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Silver Lining: Chow Wah Keh

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"The Public Service is about contributing and making a difference to our society. You have to be passionate and find greater meaning in the things that you do", says Wah Keh. "What better ways to give back to society than to contribute to our nation's defence as a defence engineer?"

A Programme Manager at the Air Systems Programme Centre of the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), Wah Keh, 59, manages air-launched weapon projects for the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Having been in the Service for more than three decades, Wah Keh had a hand in delivering many different systems and capabilities, including the BARAK anti-missile missile system for the Republic of Singapore Navy and the SPIKE anti-tank weapon system for the Army.



Today, Wah Keh is also a Course Manager at DSTA Academy, which develops training programmes to equip DSTA engineers with defence engineering competencies and leadership skills. In this capacity, he is committed to sharing his skills and knowledge with younger defence engineers.

Years of Service

Determined to give back to the society, Wah Keh recalls how the late Dr Tay Eng Soon had inspired him to serve as a defence engineer. "I wanted to practise the engineering knowledge that I had picked up in university," says Wah Keh.

He began serving in the Public Service in May 1980 as a Research and Development Engineer with the Defence Science Organisation (now known as DSO National Laboratories).



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The teams were often closely-knit, and Wah Keh enjoyed the supportive work environment. He then moved to the Defence Materiel Organisation in 1990 as Head of the Guided Weapons department.



Two proudest achievements

Asked about the milestone moments in his career, Wah Keh cites the importance of collaboration in order to make breakthroughs: "The two proudest achievements in my career were winning the Defence Technology Prize (DTP) Team Awards – twice!"

In 1990 and 2007, Wah Keh won the DTP Team Award – first as a team member, then a team leader. For Wah Keh, receiving the award – the most prestigious accolade given by the Ministry of Defence in the areas of defence science and technology – was an affirmation of his contributions to Singapore.



Being part of the team that builds cutting-edge defence capabilities for the nation is a role that Wah Keh is committed to. According to him, he feels a sense of achievement from being able to leverage on science and technology to move the country forward.

"I feel proud to be able to contribute by mitigating our country's vulnerabilities. This has kept me going for the past 34 years."

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