

Athlete Profile (Local)

Mark Drake
Army Combat Veteran of Vietnam
62 years old
Longmont, Colorado

Mark Drake, a 62-year-old combat Veteran of Vietnam, had his first experience with the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in 2008, but it wasn't his first time participating in adaptive sports. As a former Sports Director for the Mountain States Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America and a six-time participant at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, sports are what Drake lives for.

A former cycling official with for the U.S. Handcycling Federation, Drake is serving as the co-chair for this year's handcycling event. Though handcycling is his favorite sport, he won a silver medal in slalom in 2009, and is considering trying swimming this year.

Drake will begin training for the Games this winter, with his mind on the gold in 2010. While the competition is important, Drake says that he's mostly looking forward to seeing the other athletes experience the amazing venues and beautiful Colorado scenery he gets to enjoy year-round.

“The thing I most look forward to is the camaraderie between all the athletes,” said Drake. “I especially enjoy watching the first-time participants and seeing the smiles on their faces when they finish an event. It’s always an inspiring moment.”

