



**Center for Strategic and International Studies**

**Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy**

1800 K Street, N.W. • Suite 400 • Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 1 (202) 775-3270 • Fax: 1 (202) 457-8746

Web: <http://www.csis.org/burke>

# **The Asian Conventional Military Balance in 2006:**

## **The South Asian Military Balance**

**Anthony H. Cordesman**  
Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy  
[acordesman@aol.com](mailto:acordesman@aol.com)

**Martin Kleiber**  
Researcher  
[mkleiber@csis.org](mailto:mkleiber@csis.org)

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## **Introduction**

The rise of China as a major power has triggered a new debate over the military balance in Asia, but it is only one of the trends shaping regional military forces. Taiwan's faltering military development has helped destabilize the Taiwan Straits. Japan is reasserting its strategic role in the region, causing tension with both China and South Korea. North Korea's persistence in creating nuclear forces is changing the balance on the Korean Peninsula, as are cuts in US forces. The shift in US forces from Okinawa to Guam, and increased US reliance on long-range strike forces is also affecting the balance.

There are fewer signs of significant shifts in the balance in Southeast Asia. The major change in the threat has been the emergence of transnational threats from neo-Salafi Islamist extremists, and continuing internal ethnic, sectarian, and tribal tensions. The main concern is internal security and not the military balance.

In the case of South Asia, Indian and Pakistan continue to build-up their nuclear and missile forces, and India is seeking to expand its strategic reach in the Indian Ocean area. Kashmir remains a potential military fault line. Once again, however, the emergence of transnational threats from neo-Salafi Islamist extremists, and continuing internal ethnic, sectarian, and tribal tensions dominates the security problems in the region. Like the rest of Asia, internal security has become a dominant concern.

The following analysis of quantitative force strength and trends can only address some of these issues. It focuses on conventional and nuclear forces, military spending, and other quantifiable aspects of the military balance. As such, it can only touch on a few aspects of force quality, and cannot begin to address the problem of internal security. There is no way to portray the relative strength of ideology and religion, and counts of the manpower strength of non-state actors are virtually meaningless.

It is important, however, to look beyond debates over strategy and possible intentions and to consider those facts that can actually be measured. Far too often analysts pick key trends out of context, and exaggerate the overall presence or build-up of opposing military forces. Data on military spending are taken out of context, as are arms purchases that may introduce important new military technologies and capabilities but only have a limited impact on overall force modernization.

Accordingly, the tables and charts that follow are not intended to provide a comprehensive picture of military capability or effort. They are only intended to be a tool that provides perspective. It is also important to recognize that they do have significant uncertainties. The sources they are drawn from are unclassified, and have many gaps and contradictions. The authors have had to extrapolate in some cases, and use a mix of sources in others. The data and trends shown are almost certainly broadly correct, but there is no way to create such an analysis that is precise and certain.

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**Figure 1: South Asian Military Forces in 2006: Part 1**

	<u>India</u>	<u>Pakistan</u>	<u>Bangladesh</u>	<u>Afghanistan</u>	<u>Myanmar</u>	<u>Sri Lanka</u>
<b>Manpower (1,000s)</b>						
Total Active	1,325	619	125.5	27	428	111
Regular	1,325	619	125.5	27	428	111
National Guard & Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reserve	1,155	-	-	-	-	5.5
Paramilitary	1,293.3	302	126.2	-	107.25	30.4
<b>Strategic Missile Forces (1,000s)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
ICBM	-	-	-	-	-	-
IRBM	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSBN/SBLM	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Army and Guard Manpower (1,000s)</b>	1,100	550	110	27	350	78.1
Regular Army Manpower	1,100	550	110	27	350	78.1
Reserve (1,000s)	960	-	-	-	-	39.9
Total Main Battle Tanks	3,978	2,461	180	some	150	62
Active AIFV/Lt. Tanks	1,900	-	40	some	105	62
Total APCs	817	1,266	180	some	325	192
Self-Propelled Artillery	150	260	-	-	-	-
Towed Artillery	5,625	1,629	140	some	278	157
MRLs	180	52	-	some	30	22
Mortars	6,720	2,350	50	some	80	784
SSM Launchers	some	14,200	-	some	-	-
Light SAM Launchers	3,500	2,990	some	some	some	-
AA Guns	2,339	1,900	16	some	46	27
<b>Air Force Manpower (1,000s)</b>	170	45	6.5	-	12	18
Total Combat Aircraft	852	331	83	5	125	21
Bombers						
Fighter/ Ground Attack	380	51	34	5	22	13
Fighter	386	143	29	-	58	-
Recce/FGA Recce	9	15	-	-	-	-
COIN/OCU	-	-	-	-	-	-
AEW C4I/BM/EW	-	2	-	-	-	-
MR/MPA	2	-	-	-	-	-
Transport Aircraft	288	27	3	-	15	16
Tanker Aircraft	6	-	-	-	-	-
Total Helicopters	296	25	29	13	66	49
Armed Helicopters	60	-	-	5	-	14
Major SAM Launchers	some	144	-	-	-	-
Light SAM Launchers	some	6	-	-	-	-
AA Guns	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* Total SAM Launchers

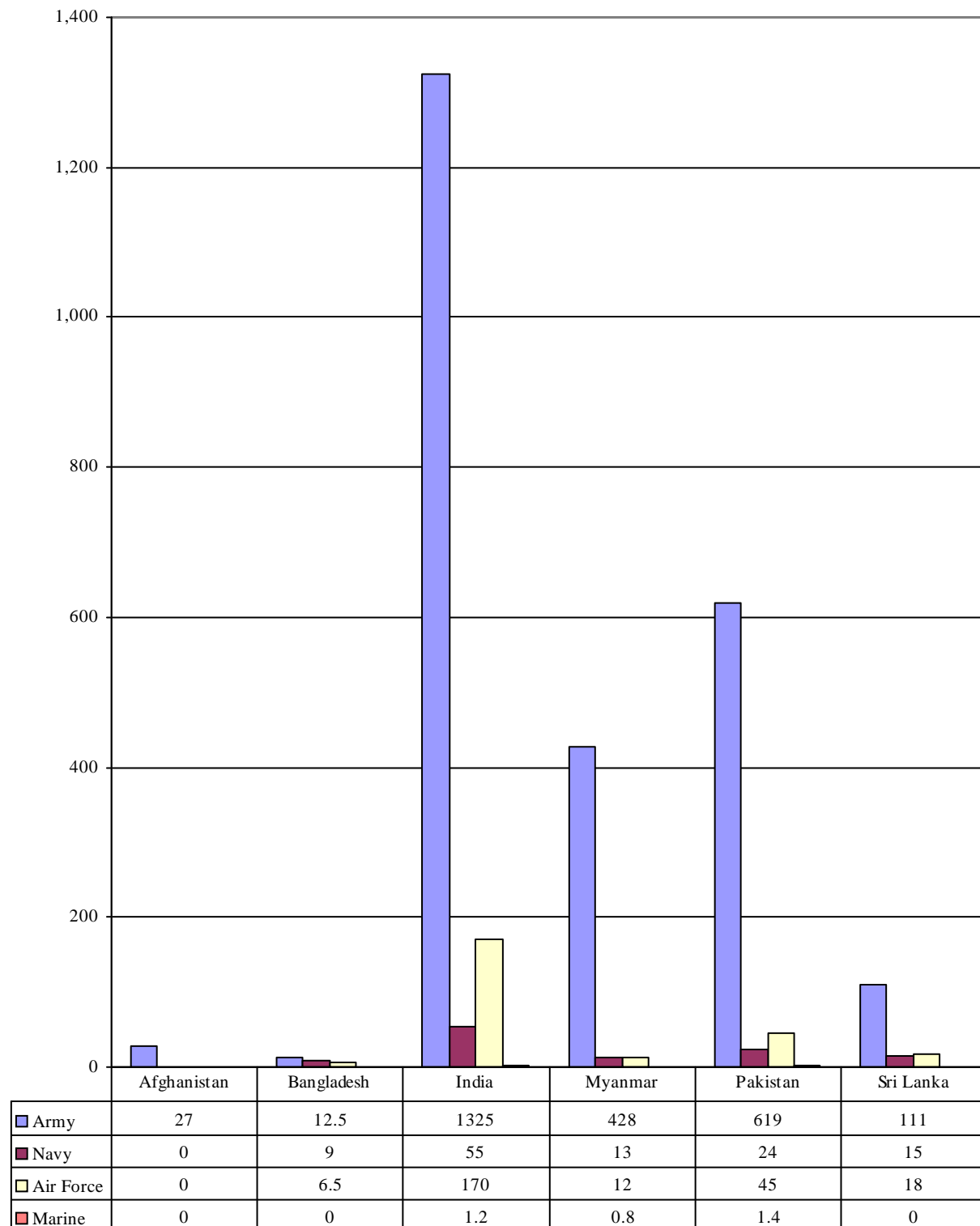
**Figure 1: South Asian Military Forces in 2006: Part 2**

	<u>India</u>	<u>Pakistan</u>	<u>Bangladesh</u>	<u>Afghanistan</u>	<u>Myanmar</u>	<u>Sri Lanka</u>
<b>Total Naval Manpower (1,000s)</b>	55	24	9	-	13	15
<b>Major Surface Combatants</b>						
Carriers	1	-	-	-	-	-
Destroyer-Guided Missile	8	-	-	-	-	-
Other Destroyer	-	-	-	-	-	-
Frigate-Guided Missile	9	6	2	-	-	-
Other Frigate	8	1	3	-	-	-
Corvettes	28	-	-	-	4	-
<b>Patrol Craft</b>						
Missile	8	6	10	-	11	2
Torpedo and Coastal	6	3	14	-	13	10
Inshore, Riverine	10	1	9	-	47	46
<b>Submarines</b>						
SLBN	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSN	-	-	-	-	-	-
SSG	-	-	-	-	-	-
SS/SSK	19	8	-	-	-	-
Mine Vessels	18	3	4	-	-	-
Amphibious Ships	7	-	-	-	-	4
Landing Craft	10	-	14	-	11	5
Support Ships	32	9	8	-	15	-
<b>Marines (1,000s)</b>	1.2	1.4	-	-	.8	-
Naval Air	7,000	-	-	-	-	-
Naval Aircraft	34	9	-	-	-	-
Bomber	-	-	-	-	-	-
FGA	15	-	-	-	-	-
Fighter	-	-	-	-	-	-
MR/MPA	20	9	-	-	-	-
Armed Helicopters	34	--	-	-	-	-
ASW Helicopters	17	12	-	-	-	-
SAR Helicopters	6	-	-	-	-	-
Mine Warfare Helicopters	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Helicopters	51	14	-	-	-	-

\*\*\* Includes both ASW and SAR Helicopters

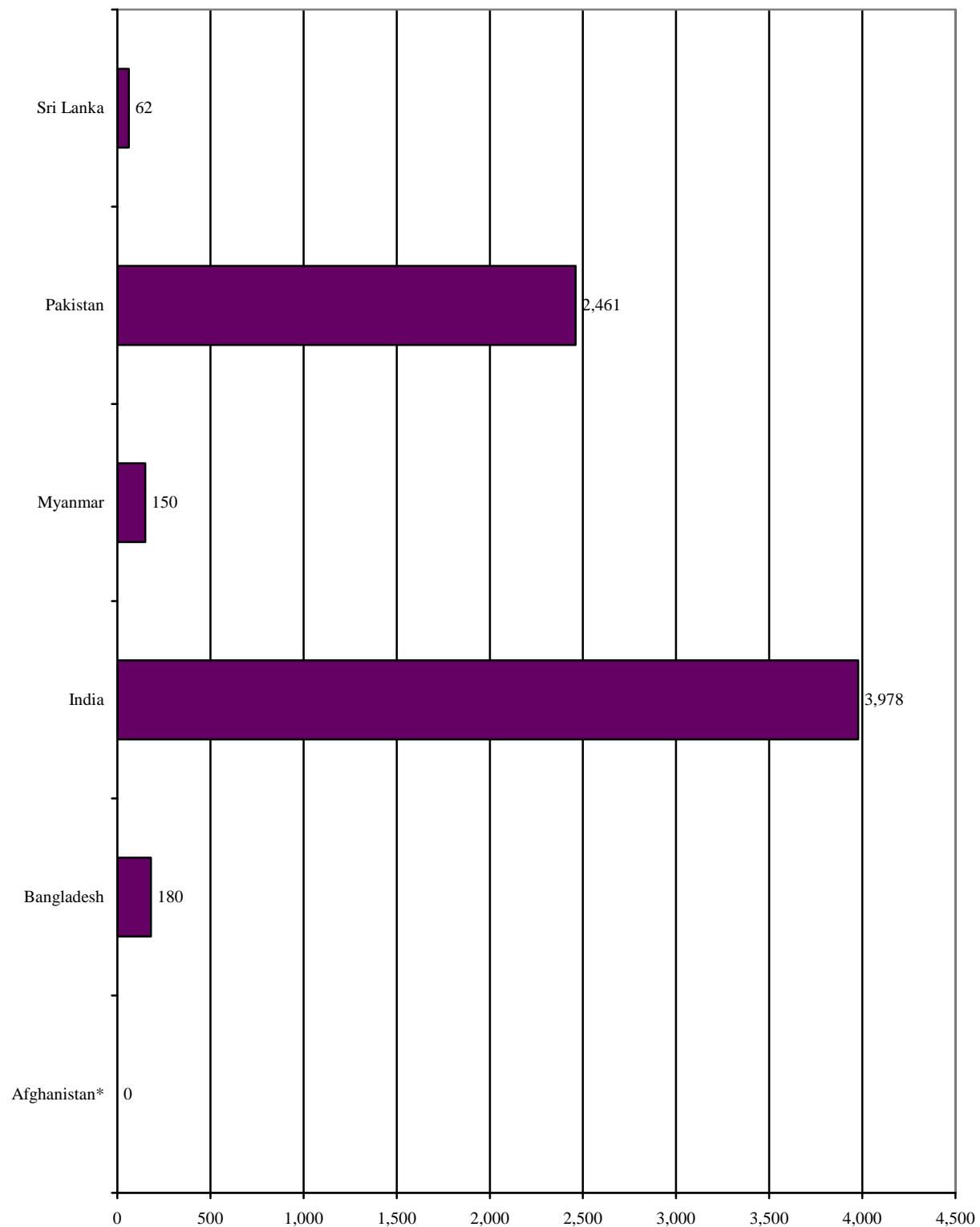
Source: Based primarily on material in the IISS Military Balance 2005-2006, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 2: South Asian Military Manpower in Key Powers: 2006**  
(In thousands)



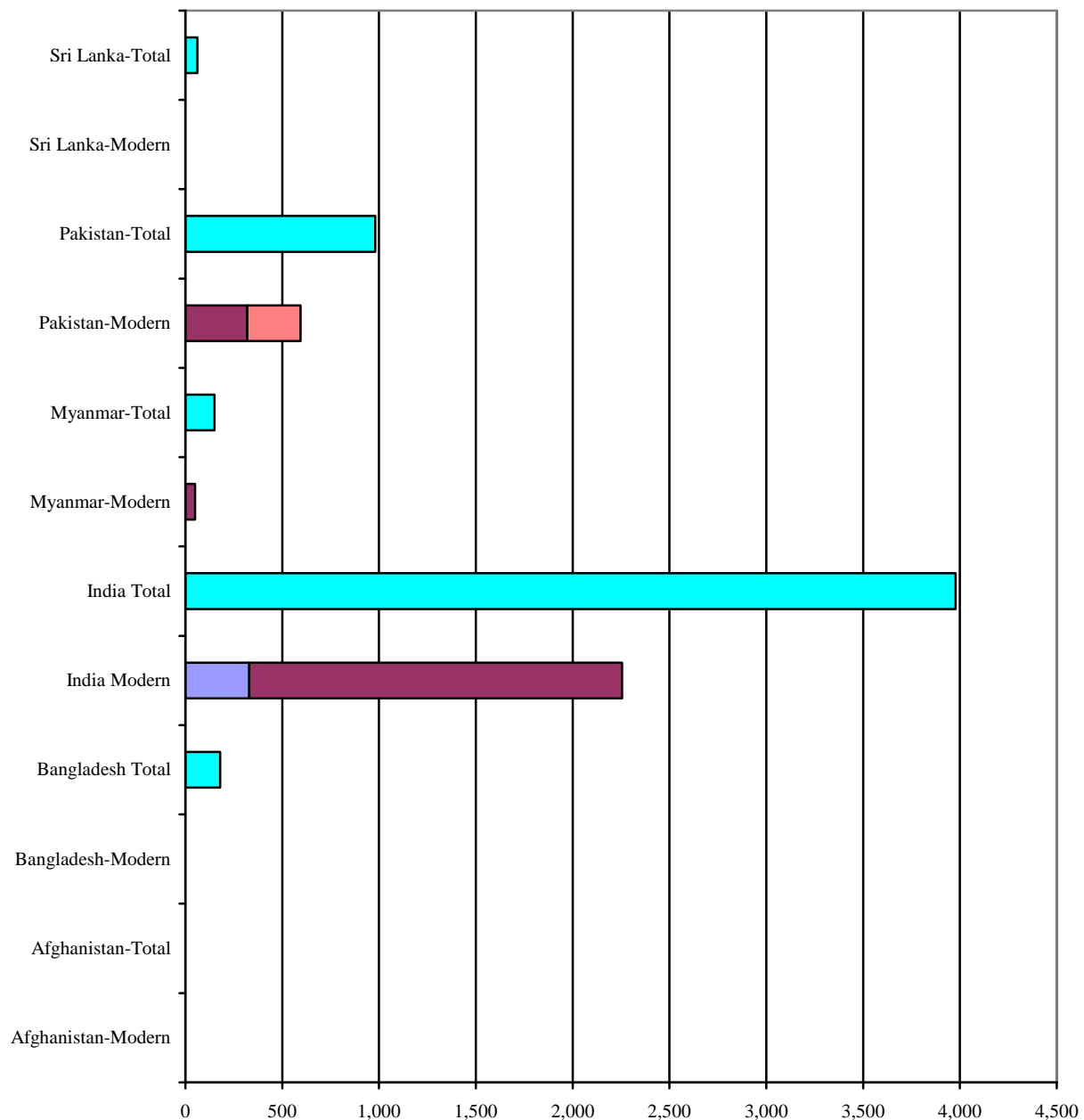
Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 3: South Asian Main Battle Tanks: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 4: South Asian Modern Main Battle Tanks versus Total Holdings: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



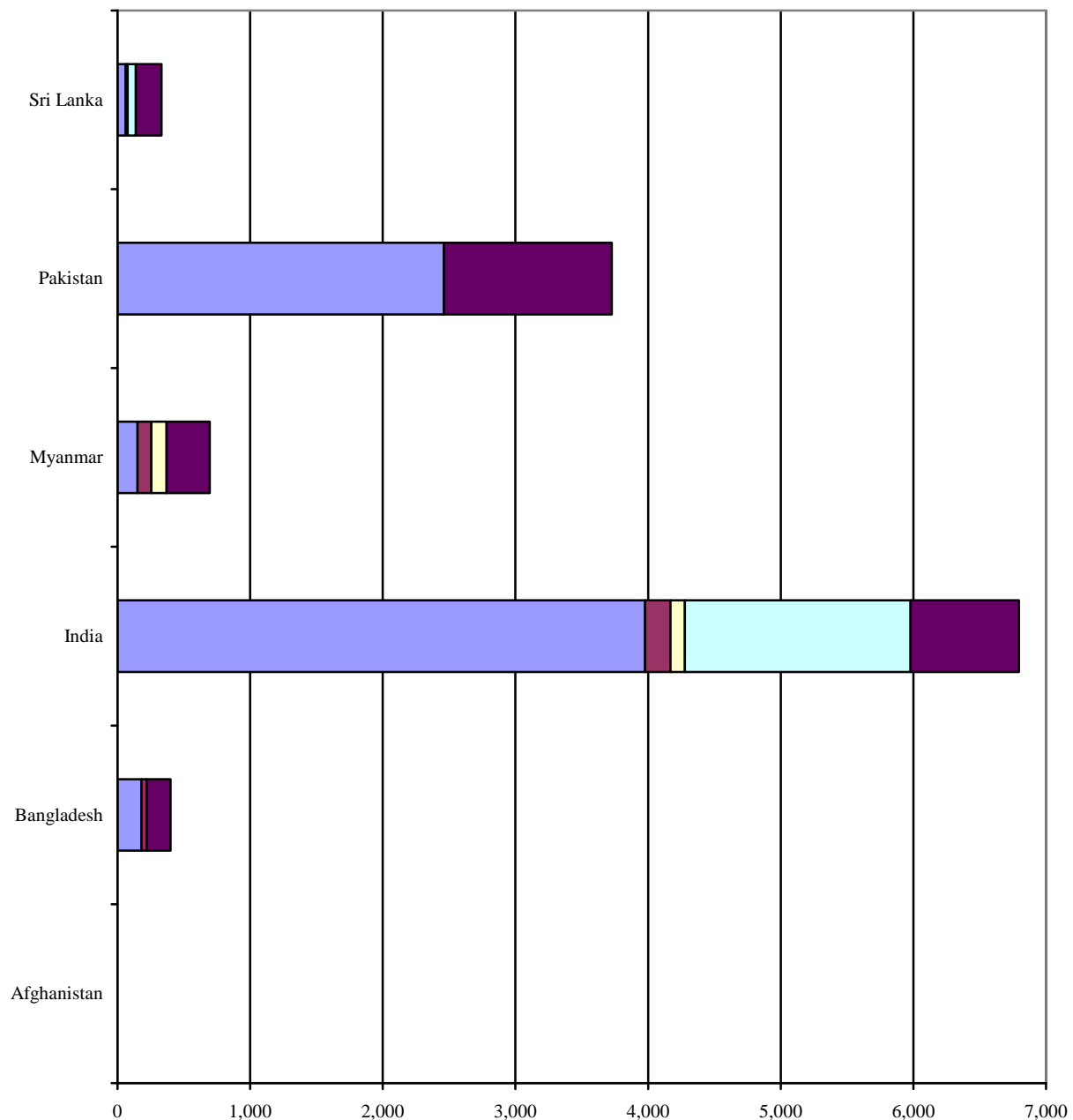
	Afghani -stan Modern	Afghani -stan Total	Banglad -esh Modern	Banglad esh Total	India Modern	India Total	Myanm -ar Modern	Myanm ar-Total	-Pakistan Modern	-Pakistan Total	Sri -Lanka Modern	Sri -Lanka Total
Type 85	0		0		0		0		275		0	
T-72/T-80	0		0		1,925		50		320		0	
T-90	0		0		330		0		0		0	
Total MBTs	0	*	0	180	-2,255-	3,978	-50-	150	-595-	980	0	62

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.



**Figure 5: South Asian Armored Fighting Vehicles: 2006**

(Number of Tanks, AIFVs, APCs, Recce in active service)

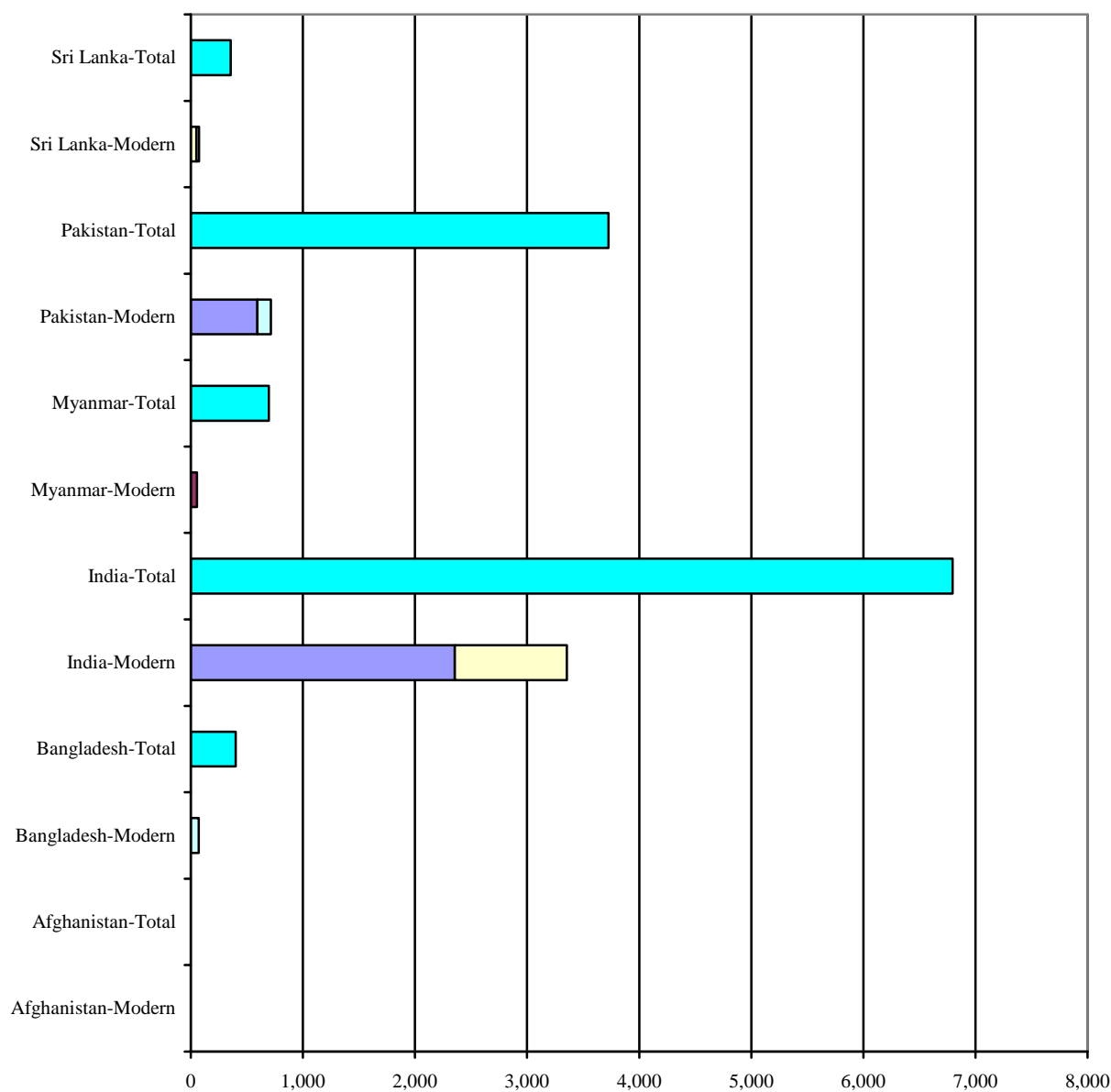


	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
APCs	*	180	817	325	1,266	192
AIFVs	*	0	1,700	0	0	62
Recce	*	0	110	115	0	15
Lt. Tanks	*	40	190	105	0	0
Tanks	*	180	3,978	150	2,461	62

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 6: South Asian Modern AFVs versus Total Holdings of Other Armored Vehicles:  
2006**

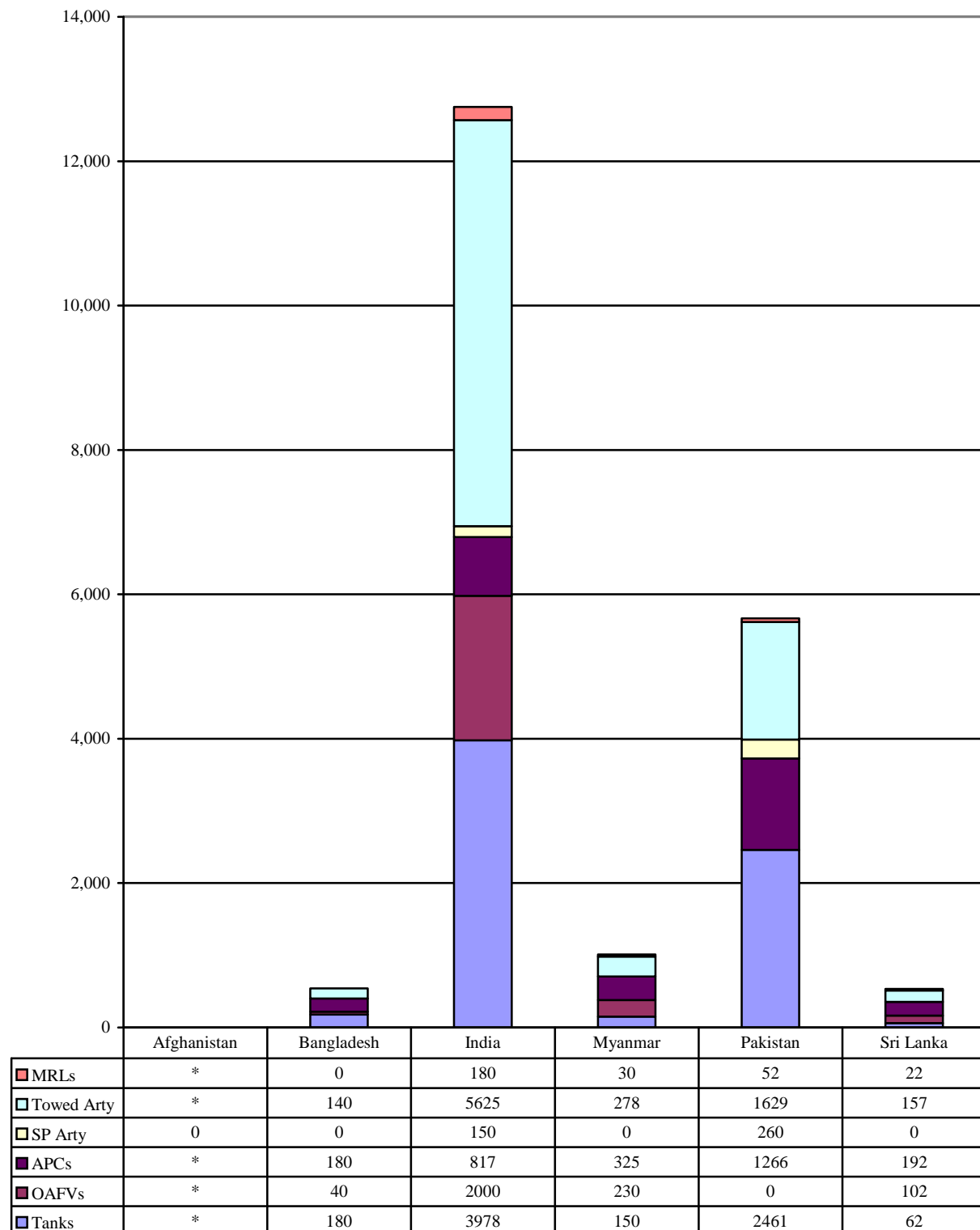
(Number in active service)



	Afghani -stan Modern	Afghani -stan Total	Banglad -esh Modern	Banglad -esh Total	-India Modern	-India Total	Myanm -ar Modern	Myanm ar-Total	-Pakistan Modern	-Pakistan Total	Sri -Lanka Modern	Sri -Lanka Total
■ BTR-80	*		70		0		0		120		25	
■ BMP-2 APC	*		0		1,000		0		0		49	
■ Type 90 APC	0		0		0		55		0		0	
■ MBTs (Modern)	0		0		2,355		0		595		0	
■ Total AIFVs	0	*	-70-	400	-3,355-	6,795	-55-	695	-715-	3,727	-74-	356

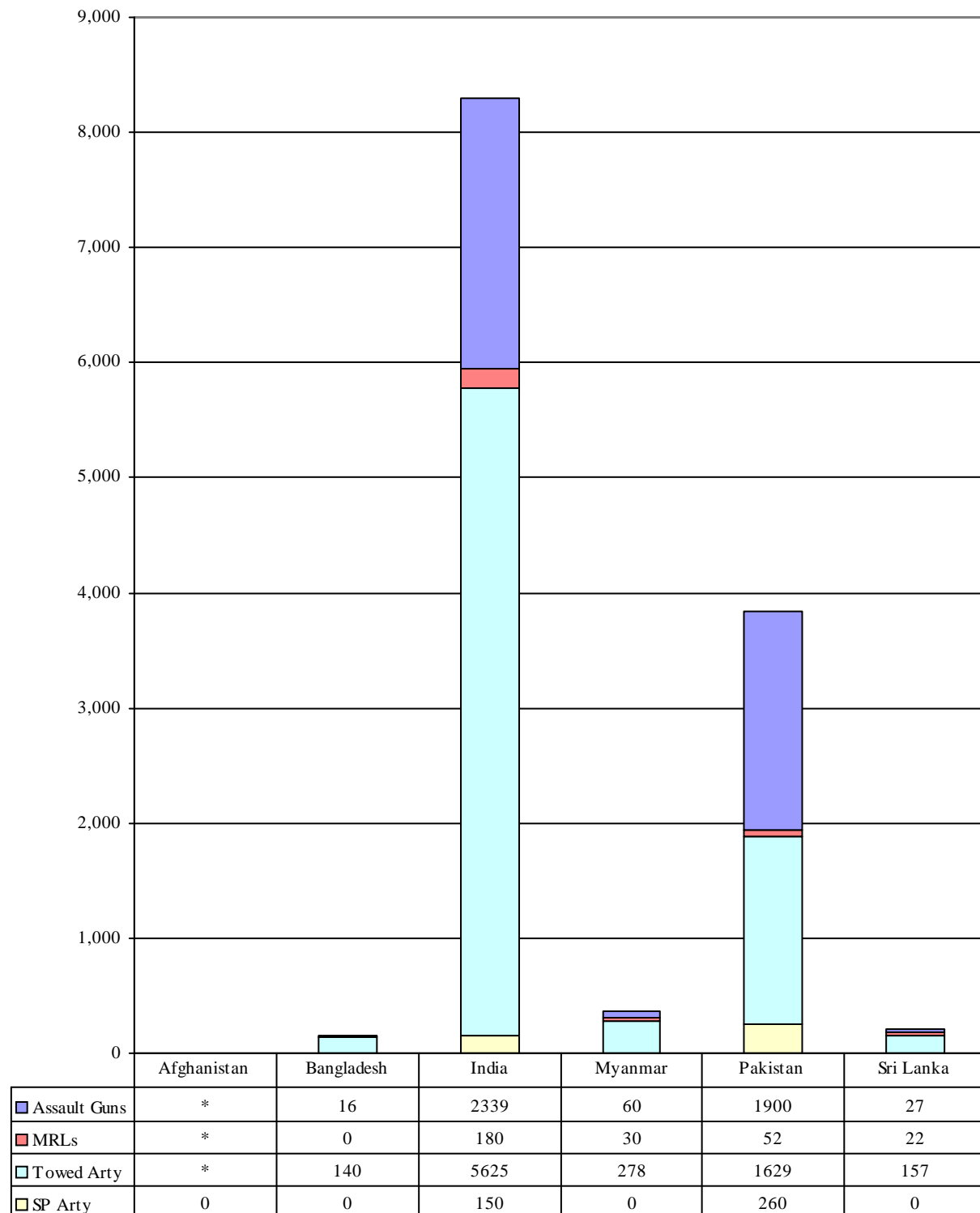
Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 7: South Asian Artillery Weapons in Key Powers: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



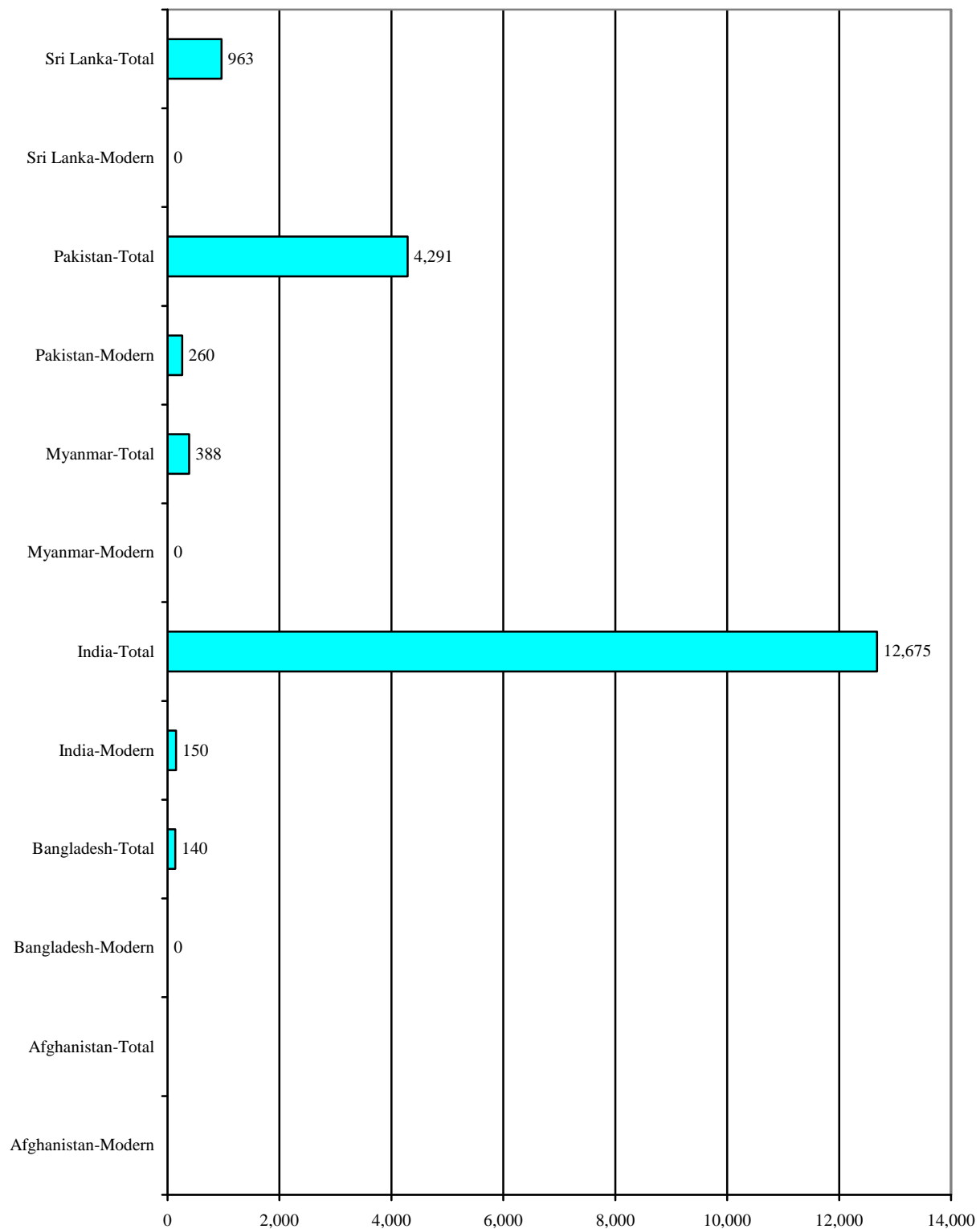
Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 8: South Asian Artillery Strength: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



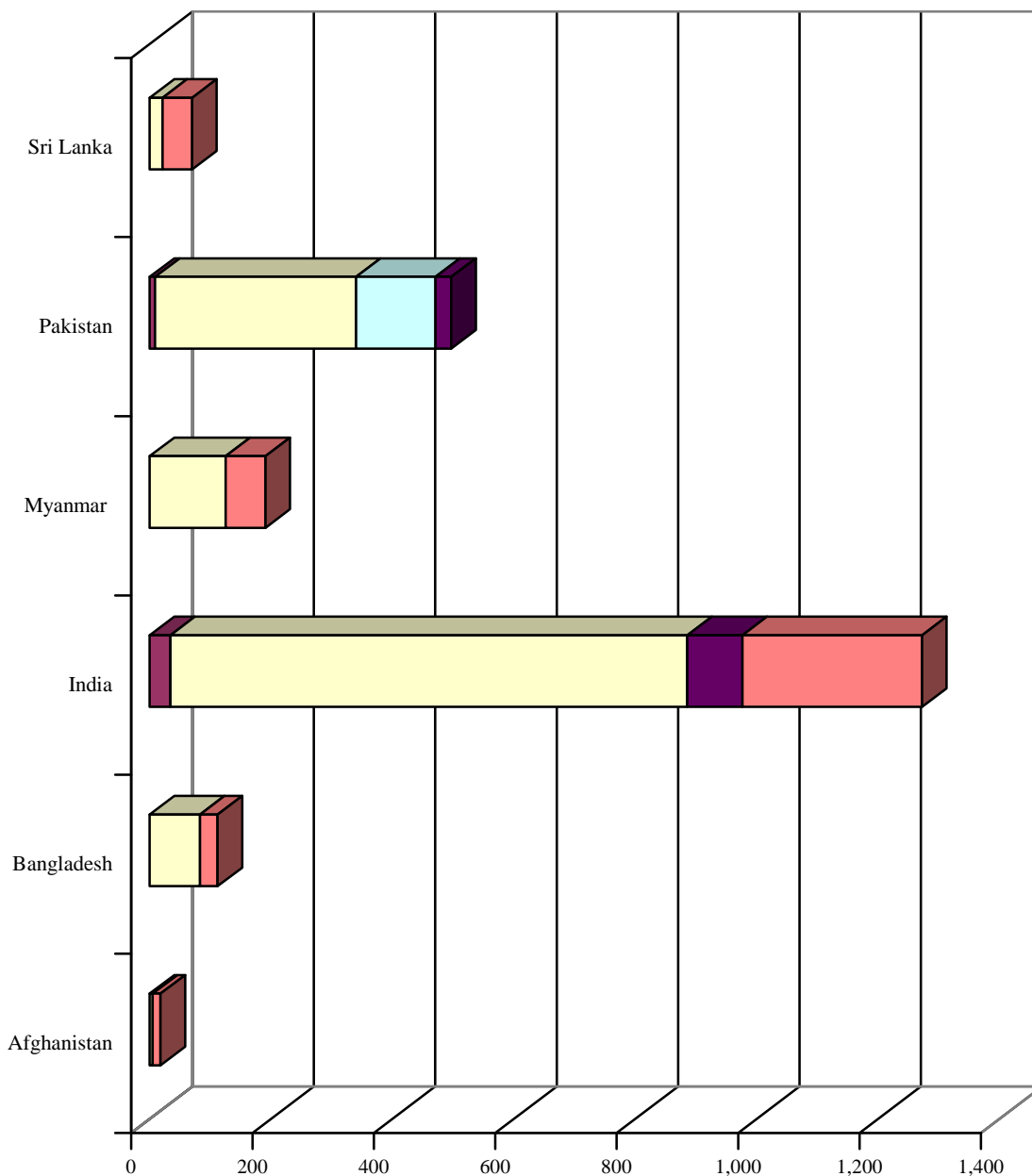
Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 9: South Asian Modern Self-Propelled Artillery versus Total Holdings: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

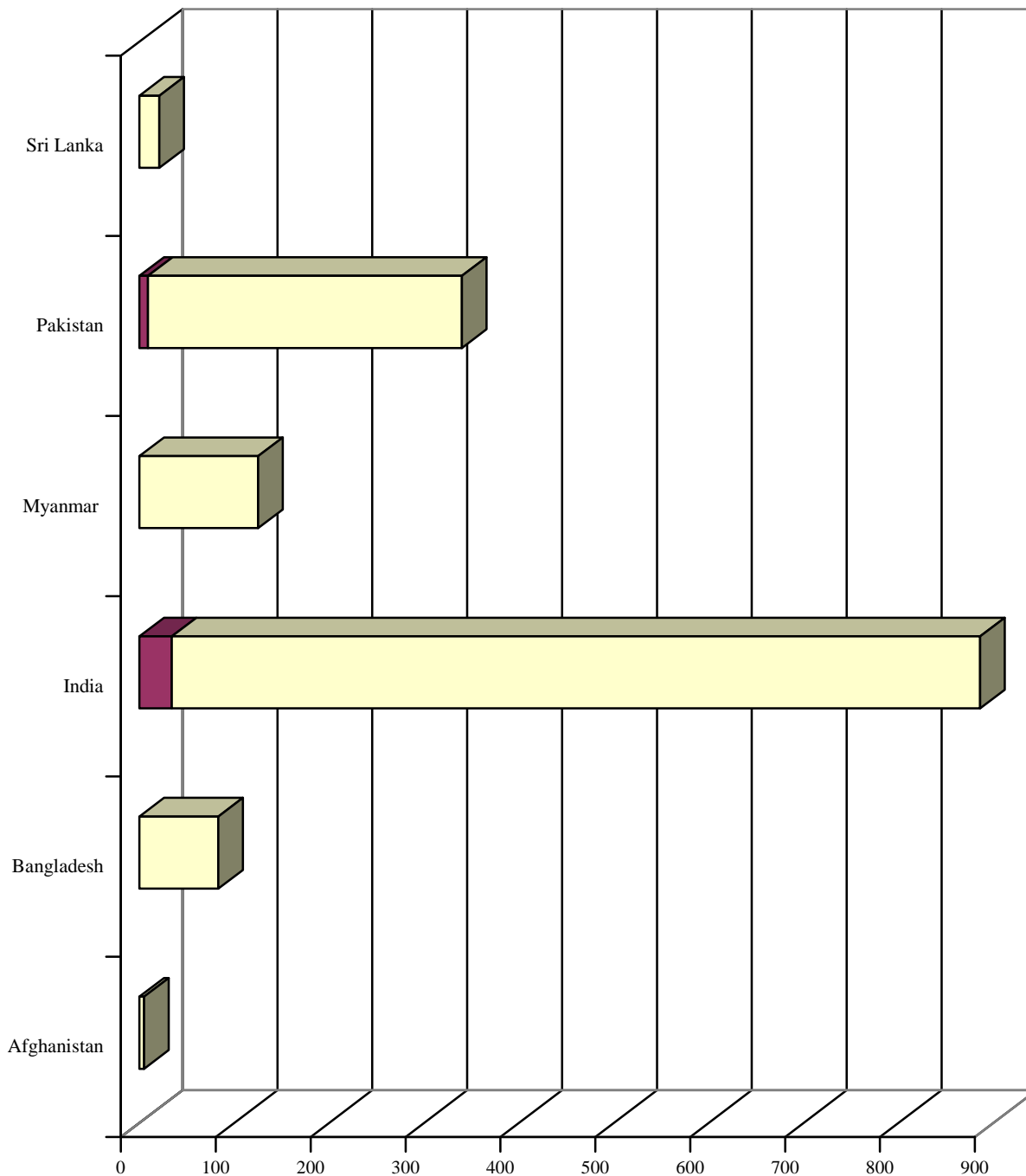
**Figure 10: South Asian Fixed and Rotary Wing Combat Aircraft: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Air Force Hel	13	29	296	66	*	49
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Navy Hel	0	0	91	0	26	0
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Army Hel	0	0	0	0	131	0
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Air Force Fixed Wing	5	83	852	125	331	21
<span style="color: darkred;">■</span> Navy Fixed Wing	0	0	34	0	9	0
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Army Fixed Wing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

**Figure 11: South Asian Fixed Wing Combat Aircraft: 2006**  
(Number in active service)

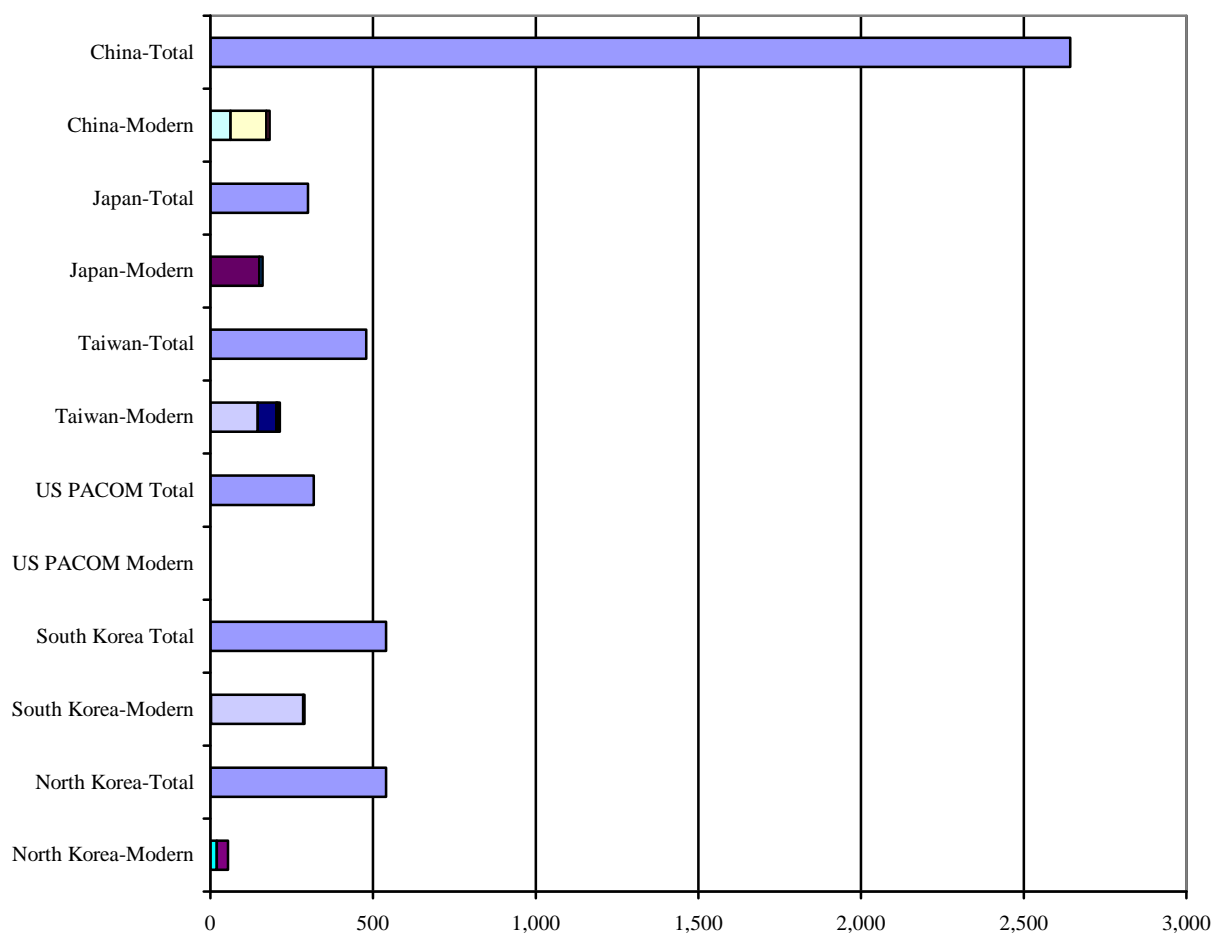


	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Air Force Fixed Wing	5	83	852	125	331	21
<span style="color: maroon;">■</span> Navy Fixed Wing	0	0	34	0	9	0
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Army Fixed Wing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 12: Northeast Asian Modern Air Force Combat Aircraft versus Total Combat Aircraft: 2006**

(Number in active service)

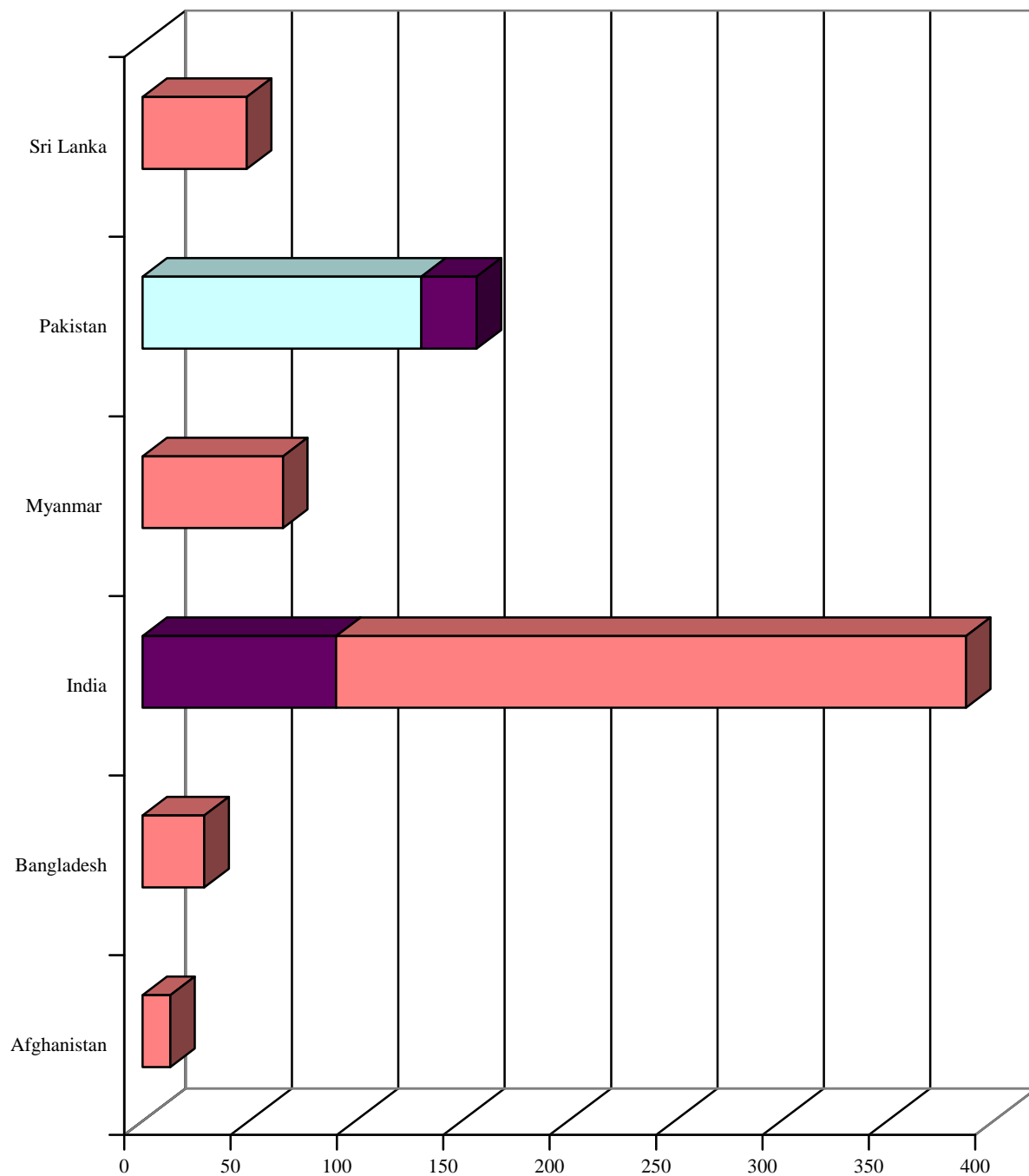


	North -Korea Modern	North -Korea Total	South -Korea Modern	South Korea Total	US PACO M	US PACO M Total	-Taiwan Modern	-Taiwan Total	-Japan Modern	-Japan Total	-China Modern	-China Total
Su-25	34		0				0		0		0	
MiG-29	20		0				0		0		0	
Hawkeye XP	0		4				6		0		0	
E-2T	0		0				4		0		0	
M-2000-5	0		0				57		0		0	
F-16	0		283				146		0		0	
EC-2	0		0				0		10		0	
F-15	0		2				0		150		0	
Su-30	0		0				0		0		10	
Su-27	0		0				0		0		110	
J-10	0		0				0		0		62	
Total	-54-	540	-289-	540	*	318	-213-	479	-160-	300	-182-	2643

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.



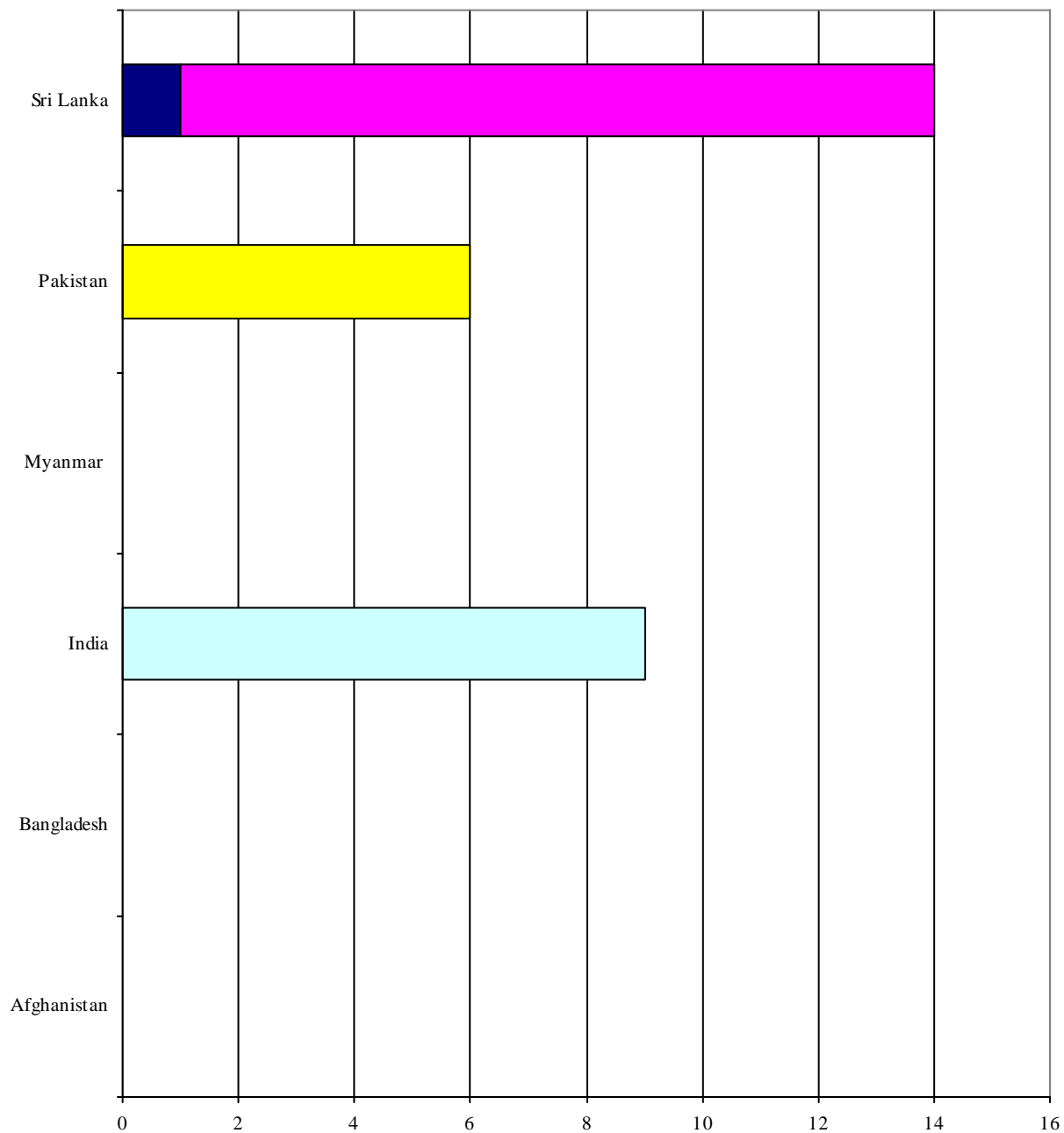
**Figure 13: South Asian Rotary Wing Combat Aircraft: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Air Force Hel	13	29	296	66	*	49
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Navy Hel	0	0	91	0	26	0
<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Army Hel	0	0	0	0	131	0

Source: Based primarily on material in the [IISS Military Balance 2005-2006](#), plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author. \*indicates an unspecified number.

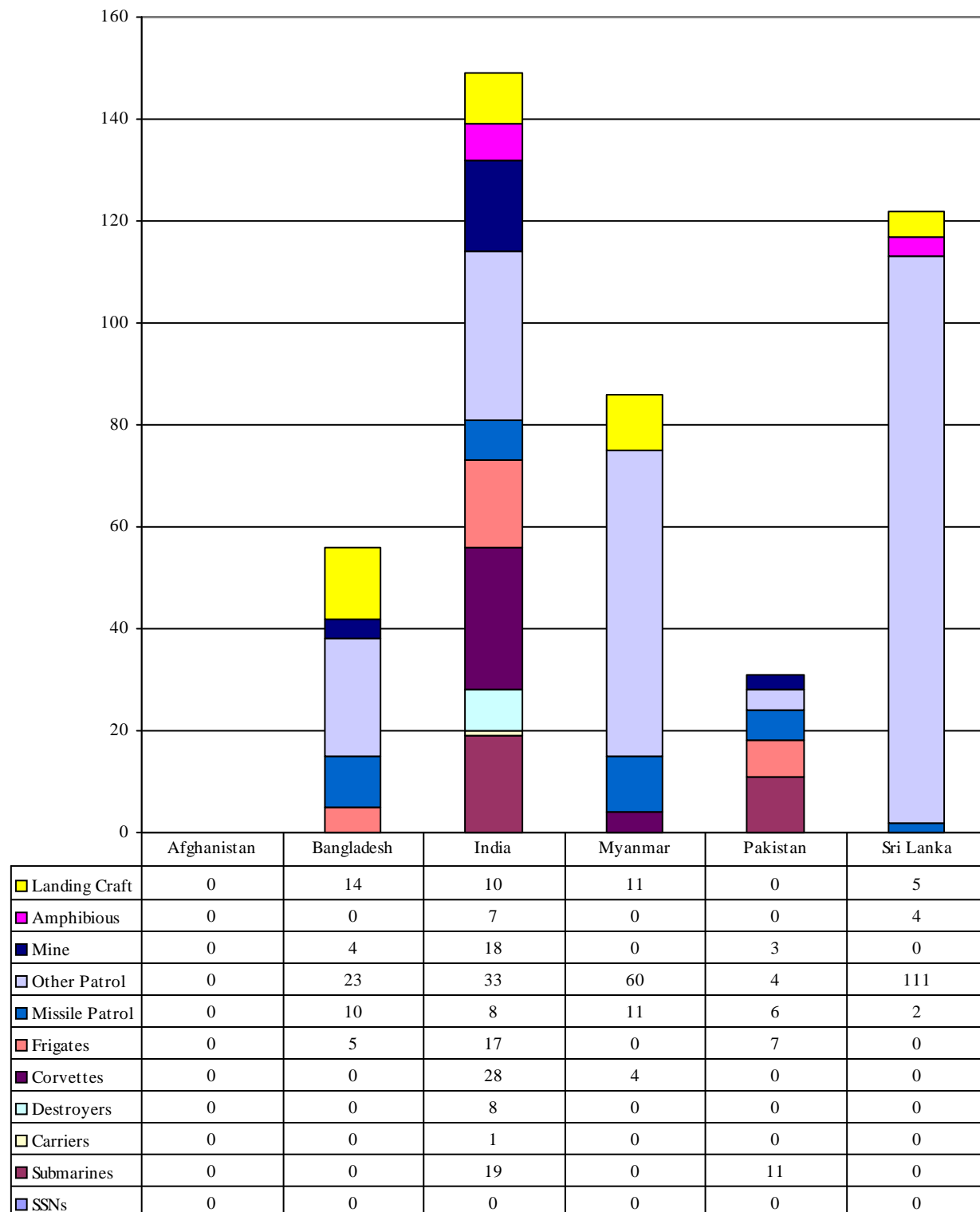
**Figure 14: South Asian Modern Attack and Armed Helicopters by Type: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Lynx	0	0	0	0	6	0
<span style="color: magenta;">■</span> Mi-35	0	0	0	0	0	13
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Mi-24	0	0	0	0	0	1
<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> KA-27	0	0	9	0	0	0

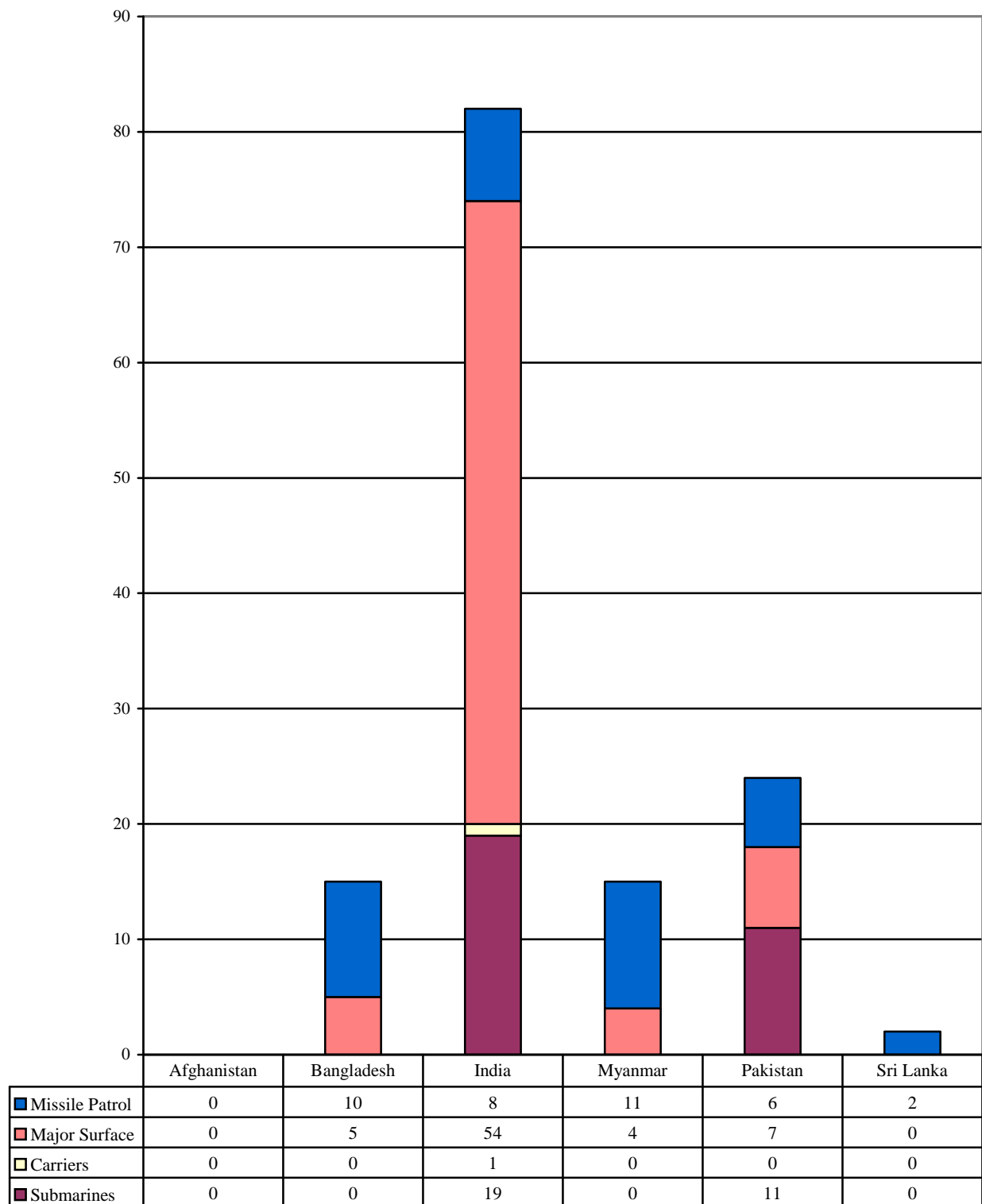
Source: Based primarily on material in the [IISS Military Balance 2005-2006](#), plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 15: South Asian Naval Combat Ships: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



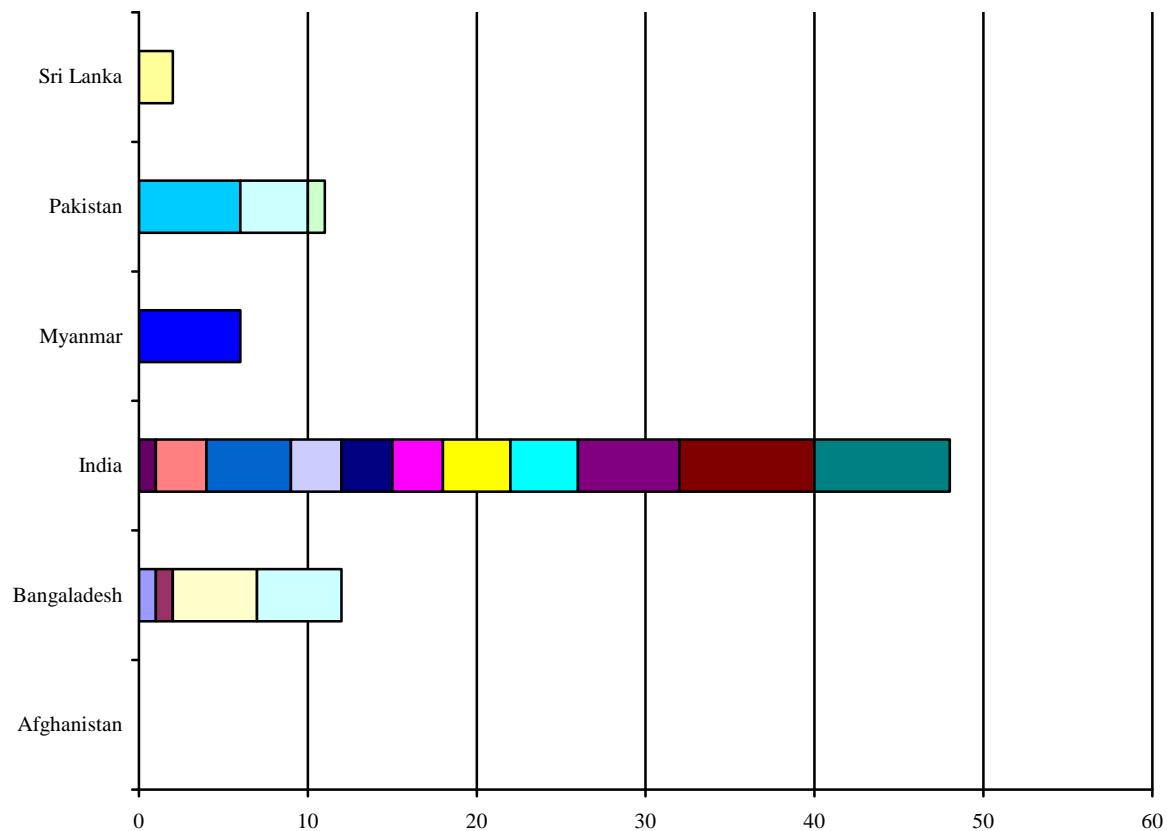
Source: Based primarily on material in the IISS Military Balance 2005-2006, plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 16: South Asian Major Naval Combat Ships in Key Powers: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



Source: Based primarily on material in the IISS Military Balance 2005-2006, plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

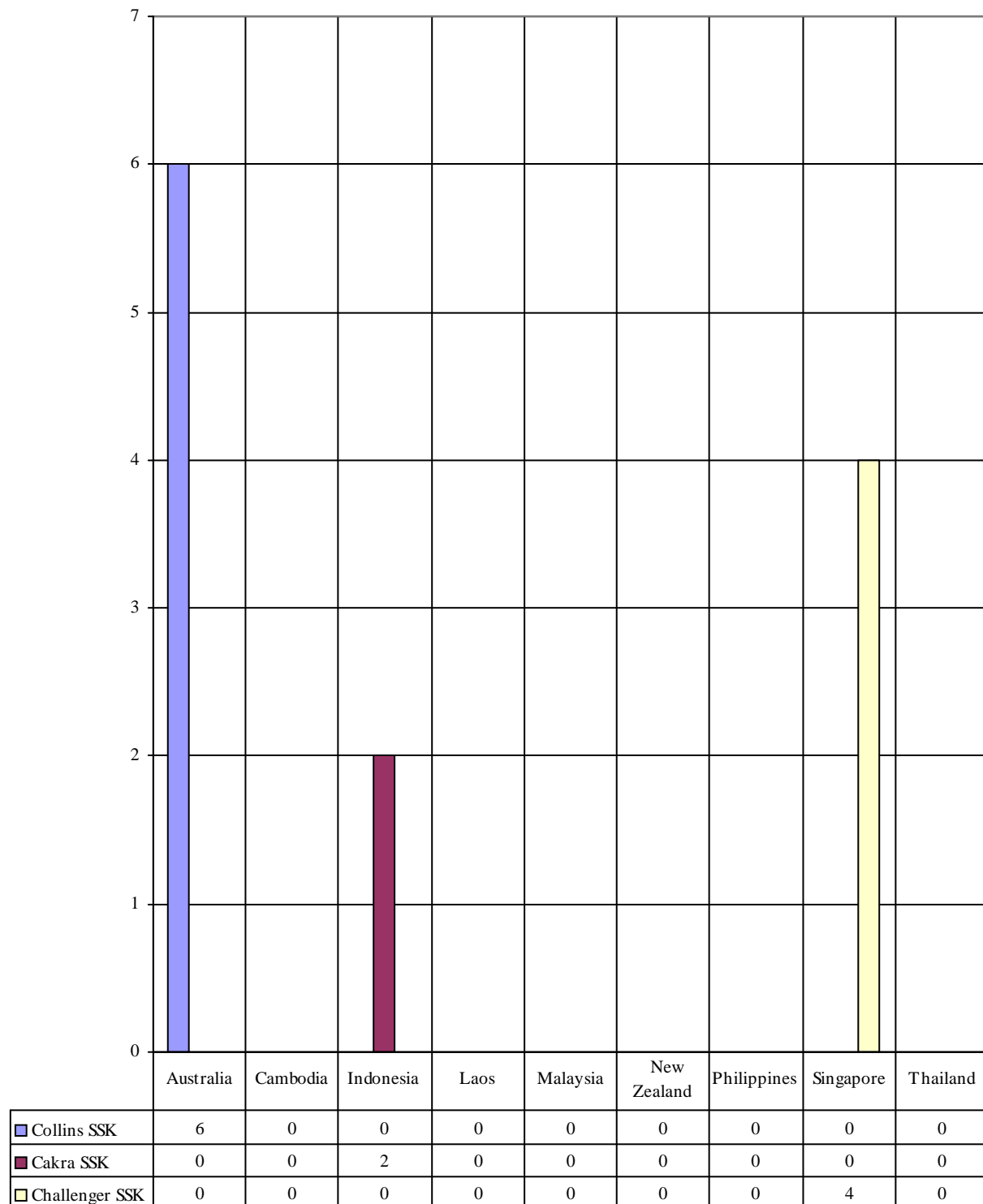
**Figure 17: South Asian Modern Major Missile and ASW Surface Vessels by Type: 2006**  
(Number in active service)



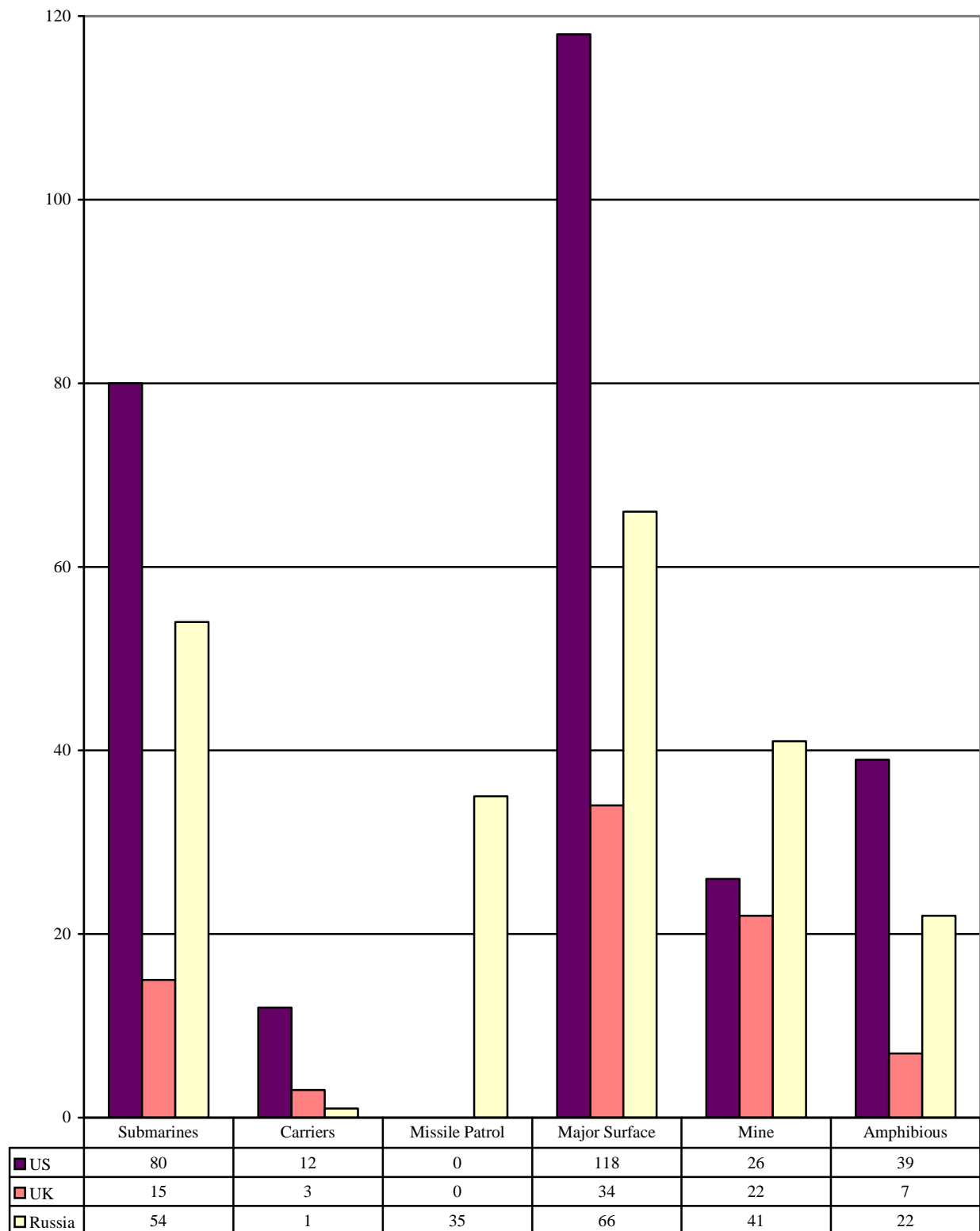
	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	India	Myanmar	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
■ Nandimithra PFM	0	0	0	0	0	2
■ Sabqat	0	0	0	0	1	0
■ Jalalat II	0	0	0	0	4	0
■ Tariq FFG	0	0	0	0	6	0
■ Houxin PFM	0	0	0	6	0	0
■ Osa II PFM	0	0	8	0	0	0
■ Vibhuti FSG	0	0	8	0	0	0
■ Veer FSG	0	0	6	0	0	0
■ Kora FSG	0	0	4	0	0	0
■ Khukri FSG	0	0	4	0	0	0
■ Talvar FFG	0	0	3	0	0	0
■ Godavari FFG	0	0	3	0	0	0
■ Brahmaputra FFG	0	0	3	0	0	0
■ Rajput DDG	0	0	5	0	0	0
■ Delhi DDG	0	0	3	0	0	0
■ Viraat CV	0	0	1	0	0	0
■ Durdarsha PFM	0	5	0	0	0	0
■ Durbar PFM	0	5	0	0	0	0
■ Osman FFG	0	1	0	0	0	0
■ Bangabandhu FFG	0	1	0	0	0	0

Source: Based primarily on material in the *IISS Military Balance 2005-2006*, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 18: South Asian Submarines by Type: 2006**  
(Number in active Service)



Source: Based primarily on material in the IISS Military Balance 2005-2006, Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.

**Figure 19: Western Naval Combat Ships Affecting the Asian Balance: 2006**

Source: Based primarily on material in the [IISS Military Balance 2005-2006](#), Routledge, 2005 plus data drawn from USPACOM sources and US experts. Some data estimated or corrected by the author.