

Airmen tie long-distance knot

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Who says marriage is easy? Try getting married over a Webcam. A couple stationed on opposite sides of the globe with the Air Force did just that Thursday night.

Senior Airman Katie Fields, stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., settled for a virtual kiss from her new husband, Staff Sgt. Fred Matney, who was stationed in South Korea. She also smashed wedding cake on a big-screen TV version of her groom's face.

When it was time for a toast and photos, Fields cuddled up to the television version of the groom.

"I'm still shaking," Fields said after the ceremony. "It's done and I'm so happy. It was actually a lot of fun."



Senior Airman Kathryn Fields of the 375th Communications Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., waves to her husband-to-be, Staff Sgt. Fred Matney, minutes before they are married during a video conference on Thursday. Matney is stationed at Kunsan Air Force Base, South Korea. A group called the Freedom Calls Foundation joined forces with AT&T to help the long-distance couple tie the knot. — Laurie Skrivan / St. Louis Post-Dispatch / AP Photo

In another twist, while Fields was in St. Louis and Matney was in Asia, their justice of the peace was in Montana, one of the few states that lets a couple marry when neither is physically present. Proxies signed the license.

Fields, 24, and Matney, 28, met in May when both were stationed at Scott. Weeks after they fell in love, Matney was sent to South Korea for a year.

They stayed connected by phone, webcam and e-mail, and a group called the Freedom Calls Foundation, a military video conferencing service, made the wedding a reality.

Matney was scheduled to return in December for a more traditional ceremony in his home state of Ohio.