

Orientation of VISTA May Be Done in State

The Office of Economic Opportunity will continue its efforts to iron out problems that have arisen in the VISTA program in Alaska, Donald Rumsfeld, director of OEO, said Wednesday.

And, VISTA is willing to commit funds in future years so that Alaska volunteers can receive orientation in the state prior to beginning their tours of duty in

the villages, according to Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska. Training currently consists of three weeks in Oregon and one week in Anchorage.

The senator met with Rumsfeld Wednesday and discussed the problems that have arisen in the VISTA program in Alaska.

The program has come under

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VISTA . . .

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attack in recent months by former and present volunteers and by some of the villages where volunteers have been assigned.

Many of the criticisms have focused on the administration of the program which is done by the State, charging that the program has not been responsive to the wishes and needs of the people.

Stevens said, "I will continue to follow this matter closely and hope that we can work together to provide a sound and significant program to the rural villages of our state."