

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Colorado Aviation Business Association Announces Record Year of Food & Toy Deliveries Benefiting Colorado Veterans in Rural Colorado Communities**

**Denver, CO – December 12, 2017** – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) announces record-breaking holiday airlift deliveries resulting from their 7<sup>th</sup> annual food and toy drive.

Since 2011, CABA has partnered with the Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the flying teams of Metropolitan State University of Denver to collect and distribute non-perishable food and toys to veterans and their families in rural towns across Colorado. In its first six years the project delivered a cumulative total of more than 27,000 pounds of food and toys to nearly 2,000 Colorado veterans and their families. During this year’s airlift conducted on December 10, 7,800 pounds of goods were delivered to 11 Colorado towns using a record-number 33 aircraft donated for the annual operation, which will provide a measure of holiday joy to approximately 700 families.

CABA, the Colorado VFW, MSU Denver’s Precision Flying Team, Aerobatic & Glider Team, and Veterans Club, as well as Cub Scout Pack 39 of Evergreen worked together to collect and transport donations to Centennial Airport, where they were loaded onto aircraft for delivery to Montrose, Delta, Alamosa, Pueblo, Las Animas, Burlington, Fort Morgan, and Greeley. In Montrose, a portion of the cargo was transferred to two additional aircraft which were then flown by highly experienced mountain pilots for deliveries to Durango, Cortez, and Dove Creek. Aircraft were met at the destination airports by teams of VFW personnel who distributed the goods directly to families in need.

CABA credits the program’s success to its members and partners for making the VFW Holiday Drive and Airlift possible. Notably, MSU Denver’s Precision Flight Team has formed the core of

the airlift pilots since the project's inception. And this year MSU Denver's brand-new Aerobatic & Glider Team also flew, along with ten additional business and private aircraft, including a Pilatus PC-12 donated by AeroColorado of Englewood and a Cessna C-340 donated by Freedom Air Avionics of Broomfield. Pilots and aircraft gathered early Sunday morning for the cargo loadout, a final pre-flight briefing and weather check, then departed out of Signature Flight Support at Centennial Airport, who donated their hangar and ramp space to accommodate the operation.

"This was by far our most successful airlift yet," said Kandi Spangler, chairwoman of CABA. "We had a record-breaking 33 aircraft delivering thousands of pounds of food and toys to about 700 families in 11 rural towns around Colorado. I am extremely proud of the effort put forth by CABA members and volunteers, the VFW, the MSU Denver Flight Teams, and the many other volunteers who came together to make this event possible."

VFW State Commander Ed Aitken said, "The VFW Colorado Department has collaborated with CABA on this important project since its beginning, and this year the airlift outdid itself with more than 30 aircraft flying to 9 rural Colorado towns to assist our brothers and sisters who are experiencing difficult times. We want them to know we always have them in our minds and hearts, but we are especially happy to be able to help out with food and toys during the holiday season."

**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 300 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 the CABA Foundation's scholarship fund. CABA is a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation, and the CABA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. FMI visit: [www.mycaba.org](http://www.mycaba.org).

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Aircraft gathered on the ramp at Signature Flight Support prior to the 2017 CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift.  
(Photo by Chris Swathwood)



Metropolitan State University of Denver's Precision Flight Team and Aerobatic & Glider Team, private pilots, and volunteers gathered on the ramp at Signature Flight Support prior to the 2017 CABA-VFW Holiday Airlift. (Photo by Mike Straka)