

Fund fraud brings fine

The Associated Press

A stocky, bespectacled Air Force sergeant on Wednesday was fined \$1,000 for altering a document to support his application for a 1983 permanent fund dividend of \$386.15.

The state admitted that Kenneth Morrison was eligible for the 1983 payment, but claimed he falsified a document for the check in order to avoid any questions about his 1982 dividend payment.

Morrison sat quietly, staring straight ahead as District Court Judge Natalie Finn gave him eight months to pay the fine and ordered a suspended imposition of sentence for one year. He could have received one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine for his conviction earlier this month.

The suspended imposition will allow Morrison to have the misdemeanor conviction removed from his record if he commits no offenses in the next 12 months. Morrison and his attorney, Ron Zobel of Anchorage, declined comment after the hearing.

Morrison was charged with altering a document to change his home of record from Oregon to Alaska on Sept. 29, 1982. To be eligible for the 1983 dividend, he had to be an Alaska resident as of Oct. 3.

The state conceded he was eligible for the 1983 payment, but claimed he altered the document to hide his ineligibility for the 1982 dividend of \$1,000, which he received.

"We are going to take action to retrieve that from him," said John Morrell Jr., chief investigator for the state Department of Revenue. "He will not receive the 1983 dividend and is barred for life from receiving any future dividend."