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always seek to better yourself.**



# TAKING **PASSION** TO THE SKIES

/DEFENCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (DSTA)/

Witnessing the transformative effect of cutting-edge technologies delivered by the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) during his time in National Service left an indelible mark on Ngoh Chun Rong.

“Back then, as the platoon commander of an air defence unit, I experienced first-hand how engineering and technological enhancements strengthened the Republic of Singapore Air Force’s (RSAF) weapon systems. I was impressed by DSTA’s ability to harness deep technical knowledge and advanced technologies to protect our nation,” he recounts.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) degree in Aerospace Engineering from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 2010, Chun Rong was keen to put his engineering skills to use as a defence engineer at DSTA. He applied for the position in DSTA and joined the organisation just two months after obtaining his degree.

Today, as a Project Lead in DSTA’s Air Systems Programme Centre, Chun Rong is involved in the acquisition and integration of air systems to bolster Singapore’s defence.

One of his most exciting projects was on the S-70B naval helicopters that enhance the Singapore Armed Forces’ anti-surface and anti-submarine warfighting capabilities.

“It was a most fulfilling learning experience working with the Navy and Air Force to integrate advanced systems on the helicopter — ranging from weapons, sensors, communications and underwater detection capabilities,” he shares.

Chun Rong and his team also spearheaded the mid-life upgrade of the CH-47SD Chinook. They headed its modification design and software development to replace the avionics and install new mission systems, thereby boosting the RSAF’s search and rescue capability.

The 29-year-old is never one to shy away from a challenge. “What I like most about DSTA is that people are driven, eager to come up with innovative solutions and get things moving. In my job, I strive to come up with new and better ways to do my work,” he says.

As the work of a defence engineer at DSTA is multidisciplinary and taps a diverse range of engineering skills, Chun Rong is glad that his studies at NTU have given him a strong technical foundation. He adds that good critical thinking and fluent writing abilities are essential to piece together disparate concepts and provide cogent recommendations within a short time.

He shares that it is most gratifying to be able to develop himself beyond his potential and become more proficient at his job.

“Never stop learning, and always seek to better yourself.” That is Chun Rong’s work philosophy and one that has spurred him to apply for the DSTA Postgraduate Scholarship to pursue further studies in his area of expertise.

Chun Rong looks forward to learning more and contributing fresh ideas and perspectives to DSTA. “I am grateful for this opportunity and it moves me that DSTA values my work and believes in me. I hope to obtain intimate knowledge of engineering practices to aid me in my future projects,” he adds.

Chun Rong says: “The role of a project engineer is diverse and challenging. At one moment, you could be assessing technical specifications of complex systems, and in the next you could be working with defence contractors to develop innovative capabilities and solutions for Singapore.”