

**PROBLEM SENDING U.S. ARMS TO ISRAEL**

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- "Some erosion of support" for Israel among U.S. military officers is stemming from what Pentagon sources said is a shortage of certain kinds of missiles and tanks to meet Israel's defense requirements.

that a "valid concern exists within the Defense Department that shipment of arms to Israel is creating problems" for the American defense establishment. Pentagon sources said the U.S. Army has an "authorized" force level of 10,000 tanks but currently has 8150

tanks. Officials reported Israel wants 600 tanks this year, in addition to the 450 tanks shipped to Israel since the Yom Kippur War and the Defense Department cannot provide the 600 tanks without withdrawal of tanks from existing army inventories.

The current output of tanks is 40 a month, and

the Pentagon was said to be having trouble boosting output to 60 a month because there is a lack of manufacturing capacity to make castings for the tanks, according to Pentagon sources. Pentagon officials also have said they have similar problems in connection with Israeli requests for other weapons, such as TOW anti-tank missiles and new F-4 fighter jets.

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