

DRV FILE / ~~BLOG~~ SUBJ.  
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SONG HAO

Song HAO is the third most important military officer in North Viet-Nam. He has been a member of the Central Committee since 1960, and the chief of the General Political Directorate of the VPA and a Lieut. General as well as a Vice Minister of Defense since early 1961. Prior to that time he was Vice Chairman of the GPD.

It appears that Song Hao although Nguyen Chi Thanh's second man in the GPD during the Vo Nguyen Giap-Thanh controversy became Giap's man and has profitted from his choice. Sometime during the 1960s he also became a member of the National Defense Council, and along with Van Tien Dung, deputy secretary of the Central Party Military Committee.

Once a prolific speaker and writer, not much has been heard from Hao of late. His articles proclaimed a concept of military organization and training, and subordination to the Party, that sounded more like Thanh's theory than Giap's practice, but there is no record of his having retarded Giap's real although unacknowledged drive to make the army less dependent upon the Party in its internal life, while not contesting the Party's ultimate primacy in all institutions in the DRV.

Prior to 1960 Hao may have had a distinguished military or military-political career. But nothing is known of it or of his date and place of birth. So far as the record known outside of North Viet-Nam goes he is a successful careerist, and despite his imposing collection of titles, little more than that. Several of his deputies like Maj. Gens. Le Hien Mai and Le Quang Dao are also key Party men in the army, and better known publicly than Hao has been in recent years.