

Vietnam Assigns 12 Aircrafts In Hunt For Lost Plane
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HO CHI MINH City, March 12 (Bernama) -- Vietnam has so far dispatched 12 aircraft, the biggest deployment among the countries involved in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane, Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported, quoting Deputy Commander of the Air Defence and Air Force, Major Gen Do Minh Tuan as saying.

As of 4 pm on Tuesday, Air Force Brigade 918 conducted seven search flights from the Tan Son Nhat airport here.

Head of the Air Force Brigade 918, Colonel Le Kim Toan told VNA at the airport that two CASA 212 planes had been flying as far as 400km from the shore for five and a half hours.

As requested, the planes flew as low as 150 metres above the water, at speeds ranging from 250km to 280km per hour. However, the search failed to produce any special information.

The Colonel noted that the CASA 212 is equipped with the modern MSS 6000 radar designed for maritime patrolling and discovery of oil leak and strange objects.

On Tuesday morning, Brigade 918 also sent several AN26 planes out to sea but they all returned without any new discovery.

Accompanying the pilots and rescue staff on the flights were over 60 reporters from Japan, Malaysia, China, Singapore, among others.

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