



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**NURSTEAD MENTAL HEALTH & CONSULTING SERVICES ASSISTS WITH DESIGN OF
THE FIRST NARCAN PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

Cannon AFB, New Mexico – Nurstead Mental Health & Consulting Services along with the 27th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron at Cannon AFB Security Forces has created the first sustainable Narcan program for Security Forces within the Air Force. Planning for this training began in mid-2023 in connection with the provision of Crisis Intervention and Communication Training provided to Cannon Security Forces by Nurstead trainers, and the final certification step was completed on October 29, 2024.

Naloxone, commonly sold under the brand name Narcan, is an opioid overdose reversal medication available as a nasal spray or injector. Narcan works by attaching to opioid receptors and reverses and blocks the effects of other opioids.

Nurstead trainers working with NCO leadership developed a curriculum that focuses on laws and data connected to New Mexico, but is able to be altered to any locality where future trainings may occur. Nurstead developed the training at the request of TSGT Dukes who stated, “we wanted a training that would assist Airmen with safety around and response to opioids and opioid overdoses, and protect them from secondary exposure or accidental overdose while on duty.”

Justin Nutt, CEO of Nurstead, stated “the tweak I suggested was that we train the NCOs to be trainers. My thought, if we could create a something different than just Narcan training that a number of bases get: we could create is a series of trainers that ensure there is a perpetual program that has the potential to save the lives of civilians, airmen, and defenders.”

About Nurstead Mental Health & Consulting Services

Nurstead Consulting Services is a behavioral health consulting and training firm based in Clovis, New Mexico. Nurstead Consulting Services’ training focus is in topics such as mental health, substance use, ethics, leadership, and wellness, and provides training to a wide array of first responders, military, clinical staff, and business sectors. Nurstead Consulting Services also performs direct service in behavioral health with a focus on crisis response, and has responded to some of the largest crisis events of the past decade. Nurstead Mental Health is the direct service arm of Nurstead Consulting Services, which provides mobile crisis services, peer support, outpatient counseling, drop-in center services, and addiction treatment options which are offered statewide.