

Matt Richardson

I grew up in Eugene, Oregon. I graduated *magna cum laude* from Brigham Young University in 2009 with a B.S. in Geospatial Intelligence and a minor in Arabic. In fulfillment of the requirements for my Arabic minor, I spent four months in Jordan learning Arabic during the summer of 2009. Last winter I went back to Jordan as an IC Scholar to brush up on my Arabic skills. This summer I did an internship with the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Geographer and Global Issues. I am currently working toward a M.S. in Intelligence and National Security Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso. My master's thesis seeks to explain the reasons behind al-Shabaab's successful recruitment of American citizens for jihad in Somalia. Upon receipt of my degree, I plan to start work as an intelligence analyst within the U.S. Intelligence Community (IC).

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