

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Barry Stidham, Chairman  
303-460-3586  
[bstidham@mycaba.org](mailto:bstidham@mycaba.org)

**Colorado Aviation Business Association and Metro State Flight Team Deliver  
5,000 Pounds of Food and Toys in Holiday VFW Airlift**

**Denver, CO – December 30, 2013** – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is proud to announce that the 3rd Annual Holiday VFW Airlift delivered more than 5,000 pounds of food and toys to veterans and their families across Colorado.

On December 15, the Precision Flight Team of Metropolitan State University of Denver’s Department of Aviation & Aerospace Science teamed with several private pilots on the XJet ramp at Centennial Airport in Englewood, and flew the donated goods to Montrose, Alamosa, Trinidad, and Burlington. In all, 12 aircraft participated in the Airlift and were greeted by VFW teams who then distributed the goods to veterans and their families who are in need.

Throughout the months of October and November, CABA collected toys and nonperishable foods using donation bins placed in nearly 40 airport and business locations along the Front Range and Western Slope. The donation drive culminated with the annual CABA Holiday Party held December 6 at the Grant-Humphries Mansion in Denver, where guests brought additional donated goods as admission to the party. The amount of goods collected continued the trend of exceeding the previous year’s total: 1,500 pounds were collected in 2011, 3,500 pounds in 2012, and more than 5,000 pounds this year.

“All of us on the CABA board are extremely proud of the efforts made by everyone – CABA volunteers particularly the Flight Attendants Group and the Student Chapter, as well as the Flight Team and other pilots who donated their time and expenses to fly the goods to Colorado veterans. It is very heartwarming to be able to spread a little happiness and cheer during the holiday season. We are very grateful to our sponsors, donors, and the businesses that helped make the donation drive a great success,” said Mike Straka, Chair of the event and a US Army veteran.

For more information and photos of the event, 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 courtesy of 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 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.***

###