



Some may define a successful career as making a name for oneself. But for Franklin Chua, a meaningful career must have a positive impact on the lives of others. Driven by that ideal, Franklin chose a career in the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA).

As a defence engineer in DSTA Land Systems Programme Centre, he plays an active role to acquire, develop and integrate advanced capabilities that enhance the operational effectiveness of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF).

Franklin is part of the DSTA team that led the development of the Trailblazer Countermine Vehicle. The vehicle is not only believed to be the most compact and fully tracked armoured countermine vehicle of its class in the world, but also possesses an innovative lane marking system which dispenses javelin-like rods to indicate safe paths, thus blazing a trail for soldiers following in its wake.

"My work has trained me to be adaptable, innovative and always have a positive attitude when faced with challenges," he shares. During Exercise Bold Kurukshetra in India in 2010,

Franklin and his team were on site to provide technical support for the SAF as the Trailblazer was put through the paces in the harsh terrain of Central India. Dusty conditions meant SAF troops experienced difficulties seeing the Trailblazer's marker rods. In response, Franklin and his team coated the rods with luminous orange paint to improve their visibility. "While this was an improvised solution, it has now become standard practice in the SAF to use painted rods on all Trailblazers," he says.

For Franklin, defence engineering is not just about delivering a capability to the SAF – it is about constantly striving to make a positive impact and achieve mission success. "I witnessed how our technical solutions have eased and enhanced the way SAF soldiers operate. This has instilled a greater sense of purpose in me," he says.

His advice to graduates keen on becoming a part of DSTA: "Working in DSTA is a dynamic and rewarding experience that pushes one beyond the comfort zone to learn and respond to challenges positively."