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Colorado Aviation Business Association, Metro State Flight Team, and VFW Deliver Over 6,500 Pounds of Food and Toys in Holiday VFW Airlift

Denver, CO – January 15, 2016 – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is very proud to announce that the 5th Annual Holiday VFW Airlift delivered more than 6,500 pounds of food and toys to veterans and their families across Colorado.

On December 6, the Precision Flight Team of Metropolitan State University of Denver’s Department of Aviation & Aerospace Science teamed with private pilots on the ramp of Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado, and flew the donated goods to Alamosa, Las Animas, Pueblo, and Burlington. In a separate flight on December 23, goods were flown to Montrose on the western slope. In all, 13 aircraft participated in the Airlift. The aircraft were met at the destination airports by VFW teams who then distributed the goods to veterans and their families in need. In addition, goods were delivered by ground to veterans in Fort Collins, Loveland, Pueblo West, and Fort Carson.

Throughout October and November, CABA and the VFW collected toys and nonperishable foods using donation bins placed in nearly 40 airport, business, and VFW locations along the Front Range and Western Slope. The donation drive culminated with the annual CABA Holiday Party held December 3 at the Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver, where guests brought donated goods as admission to the party. Including this year, the cumulative amount of goods collected and distributed since the 2011 inaugural airlift is well in excess of 20,000 pounds or 10 tons.

CABA Chairman Mike Straka said, “Words cannot begin to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible effort made by everyone who participated in this project. CABA volunteers included the Flight Attendants Group, the Metro State Student Chapter of CABA, as well as the Flight Team and other private pilots and businesses who donated their time and expenses to fly the goods to Colorado veterans. This year was a combined air-ground operation due to the commitment by VFW State Commander Peter Buchanan who made this his Special Project, and so we are also extremely grateful to all the volunteers of the VFW who participated in collecting and delivering the goods where they are

needed.” “It is very heartwarming to be able to spread a little happiness and cheer during the holiday season. We are very grateful to all of the sponsors, donors, and businesses that helped make the entire project a great success,” continued Straka, chair of the event and a U.S. Army veteran.

For more information and photos of the event, visit www.mycaba.org

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, the Colorado Aviation Business Association consists of over 400 businesses and individual members who live and work within the State of Colorado. 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 activities in the state; to preserve the state's airport related businesses as valuable economic assets to the community at large; and to provide for the training of future aviation professionals through its scholarship fund.

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