



PhxMesa **Gateway** Airport

Media Contact: Brian Sexton (480) 988-7618
bsexton@phxmesagateway.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2009

Gateway Airport Thanks Veterans *Flying Large American Flag on Control Tower*

Mesa, Ariz. – Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, formerly Williams Air Force Base, unveiled a new United States flag alongside their control tower this week in appreciation of the men and women who served in the U.S. military.

The 38-foot by 20-foot flag will fly proudly for the remainder of the week as both a symbol of appreciation and a reminder of the proud heritage of the former Williams Air Force Base.

The former Base played a strategic role in America's aviation history. Over a span of 52 years, more than 26,500 men and women earned their wings at Williams. Gearing up for the combat pilot demands of World War II, the Army Air Corps broke ground in southeast Mesa for its Advanced Flying School on July 16, 1941. The facility was redesignated as Williams Air Force Base in January 1948 and was the Air Force's foremost pilot training facility, graduating more student pilots and instructors than any other base in the country and supplying 25 percent of the Air Force's pilots annually.

"At Gateway, we are reminded daily of the hard work of those who served at Williams before us," said Lynn Kusy, executive director of Gateway Airport. "We see the results of their efforts in the airfield, in the hangars, and along the flightline. We are proud to be the stewards of such a valuable asset and we are working hard to maintain their high standards. On behalf of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, thank you Veterans for your service to our country."

About Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

The Airport was established in 1994 and is owned and operated by the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Authority, which consists of the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, and Queen Creek. Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport offers non-stop passenger service via Allegiant Air with flights to 20 cities nationwide. For more information, visit www.phxmesagateway.org.