Mr Chee wants to return to full-time studies at UniSIM, where he intends to get a degree in mathematics.

For now, he remains focused on getting better. 

He added wistfully: “I cried, I real- ly cried.”

Determined to look ahead, Mr Chee was drugged and drowsy but tried to raise a hand to his forehead in a futile bid to help him. 

When his superiors visited him at the hospital, he tried to raise a hand to his forehead in a futile bid to help him. 

He said he is coming to terms with the disability. “Only my health, I’m worry about that. I can still move my right arm. I still have hope.”

The self-described “never-say-die” man believes that progress can be fitted in the future.

The weapons systems supervisor described how, in the first weeks of recovery, he had to endure several procedures. These included four operations which left him a “wattle” due to the pain. 

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He added: “They called me a he-dron, a good fighting spirit.”

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The memory of his late mother is also a source of strength. “Before she passed away, she told me not to give up on anything.”

Not dwelling on accident

“I’m happy. Because the worst pain is over.”

Mr Chee on his current situation

Touching by support

“The first thing that came to mind was, ‘wow, the whole Singapore is supporting me. I was so touched. I cried, I really cried.'”

Mr Chee on the outpouring of support

From Choon Hua

When his superiors visited him at the hospital bed, navy man Jason Chee was dragged and drowsy but he tried to raise a hand to his forehead in a futile bid to help him.

Today, he can sit in a wheelchair. A piece of cloth is wrapped around his remaining hand, covering the stump which he lost in the stump.

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An only child whose mother died two years ago, Mr Chee said he is quite close to his retiree father, Mr Choo Chee Choo, 72.

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When the soldiers were nothing to do, his father would cook dinner for him every weekday. Today, he would cook for his father on the weekends, and that would make him whole again.

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Today, he is lucid and has to take sleeping pills and vitamins.

Painkillers and other drugs also kept him in a drowsy state. “I kept sleeping, kept having dreams.”

“Just lost, lost lah. Because the worst pain is over.”

The accident already happened. So no choice; life has to go on,” he said, with barely a trace of emotion.

Mr Chee, who holds the Military Expert 2 rank in the Republic of Singapore Navy, has said that he would continue to work with Vietnam, which he described as “a new phase.”

He has come a long way, he said, from the first days of being hurt, to being taken to the hospital’s general ward following surgery, where he now stays.

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Mr Chee on his current situation

Focusing on getting better

“I can still move my right arm. I still have these fingers on my hand... My goal this year? I want to stand up and walk.”

Mr Chee on moving forward

A nation moved to help

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Mr Chee was hurt, he had to have blood with-...