



For Immediate Release
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Williams Gateway Air Traffic Control Receives Award

MESA, Ariz.- The Williams Gateway Airport Air Traffic Control Tower, a Serco Management Services facility, is this year's recipient of the 2004 Willie F. Card Federal Aviation Administration Federal Contract Tower Service Award.

The award is presented each year by the American Association of Airport Executives/U.S. Contract Tower Association to the FAA federal contract tower that exemplifies excellent air traffic control services, both from a safety and customer service perspective. The Gateway Air Traffic Control Tower staff was selected by a panel of judges representing the FAA Contract Tower Program Office in Washington, D.C., U.S. Contract Tower Association Policy Board, National Business Aviation Association, National Air Transportation Association and the Regional Airline Association.

"This is a showcase facility that reflects well on the FAA and the Contract Tower Program," said Acting Air Traffic Hub Manager John Ray. "The employees consistently convey a can-do attitude, coupled with an exemplary record."

"They have been recognized by the Airport for constant vigilance in encouraging pilots to fly friendly in order to keep the local community happy and supportive of the increasing growth," said Airport Executive Director Lynn Kusy.

The Williams Gateway controllers handled over 182,000 operations in 2003, which according to the FAA, places the Airport in the top 100 busiest airports in the country. On any given day, the Gateway controllers provide service to a vast array of military jets, business jets, commercial air carriers, helicopters, and a steady stream of general aviation and flight school traffic.

"The entire staff at Gateway Tower is extremely proud of this achievement," said Gateway Federal Contract Tower Manager Ron Pierce. "There are over 200 Air Traffic Control Towers eligible for this award which makes our selection even that much more meaningful."

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority that includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek. For more information, contact Marie Frank at (480) 988-7606. General Airport information can be found on the Williams Gateway Airport Web Site - www.flywga.org