

Richard “Rick” Crider, A.A.E

Rick Crider is currently the Executive Vice President for Airport/Railport & Military Relations at Port San Antonio, a Texas Base Development Authority in San Antonio, TX where he is the executive agent for Kelly Field, a joint-use industrial airport that supports aerospace giants such as Boeing, Chromalloy, and StandardAero. Rick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management from the University of Central Texas and a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy & Management from The Ohio State University. While completing his undergraduate work, Rick worked as a flight instructor building flight time for a career as an airline pilot. An airport management internship changed that course and sent him down a new path, though Rick has flown as an active pilot for most of his adult life. With a college career that began in civil engineering and work experience as a construction superintendent, airport management was the right profession for Rick. He rose quickly to positions that required a depth of technical aviation understanding, serving communities that were passionate about developing, expanding, and making the most of their aviation assets. Rick is an Accredited Airport Executive and First Vice Chair of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE). AAAE represents over 10,000 airport professionals; Rick is expected to be elected Chair and lead the organization in May of this year.

Prior to joining Port San Antonio, Crider served as Vice President of Airport Development and Management Services at engineering firm RW Armstrong. In this role he established and led an Austin, TX office, serving aviation and transportation customers across the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America. In addition to helping airport sponsors solve complex problems, Rick served as Principal Investigator on an Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) project, and developed ACRP Report 47: *Guidebook for Developing and Leasing Airport Property*. Crider has served in several other airport and aviation roles:

Chief Executive Officer, Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority – Gainesville, FL

Airport Director, Abilene Regional Airport – Abilene, TX

Airport Director and Other Positions, Rickenbacker International Airport – Columbus, OH

Operations Duty Supervisor, Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport – Burbank, CA

Adjunct Professor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Abilene, TX (Dyess AFB Satellite Campus)

Intern, Robert Mueller Municipal Airport – Austin, TX

A high point in Rick’s career was the transformation of Kelly Field, from a Department of Defense airfield to the vibrant joint-use facility that it is today. Working with the Pentagon to change the Joint Use Agreement, changing operating agreements with the USAF, changing the status of the airport with the FAA, getting Kelly Field included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, and designated in the Military Airport Program has allowed the launch of a \$130 million development program in the north airfield. This airfield expansion will consolidate certain activities and enable redevelopment for large industrial aerospace tenants, directly adding airport capacity to the national system of airports, and economic prosperity to the South Texas region.

Rick’s passion for general aviation, flight training, disaster/emergency response, and introducing young people to the magic of aerospace make the opportunity to lead Prescott Regional Airport extremely appealing. Bringing construction, capital program implementation, and air service development experience to the 25th busiest airport in the United States is an amazing opportunity; the beauty of North Central Arizona and the size of the Prescott community make the prospect all that more compelling.