MEMORANDUM FOR: MAJGEN Charles J. Timmes  
Chief  
Military Assistance Advisory Group  
Vietnam

SUBJECT: Talking paper: Navy topics for GEN WHEELER briefing by CHMAAG

Information is presented in the form of a talking outline:

**NAVY MATTERS**

A. There is no U.S. Navy operational command in Vietnam as for Army and Air Force.

1. **NAVSEC MAAG** therefore has 2 hats:
   a. Under COMUSMACV, operations and intelligence
   b. Under MAAG: Training and equipping VN Navy and Marine Corps.
   c. Navy Section includes the Marine Corps Advisory detachment.

B. **Advisory Emphasis**.

1. Total 162 advisors (of which 19 are Marines)

2. Advisory emphasis is indicated by density:

   Operating forces - 50
   (Advisors are located at each command headquarters including River Groups, Coastal Districts, and each division of ships)
   Shipyard - 18
   Naval Schools - 17
   Supply Center - 17
   Intelligence advisors - 8
3. Navy advisors are spread thin, with only 1 junior officer and 1 NOO in each outlying area.

4. Navy Section is at only 85% strength and particularly short of allowed field grade officers.

C. Areas of particular significance in Navy Advisory effort.

1. Major units:
   - 28 ships
   - 217 boats
   - 407 junks
   - 4 Marine Infantry Bns
   - 1 Artillery Bn
   - 1 Amphibious Support Bn

   - of which have been added in past year:
   - 11 ships and major craft,
   - 16 boats
   - 327 junks
   - 1 Infantry Bn
   - 1 Artillery Bn
   - 1 Amphibious Support Bn

2. Training
   a. Officer output increased from 45 per 2 year class to 100 each 18 months. Each graduate gets 2 months OJT on board U.S. SEVENTH FLEET ships.
   b. All technical schools were overhauled and 1400 enlisted graduated.
   c. 660 recruits trained.
   d. First electronic technicians produced from in-country schools.
   e. 1300 currently in technical schools.
   f. Anti-submarine, gunnery, and minesweeping exercises were conducted with U.S. ships.

3. Naval Intelligence
   a. Nothing existed one year ago.
   b. Intelligence organization, in-country training, and reporting system established.
   c. Effective reporting and evaluation is now in effect.
4. Marine Corps:
   a. Formed the 4th Infantry Bn and the Amphibious Support Bn.
   b. Completed the qualification of the Artillery Bn (only one battery, unqualified, existed last year.)
   c. Current emphasis is on Small Unit leadership.

5. Civic Action

   20 tons of clothing just received from U.S. Pacific Fleet, for distribution to VN Junk Force and to civilians in Camau assault area.

   VN Navy ships are providing first aid services in remote areas they visit.

D. Requirements

   1. Greatest unsatisfied needs are:
      a. Expeditious arrival of 17 persons to fill billets approved in September.
      b. 8 of 25 field grade billets are filled by junior officers, 6 are vacant.
      c. Each person must be top-notch because of:
         1. Complexities of the advisory duty.
         2. Nearly all are on independent duty, or independent in their field.

   Very respectfully,

   J. B. DRACHNIK
   Captain, U.S. Navy
   Chief Navy Section