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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) Hosting 4th Annual Holiday Charity Drive for Veterans**

**Denver, CO – December 4, 2014** – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is proud to announce the 4th Annual Holiday Charity Drive & VFW Airlift to benefit the State of Colorado's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). CABA is currently collecting toys and nonperishable foods to aid military veterans and their families in rural communities around the state. Collection efforts began in mid-October with donation bins positioned in numerous airport and business locations along the Front Range and Western Slope, and will run through December 5. The Charity Drive culminates with the CABA Holiday Party on December 5 at the AeroColorado hangar at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO. All members of the Colorado aviation industry are welcome and in lieu of paid admission, guests are asked to bring donations of toys and/or nonperishable food for the Airlift.

To ensure timely delivery for the holiday season, CABA has again partnered with the Metropolitan State University of Denver's Precision Flight Team to conduct the airlift. On December 7, Flight Team pilots and additional private pilots, all donating their time and expenses, will fly the food and toys to Montrose on the western slope, Trinidad and Alamosa in southern Colorado, and Burlington on the eastern plains. At those destinations, teams from Colorado's VFW posts will greet the estimated 15 total aircraft and help distribute donations to veterans and their families for the holiday season.

In Montrose a similar collection effort is being conducted by CABA's western slope regional group, with all goods to be combined and distributed by VFW posts in Montrose, Delta, and Rifle.

Beginning with 1,500 pounds in the inaugural 2011 VFW Airlift, the campaign has been progressively more successful and Mike Straka, two-time chair of the event explains, "Last year we delivered more than 5,000 pounds of food and toys to Colorado veterans and their families. Our goal this year is to collect 8,000 pounds and to continue to be increasingly more effective for the veterans who are the inspiration for all of us. As a veteran myself I am extremely proud of the effort put forth by CABA and our student chapters, the Flight Team, the VFW, and the many other volunteers who together have made this possible."

For more information and a complete list of donation locations, visit [www.mycaba.org](http://www.mycaba.org).



Prior to departure of the 2013 CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift: Metropolitan State University of Denver Precision Flight Team and volunteers gather in the staging area at XJet Centennial Airport. (Photo by Chris Swathwood)

**Note to Editors:**

***The mission of the Colorado Aviation Business Association is to promote the value of business and general aviation across the State of Colorado.***

*Founded in 1994, CABA acts to collectively address and respond to issues impacting Colorado Airports including safety and operational effectiveness; to educate the general public about all aviation and its activities around the state; to preserve the state's airport related businesses as valuable economic assets to the community; and to provide for the training of future aviation professionals through the CABA Foundation Scholarships.*

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