



Senior Special Agent (Retired) Russell W. Strand, CFP-A, is the founder and owner of Russell Strand Consulting LLC and founding faculty of Certified FETI. He provides consultation, systems auditing, training and assistance to agencies and service providers.

As a career law enforcement professional, trainer, educator, writer, and consultant, Russ has distinguished himself as an integral member of the criminal justice community. He began his law enforcement career in 1975 as a military police officer, and then worked as a military police investigator until retiring 22 years later as a senior special agent in the United States Army Criminal Investigations Command. In his role as Law Enforcement, he specialized in domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, homicide and especially child abuse. In fact, reducing child victimization has been a 45-year passion and he is dedicated to finding better ways to create offender accountability and providing justice to children.

After his first retirement, Russ appointed the Chief of the U.S. Army Military Police Behavioral Sciences Education and Training Division where he worked for 20 years before retiring again in 2016. As the point-person in the Department of Defense and Department of the Army in the law enforcement fight against domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual violence, he distinguished himself by development and implementation of numerous training courses and programs across the entire department to include an eight day child abuse investigations course, a week long domestic violence intervention course, and a two week long sexual assault and prosecution course some of which have been described as the “gold standard” within the Department of Defense. These courses have also been much sought after by civilian professionals across the nation and as of 2018, are still being taught.

Russ is unconventional in his thinking and implementation of numerous promising best practices. This includes the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview, also known as FETI. Development of FETI followed decades of research in the areas of trauma, human behavior, neuroscience and through conducting forensic interviews with both adult and child victims, witnesses and suspects.

The 2009 Fort Hood mass murder, wherein he provided critical incident stress debriefings and victim interview support, was the moment that Russell’s experience and study culminated into FETI. This innovative and applied trauma informed approach to interviewing victims, witnesses and suspects has been instrumental in leading an international culture change to incorporate trauma-informed practice in response to all traumatic experiences including child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. FETI has been a game changer for

many communities and has now grown in comprehensive training program called “Certified FETI”.

Russ is highly respected and sought-after speaker, educator, and consultant who has personally trained and educated well over 500,000 professionals in his career. His subject matter expertise is continually sought out by national, international state and local agencies around the world. He has supported and built solid relationships with highly respected organizations such as the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Jewish Women International, Canadian Forces National investigation Services, End Violence Against Woman International, You Have Options Program, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, National Organization for Victim Assistance, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Battered Women’s Justice Project, and Florida Council on Sexual Assault, Shared Hope, Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance... to name a few. Russ is continually requested for consultation and training expert at home and abroad.

Russ was a featured subject matter expert in “The Invisible War” documentary on sexual assault in the military, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Feature Length Documentary in 2013. He and his work have also been featured in numerous publications, various nationally recognized media outlets and news organizations, books, and educational videos.

Russ was recognized for his efforts by his peers and leadership throughout his military and civilian careers. Some examples, in 2012, he was selected to receive the 2012 “End Violence Against Women International Visionary Award” in recognition of his impact, vision and leadership in ending violence against women around the world. He also received the St. Luke’s Health Systems Forensic Committee Visionary Award for years of executive direction, education, and leadership in providing effective multidisciplinary training, education, and expert consultation. He was awarded the Military Police Regiments highest awards including the Order of the Marechaussee Medal in Silver and was inducted into the United States Army Military Police Regimental Hall of Fame.

Russ has been sought out by Congressional staffers and primaries who have been interested in his forward-thinking sexual assault investigations programs and approaches that not only assisted the Department of Defense but also leads the nation in efforts at reducing sexual assault prevalence while increasing offender identification and accountability. Thus, Russ has briefed numerous Congressional staffers and members of Congress including the Congressional Woman’s Caucus. He was also selected by the Secretary of Defense to serve on the Congressionally Mandated Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault as a member of the Comparative Systems Subcommittee. Russ served on this committee for 8 months examining response to sexual assault crimes across the country and made numerous crucial recommendations to national leaders to improve multidisciplinary response to sexual assault for military and civilian professionals.

With more than four decades of investigative, training, and consultation experience, Russ is a life-long-learner. He steadfastly believes in challenging the status quo – not out of disrespect for it, but out of unconditional respect for true justice. He has continued to challenge what we think,

where we are, and where we need to go to prevent sexual and family violence, hold offenders accountable, and assist victims of these horrendous crimes in sharing their experiences. His current topic of interest and education is neuroscience and how the brain plays a role in human behavior. Russ graduated magna cum laude from Excelsior College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Russ is unconditionally dedicated to continuing his work to build a world that doesn't currently exist. A world in which every victim of abuse and trauma has confidence in reporting their experience and has a genuine voice that is truly heard. A world where every perpetrator of abuse is held accountable for their actions. A world in which all professionals responding to trauma and abuse are properly educated and feel confident in all they do. And a world in which we significantly reduce or eliminate all forms of criminal violence and abuse.

Russ lives in Flagstaff, AZ with his wife Myra Strand- son and dog Yeti.