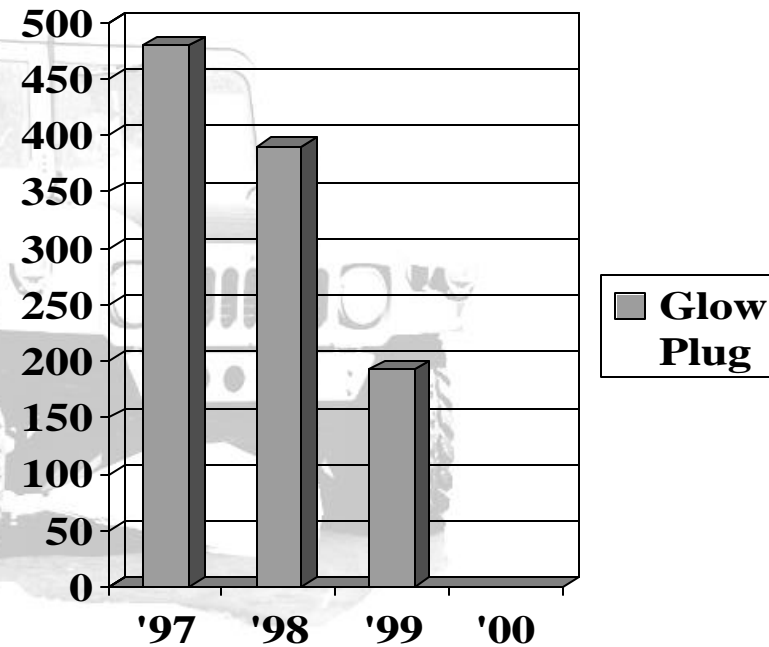
## Ver. 14.0a VCU Improvements

- **Software and Hardware Upgrades From v.10 Unit:**
  - **Improve Performance and Reliability**
  - **Eliminate Self-Starting Problems Encountered in v.10 VCU**
- **Failure Rate (All Versions): 0.02% v. 28% for PCB**



## Glow Plug Usage (Thousands) 1997 – 2000

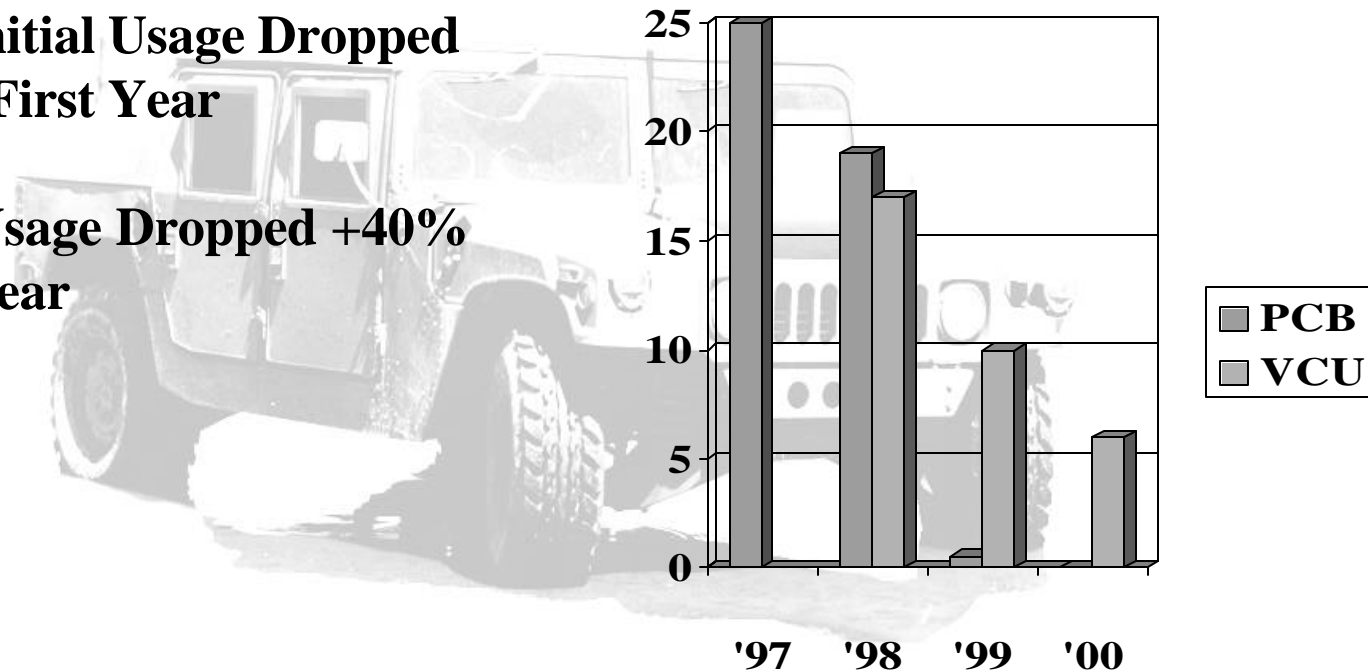
- Usage in VCU-Equipped Vehicles Fell to Virtually Zero in Four Years
- \$9.54 Million Spare Parts Savings over 3 Years
- Additional Savings of 50,000 hrs. Annual Maintenance





## PCB Usage (Thousands) 1997 – 2000

- **PCB Initial Usage Dropped +25% First Year**
- **VCU Usage Dropped +40% First Year**





## Program Results

- **NAC Embraces This as Initial Step Toward the Next-Generation of Vehicle-Electrical Architecture Implementation in HMMWV**
- **Leveraging COTS Technology for Innovative Solutions to Serious Readiness Issues**
- **\$9.54 Million Spare Parts Savings From 1997 to 2000**

