

## Gerald R. “Jerry” Egolf

### **Education Background:**

During his career, Mr. Egolf held various certifications as a Training Manager, Instructor, and Distance Education Facilitator by the National Cryptologic School, Linthicum, Maryland. He became certified as a Critical Thinking Instructor in 2008, after teaching courses as an in-service instructor. He is a member of the Foundation for Critical Thinking.

### **Experiential Synopsis:**

Mr. Egolf has over twenty-five years in education and training programs as a government civilian and contractor. As a Training Manager, he was responsible for determining adequate operator and maintenance training for multiple projects in a multi-million dollar telecommunications program. In 1995, he was selected to lead a Department of Defense training facility, helping to design the layout and equipment in the facility, develop courses, refine the curriculum, and mentor instructors in teaching highly technical courses in communications systems. As Head of the training facility, his leadership was instrumental in it being awarded a National Meritorious Unit Citation, the first ever awarded to a training group.

Mr. Egolf retired from the federal government in 2004 and served as a senior instructor and trainer for the Verite Group, working on a government contract. During this time, he played a significant role in developing tactical training courses as compared to broader-based courses provided by national commands. While creating these courses, he was introduced to critical thinking and began including it in his courses, sparking interest across the tactical special operations units and Marine Corps Radio Battalions. He later became certified to teach critical thinking courses.

In 2009, became a senior instructor for the U.S. Marine Corps. His personal experiences with critical thinking as well as its classroom successes led him to become a strong advocate for the practice and develop more advanced material for his classes, significantly changing the direction of how critical thinking was looked upon by the military. As part of this direction, he created a new model that merges intuition, cognitive learning, and critical thinking, referring to the model as the “progression of thought.” It has helped numerous analysts with understanding their thought processes as they perform their analysis. He was highly respected as a leader and teacher of Marines. He retired in May 2015.

### **Personal Background:**

He is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in New Bern; particularly interested in working on humanitarian and disaster relief missions. Sixty-seven years old, he lives in New Bern with his wife of ten years Sandra. They have one daughter and two grandsons. His loves are black Labrador retrievers and fly fishing as well as reading and traveling with Sandra.