



**Captain Pete Drahn in 1968.
Note the bullet hole in the wing
strut of his O-1.**

BG(R) Peter L. Drahn, USAFR, was the only Red Marker to reach flag rank. As a Captain, he served with the Vietnamese Airborne as Red Marker 06 from November 1967 to November 1968. His tour saw multiple deployments to every Tactical Combat Zone in the country as the Airborne engaged enemy forces. He flew 323 combat missions including numerous sorties in I Corps and II Corps during the enemy's TET Offensive. He also flew missions supporting sweeps around the

capitol and in the Rung Sat Special Zone.

Pete graduated from West Point in 1964 and earned an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He left active duty following his Vietnam tour and joined the Illinois Air National Guard flying the O-2A Skymaster. In 1975, he transferred to the Wisconsin Air National Guard, again flying the O-2. Later, the unit transitioned to the OA-37B Dragonfly aircraft and finally to the A-10 Thunderbolt II craft in a close air support role. From November 1983 to November 1987, he commanded the 176th Tactical Fighter Squadron and was Vice-Commander of the 128th Tactical Fighter Wing.

In 1987, he became Director of Operations, Headquarters, Wisconsin Air National Guard and in 1990, Chief of Staff. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1992 and retired in 1994 with 30 years of service. In his civilian life, Pete was active in airport management and soon became Director of the Dane County Regional Airport serving the Madison area. Under his leadership the airport grew significantly from 1975 until his retirement in 2002.

General Drahn is a Command Pilot with over 3,000 hours of flying time in 7 different USAF aircraft. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with 16 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star.