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Patronage Assignment of Vietnamese Communist Party
Politburo and Central Committee Member Relatives to the
Air Force (DOI: 1970-November 1979).

1. As of November 1979 the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Air Force (SRVAF) was considered to be the elite corps of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). This has led several Vietnamese Communist Party (VNCP) Politburo and Central Committee members to exert their influence within the party to have their sons and sons-in-law assigned to the SRVAF. The practice of nepotism was common among the VNCP and government leadership. Others seeking rapid advancement in the PAVN and SRVAF sought marriages of convenience to enhance their military careers. SRVAF officers were aware of three examples of this practice.

2. VNCP Politburo member and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Duy Trinh used his influence to have his son assigned and trained as a pilot. Trinh's son (name unknown) was a MIG-21 pilot trained in the USSR; following an aircraft accident in the early 1970's, he was reassigned to a non-flying staff position in the Air Force Headquarters.

3. VNCP Politburo member and Minister of National Defense Van Tien Dung has a son-in-law (name unknown) who married Dung's attractive daughter as a matter of convenience to enhance his military career. The son-in-law was a MIG-21 and F-5 pilot with the 935th Air Regiment of the 372nd Air Division at the Bien Hoa Air Base; as of November 1979 he was attending a Soviet staff officer course in the USSR, for which he was selected through his father-in-law's influence.

4. VNCP Central Committee member Hoang Quoc Viet's son (name unknown) is an Air Vietnam YAK-40 pilot with the Ministry of National Defense's General Directorate for Civil Aviation. Through his father's influence, he attended (dates unknown) a Soviet staff officers' college in the USSR, where he had a love affair with a Soviet girl which caused embarrassment to the Viet family.