



For Immediate Release
February 2, 2004

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Williams Gateway Airport Receives High Safety Honors

MESA, Ariz.- The Federal Aviation Administration Western-Pacific Region Airports Division recently presented Williams Gateway Airport with an award acknowledging Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139 compliance and formally recognizing the airport's contributions to certification and safety in excess of minimum standards.

Williams Gateway Airport was one of four airports to receive this honor at the January 2004 Southwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives annual conference. There are sixty-two FAR Part 139 airports in the Western-Pacific Region. The other three award recipients include, Bob Hope Airport (Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena), Palm Springs International Airport, and Las Vegas McCarran International Airport.

"As one of only four national recipients including Burbank/Pasadena, Las Vegas McCarran and Palm Springs International, Williams Gateway Airport has distinguished itself by putting safety first and going above and beyond FAA certification requirements," **said Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker.**

According to the FAA, from October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2003, Williams Gateway Airport demonstrated exceptional compliance with FAR Part 139, Certification and Operations. During this period of time, Williams Gateway Airport had no discrepancies through five consecutive annual certification inspections. In addition, the Airport contributed substantially to certification and safety through accurate and timely updating of publications in support of the Airport Operating Certificate. These publications include the Airport Certification Specifications Manual, Driver's Training Program, and Construction Safety Plans.

According to **FAA Airport Certification Safety Inspector, William Long**, "there were several airports with perfect inspection records. However, the four airports that received the award excelled by pursuing safety in a progressive fashion."

Williams Gateway Airport is also recognized for development and execution of procedures pertaining to operations, maintenance and construction safety, and for prompt response to issues involving runway safety. Airport Rescue Fire Fighting is recognized for continued development of staff through outside training opportunities and in-house development of training materials.

"Safety is a significant part of our system of values at Williams Gateway Airport," said Airport Executive Director, Lynn Kusy. "It is particularly important to us that FAA recognizes our efforts to operate an extremely safe and secure airport," he said.

This was the second honor for the Airport in January, on January 15, 2004, Williams Gateway Airport welcomed Vice President Dick Cheney and Air Force Two. This event was second only to the May 2001 arrival of President Bush and Air Force One.

For more information, please contact airport marketing director, Marie Frank at, 480-988-7606.

