



David Sauer

CIA, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

FSHS CLASS OF 1984

Few people worry about global security and complex relationships among the United States and its economic and political adversaries: China and Russia. Fortunately, Faribault High School graduate, David Sauer, worked to protect America's national security. From 2007-2019, Sauer served as an intelligence officer for the Central Intelligence Agency with special emphasis on East Asia.

When asked how his interest in international affairs began, Sauer quipped that "he may have read too many Tom Clancy novels." More likely, a three week trip to Eastern Europe sponsored by Gustavus Adolphus College sparked his interest. During his senior year, a CIA recruiter motivated him to join CIA. After graduating magna cum laude in Chemistry from Gustavus Adolphus, he enrolled in the MA Security Policies Studies Program at George Washington University. Upon graduation, he applied to CIA. He was offered employment and entered into duty in February, 1992.

Sauer served in CIA for many years. All together in his federal government service, he served 18 years overseas, completing seven tours in foreign locations. He served in command positions working against the most important national security threats facing the nation. He served multiple tours of duty as Chief of Station and Deputy Chief of Station. In 2017, he was promoted into CIA's Senior Intelligence Service.

While serving in Tokyo, Sauer experienced an unexpected challenge: the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and resulting tsunami which devastated two Japanese nuclear power plants. Sauer's team assisted the Japanese government and managed the crisis, all while trying to understand the extent of the damage to the Japanese reactors.

For his outstanding service, Sauer and the Tokyo team were awarded a meritorious unit citation. He has also received numerous Exceptional Performance Awards. He is proud to be one of a few who have met the King of Cambodia, Presidents of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China, and former U.S. Presidents George H. W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Sauer is retired and lives in Faribault with his wife, Kris. They have two daughters.