



NEWS RELEASE

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GUNNISON COUNTY HIRES NEW AIRPORT MANAGER Richard Lamport Scheduled to Assume Position on 8/1/2013

Gunnison County, Colorado – Gunnison County has hired Richard Lamport to serve as the new Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport Manager, effective 8/1/2013. Richard will come to Gunnison County with over 35 years of international and domestic civil/military experience in all aspects of aviation involving airline operations, air traffic control, flying, and the administration, management and operation of airports. "We are thrilled to have someone with Rick's extensive background in commercial airport operations, the airline industry, and general aviation joining our team. Rick is a very accomplished aviation professional and will be a tremendous asset to the Gunnison Crested-Butte Regional Airport, the County organization, and the broader community. We look forward to benefitting from his contributions," said Gunnison County Manager Matthew Birnie.

Over the course of the last 25 years while employed by AvPORTS, Richard gained extensive aviation experience working in the Sultanate of Oman, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and several US locations, including San Bernardino International Airport in San Bernardino County, CA, the largest county in the US. Richard has served in many capacities during his career, including Airport Manager to four regional non-hub/small-hub Part 139-certificated airports. Most recently, he served as the General Manager of General Aviation Airports for the Rhode Island Airport Corporation where he was responsible for enforcing the policies and governance in the operation of the five state-owned General Aviation Airports and associated Fixed Base Operators (FBO), negotiating joint use of the airports with government and US military organizations, and managing the pricing policies and structures for the sale of aviation fuels necessary for the financial success of the airports and FBOs. After extensive travel, Richard is now looking forward to managing the strategic development, progression and growth of the Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport, and he readily accepts the challenge of attracting aviation commerce and enthusiasts to Gunnison County, a location known for safety and aircraft-performance concerns due to factors such as high elevations and adverse weather conditions.

Originally from Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Richard attended the Rhodesian Air Force Academy and served as a pilot in the Rhodesian Air Force. Richard and Sue (his wife) are excited to relocate to Colorado, their most desired place to live, and Richard is eager to develop and nurture long-term professional relationships within the community and the County organization. Using clear and regular communication to define his expectations, Richard has provided leadership and mentorship to his team members who have, in turn, performed exceptionally well. As Richard explains, "Earning that same high level of professional trust from my team members is a hallmark of my professional career, and I have achieved it by rolling up my sleeves and getting involved in day-to-day operations with staff, including demanding snow-removal operations, night and weekend flying activities and exercises, and by frequently and accurately consulting with airport officials and stakeholders to ensure that their goals were met. I have always achieved a high level of confidence within all departments of both the company and client, by knowing my operations from the ground up. The critical combination of personal technical expertise and a thorough knowledge of the operation in question promote trust and respect with airport staff and co-workers, the community and all associated entities essential to the success of an airport and an airport manager."

For more details, please contact County Manager Birnie at mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org or Assistant to the County Manager Katherine Haase at (970) 641-7601 khaase@gunnisoncounty.org.