



Benjamin Wong
Member of Technical Staff
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Invisible Danger

For those who remembered the Sarin nerve gas attack at Tokyo's Subway in 1995, one will appreciate Benjamin Wong's research work in DSO. Working on predictive modelling of chemical dispersion in urban settings, he ensures that Singapore is well prepared for such similar dangers. We find out the role Benjamin plays in national security, and why technology makes him tick.

Can it be said that your profession is quite unique?

Certainly. DSO has provided me with an opportunity to work in a very niche area. I don't think I can find this job anywhere else in Singapore.

What else do you appreciate about your job?

DSO is at the forefront of science and technology. This is exciting and very meaningful to me. Technology impacts our society at many levels. In my job, my team and I harness technology to save lives. Knowing that our work contributes to national security has special meaning to me because without national security, all other national considerations are secondary.

Every job has its challenges. What are yours and how do you manage them?

In our line of work, there is never a one-size-fits-all solutions, nor a template that we can apply to all problems. We need to creatively use the foundations of science and maths to deliver innovative solutions. However, it's a fine line venturing into the unknown and knowing when to turn back. Sometimes, huge successes are only achieved when we are prepared to take a step back and admit failure.

Are you used to failure?

One can never be! It is more so the process of admitting to it and discovering how invaluable they are in widening my work perspective.

What do you love most about your job?

Definitely the freedom to explore and learn from the constant challenges.

We hear you that you have a huge interest in sports?

Oh yes, I am a member of both DSO's dragon boat team and its running club. Jogging clears my mind and has proven effective in helping me solve work challenges. Since I joined DSO 2 years ago, I have taken part in several corporate sports challenges, including 6 marathon events ranging from 10km to 41.5km.

