

NAME: SONG HAO

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

CURRENT POSITIONS AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT:

Lieutenant General, PAVN, 1961
Chairman, General Political Directorate, PAVN,
Mar 61
Member, LDP Central Committee, Sep 60
Deputy Secretary, Central Military Party Committee
Vice Minister of National Defense

PREVIOUS POSTS:

1957	Appointed Deputy Chmn., General Political Directorate
Sep 59	Promoted to Major General
Feb 61	Appointed mbr., Cmte for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries
Mar 61	Appointed Vice Min. of Defense
Feb 71	Mbr., Electoral Board for Fourth NA
-Mar 71-	Mbr., Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Cmte.
Apr 71	Elected deputy to Fourth NA from Thai Binh Prov.

TRAVEL:

MAJOR SPEECHES AND PUBLICATIONS:

Dec 64	"Party Leadership Over People's Army," <i>Hoc Tap</i> , #12.
Dec 66	"Promote Determination-to-Win Traditions," <i>Hoc Tap</i> , #12.
Apr-May 67	"People's War and People's National Defense," <i>Tuyen Huan</i> , #4-5.
21 Sep 67	"Strong Regiments are Needed to Defeat U.S.," <i>Nhan Dan</i> .
19 Dec 67	"Develop the Army to Defeat U.S.," <i>Nhan Dan</i> .
2,3 Oct 68	"Tasks of Army Youths," <i>Nhan Dan</i> .
24-26 Dec 69	"Party Leadership is the Cause of the Growth and Victories of Our Army," <i>Nhan Dan</i> .
18 Jan 72	"Constantly Heighten the Army's Combat Strength," speech in <i>Quan Doi Nhan Dan</i> .

SONG HAO (cont.)

Other articles written by Hao appear in issues of
Quan Doi Nhan Dan, *Hoc Tap* and *Nhan Dan*.

(SEE ATTACHED BIOGRAPHY FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

July 1972

NORTH VIETNAM

Song HAO

*Chairman, General Political Department,
People's Army
Deputy Minister of Defence
Member of Lao Dong Party Central Committee*

Lieut.-Gen. Hao is the Chief Political Commissar of the North Vietnamese Army. His career has been distinguished by a spectacular rise to the pinnacle of politico-military influence. Both his origin and professional background are unknown, except that in June, 1954, he was a member of a delegation to the French High Command. He is the epitome of the party ideologist and has been carefully groomed for his responsibilities.

As Chairman of the General Political Department (GPD) in the High Command of the Army, he heads an institution of enormous power. Primarily, its rôle is to ensure the political reliability of officers and men alike and stimulate fanatical devotion to the State and party. The GPD is responsible for indoctrination and purges in the army in the guise of "self-improvement" and "rectification" campaigns. Through its political officers it also engages in propaganda and supervises morale and discipline.

Political officers (commissars) are attached to GHQ and all subsidiary commands, training centres, combat units, and operational areas. They must be in a position to gauge the standard of proficiency of military personnel; they are responsible as much for political tuition as for military training. Moreover, they keep in close touch with the Secretary of the Communist Party branch within their formation or unit, supporting him in all his activities. The GPD operates on the principle that "the direction of the army must be carried out in strict conformity with the directives of the Lao Dong Party Central Committee".

Song Hao attracted attention by his speeches on the political re-education (rectification) movement within the army some years ago. In 1959, he was promoted Major-General and appointed Deputy Chairman of the General Political Department. In 1960, he was elected to the Lao Dong Party Central Committee. In 1961, he became Chairman of the GPD and Deputy Minister of National Defence. By this time he had been promoted Lieutenant-General. He was re-appointed a member of the National Defence Council in 1964.

While primarily an army man, Song Hao has also on occasions made his presence felt on the general social scene. In November, 1968, he delivered an important speech to a congress of "Determined-to-win" Youths, in which he berated some youths for their lack of revolutionary zeal, and their fondness for "bourgeois" culture and dress. He accompanied President Ho on several occasions in late 1968 and early 1969.

Oct 1969

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