Imagine if...
weapons always
found their targets

Robotics   Hyper connectivity   Artificial intelligence
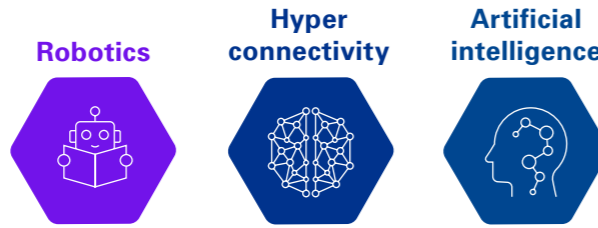
By 2071, weapons have become smart and can find their target anywhere at any time, down to finding a single person in the crowd at speeds faster than the blink of an eye. Weapons range from hypersonic missiles, to swarming drones, to tailored bio-weapons.

Many weapons systems will integrate sophisticated AIs into their operation – whether robotics, avionics or vetronics. The cyber security of military systems has become key to national security, with the military investing increasing funds into engineering cyber security defenses, and to developing offensive cyber and electronic warfare techniques designed to disrupt adversary defense and offensive systems.

Conventional patterns of warfare are changing beyond recognition, as too are the ways that power is projected by nation states and other actors. National advantage attaches to those states (and other non-state groups) who can demonstrate an ability to rapidly develop and acquire new weapon technologies, as well as being prepared to think in unconventional ways about the way those technologies are used.

The "hacking" of military weapon systems leads major incidents, with cyber attacks also risking escalation of conflict situations. The Laws of Armed Conflict (and associated international norms) struggle to keep up with the evolution of weapon systems.