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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Colorado Aviation Business Association Hosts 5th Annual Holiday Charity Drive for Veterans**

**Denver – November 1, 2015** – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is proud to announce the 5th Annual Holiday Charity Drive & VFW Airlift to benefit the Department of Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). A cooperative effort among CABA, the VFW, and the Precision Flight Team of the Metropolitan State University of Denver, the project results in the distribution of thousands of pounds of food and toys to military veterans and their families in rural communities around the state.

Collection efforts began in late October with the placement of donation bins in numerous airport and business locations as well as VFW Posts along the Front Range and Western Slope. The aid drive culminates with the CABA Holiday Charity Party on December 3 at the Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver, CO.

CABA's regional groups in Montrose and Colorado Springs are also collecting donations, and all goods will be combined and transported during the airlift. The airlift operation will be conducted on Sunday, December 6, ensuring timely delivery for the holiday season. Donating their time and expenses, the flight team and volunteer private pilots will fly the food and toys to Montrose on the western slope, Alamosa and Pueblo in southern Colorado, and Las Animas and Burlington on the eastern plains. Upon arrival, teams from state VFW posts will greet the estimated 15 total aircraft to distribute the donated goods to veterans and their families for the holiday season.

Since the inaugural 2011 VFW Airlift, the campaign has been progressively more successful and CABA Chairman Mike Straka explains, "Over the past four years we've delivered nearly 12,000 pounds of donated material to Colorado's veterans and their families, which helps tremendously, especially during the holiday season. As a veteran, I am extremely proud of the efforts by CABA volunteers, student chapter members, the Flight Team, and the VFW, who together have made this such a success. This project also demonstrates in a small way how aviation benefits entire communities by providing efficient transport services in rural areas."

Members of the Colorado aviation community and the general public are invited to attend, and guests are asked to bring donations of toys and/or nonperishable food for the airlift. For party details and to RSVP, visit [www.mycaba.org/holiday](http://www.mycaba.org/holiday).



Prior to departure of the 2014 CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift: Metropolitan State University of Denver Precision Flight Team and volunteer private pilots gather on the ramp at AeroColorado at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO. (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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