

Matthew Morgan, B.A. English Language & Literature, 2005

By Allison Henson

Intelligence Officer, United States Military

"Yes, getting an English major was a very large risk... As much bad press as an English degree receives, it is worth noting that professional speaking and professional writing skills are vital to excelling in any career field."



Matthew Morgan (2005) is an intelligence officer in the U.S. Military. Morgan graduated from Western Kentucky University with a BA in English, a degree he selected for the appeal of teaching and his love for writing. But like many Americans, when he heard about the attacks on the Twin Towers, he knew what he wanted to do.

"I started college just before the 9/11 attacks," he said, "and I was at WKU when the attacks occurred—sitting in Chick-fil-A as a matter of fact—and joined the army as soon as I graduated from WKU."

Morgan joined the U.S. Army, where he was selected and extensively trained for his job as an intelligence officer. He spent a total of eighteen months in military intelligence schools, and then another two years getting his master's degree in intelligence studies with a concentration on intelligence collection at [American Military University](#).

Morgan said it was his exposure to journalism and English at WKU that really helped him succeed—along with his skills in collecting and presenting information in a professional manner to high-level customers. During his eight years (including two years in Afghanistan and a year at Guantanamo Bay), he was frequently approached to assist with writing documents, professional evaluations, and threat reports. As a leader, his degree helped him with professionally developing young soldiers working under him in both their education and professional writing. The ability to use correct grammar, proper English, and spelling has paid dividends throughout Morgan's career.

When asked if he had any advice for incoming and current English majors, he had much to give but there was one piece of advice that stood out: "Build professional and

personal relationships that you can carry with you past your time at WKU and the rest of your life. I always lacked a mentor...and I know what I have lost by not finding a professional mentor."

