

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Program
Fulbright Stories Project

JOHN WEAVER

Interviewed by: Tom Selinger

Interview Date: May 8, 2025

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INTERVIEW

Q: Okay. This is Tom Selinger with ADST. I'm here on May 8, 2025, to interview John Weaver. John, can you start by just saying and spelling your name for us?

WEAVER: Yes, it's John Weaver, J-O-H-N W-E-A-V-E-R.

Q: And can you give us your current occupation and employer?

WEAVER: Yes, full professor of intelligence analysis, York College of Pennsylvania.

Q: Okay. Can you tell us where you grew up and what got you interested in international affairs?

WEAVER: Yep, I grew up in Timonium, Maryland. I was interested in the military, joined the Army, served for twenty years retiring as a lieutenant colonel, and then spent five years in the intelligence community.

Q: Okay. What was your Fulbright project, and when did it take place?

WEAVER: I participated in two Fulbright Specialist projects. I served as a Fulbright specialist in Norway at their Defense University College in 2018 and then again in 2022.

Q: Okay. And what lessons do you bring away from that Fulbright experience that you carry forward?

WEAVER: My focus was mostly on intelligence relations, so dealing with the fields of intelligence, national security issues, and NATO. And one of the things that I walked away with is that the U.S. doesn't have a monopoly on intelligence and that we are heavily reliant on information coming from other countries.

WEAVER: Other countries oftentimes have access and placement to resources that we don't have, especially at the national security level. And yes, I learned a lot as a result of working with my sponsor on the project.

Q: Excellent. And as you know, it's very popular right now for the government to talk about how our programs make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Could you talk about your Fulbright experience in those terms?

WEAVER: Sure. So in 2018, Tom Røseth, my sponsor, and I, who worked with the Ministry of Defense, brought together authors from multiple countries in Europe and North America, and we published a book called Intelligence Relations in the 21st Century. Subsequently, when I went back over there in 2022, we both worked on another book titled The Five Eyes of Intelligence Sharing Relationships, where both of us served as co-authors and again dealt with issues of intelligence and national security related to the European continent as well as North America. We were able to share our lessons learned with our own governments, as well as others within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Q: Thank you. Anything else you'd want to add about why Fulbright is important to you or why you'd like to see it continue?

WEAVER: I want to underscore that the U.S. does not have a monopoly on intelligence around the world. And from a national security perspective, we are very reliant on people that have resources and people that have access and placement of material that we don't normally have. As a result of having this relationship we're able to expand our national security expertise and work on issues that are protective of our nation as well as other nations around the world.

Q: Thank you. Anything else, John?

WEAVER: No, that's it.

Q: That concludes our interview.

End of interview