

Commander's Special Project - CABA

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Colorado Aviation Business Association and Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Holiday Veteran Food and Toy Airlift.

What is the airlift? Donations from the Re-Distribution Center, Marine Corps League, 20 VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and huge discounts from King Soopers provide food and toys to disadvantaged. This is a VFW/CABA with the MSU pilot's volunteer project to help veterans. We all intend to make the holiday season a little less stressful for our fellow veterans by giving them donated food and toys and a little cheer during the holiday season. We fly planes into Burlington, Pueblo, Las Animas, Alamosa, Walsenburg, and Montrose airports. Over the past 7 years this program has delivered nearly 18,000 pounds of donated material to Colorado's veterans and their families. In 2017 the project had generous donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and kind hearted friends with a total \$4,407.38, for 2018 a very large and generous pledge from King Soopers will allow us to expand the scoop and size of the airlift. This money is used to purchase more food and toys to supplement all the donated food and toys. We were also afforded the opportunity to provide gifts and food to 353 Adults and 65 kids as well as 15 families with children from Fort Carson.

How can I help with this program? You can help with donated money from your Post relief fund. Your check should be made out to Department of Colorado VFW with "CABA" in the memo section. You can gather food and toys at your Post or local businesses. Gather these donated items and deliver them to Department Headquarters by December 1st.

My Post would like to participate, what do we do? Let us know If you have veterans in your local area who would do without at Christmas. Is your Post away from the airports mentioned above? No problem for us, we want to expand our reach, simply let us know where and we'll build the air bridge.

You would need to identify these veterans or families that are needing some extra help and make arrangements to either have them come to your post on a special day or preferably show up at your airport on the airlift day, usually the second Sunday in December depending on the weather. Contact the Department CABA Chairperson to make the arrangements for your Post to be involved.

2018 will be the 8th Annual Airlift and it is this year's Commander's Special Project. More information will be coming at the Council of Administration meetings and your District meetings going forward throughout the year. Questions should be directed to PDC Peter Buchanan, peterbuchanan@comcast.net, 303-981-1606.

If you missed your local TV station coverage this year, here is a link where you can view our [Las Animas airlift](#). This report was put together by MSU Denver videographer John Arnold who did a wonder job covering our operation.