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## **Williams Gateway Airport Receives FAA Airport Safety Award**

MESA, ARIZ. --- The Federal Aviation Administration Western-Pacific Region, Airports Division presented Williams Gateway Airport Authority with the Airport Safety Award at the first annual Western-Pacific Region Airport Conference in Anaheim, California on June 2. This first-time award recognizes WGAA's initiative and achievement in converting the former Williams Air Force Base to a civil commercial airport providing outstanding industrial, airport, and community safety services.

"Williams Gateway Airport has done a very thorough and significant job of paying attention to safety and FAA regulations," said Donn Walker, FAA Public Affairs Officer for the Western-Pacific Region. "This award is very important to the FAA. There are 74 commercial certified airports in the region, and Williams Gateway really jumped out by how they successfully converted from a military Base to a civilian fully certified airport."

Several of the factors for consideration of this award include:

- Converting the military facilities to meet more stringent civil standards
- Converting all military lighting to civil standards

- Designing and installing an Airport Marking and Signage System meeting FAA standards
- Acquiring Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting vehicles and executing an agreement with the City of Mesa Fire Department to train and staff firefighters in Aircraft Rescue Firefighting

“We are very proud of this award,” said Lynn Kusy, WGAA Executive Director. “Safety is always our primary focus and to be recognized by the FAA in this category, is quite an achievement.”

The Airport Safety Award is a new initiative for the FAA Western-Pacific Region, Airports Division staff. Recipients are selected by the Western-Pacific Region, Airports Division Management Team for making significant contributions to enhance airport safety.

Lynn Kusy will present the award to WGAA Chairman, Mayor Keno Hawker during the Board meeting to be held on Monday, June 20 at the Airport Administration building.

The Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, which includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa and Queen Creek. For more information, visit [www.flywga.org](http://www.flywga.org).