



April 9, 2020

Statistics on scrambles through FY2019

1. Overall

The Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) fighter aircrafts were scrambled 947 times in FY2019 in total, which marked a decrease of 52 times compared to the previous fiscal year and the third largest number since 1958 when the SDF started scrambling against aircraft intruding into Japan's territorial airspace.

A breakdown of JASDF scrambles by country and region showed about 71% against Chinese aircraft, about 28% against Russian aircraft, and about 1% against other aircraft, although the numbers include estimates.

2. Breakdown of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Forces

In FY2019, fighter aircraft of the Northern Air Defense Force were scrambled 198 times, those of the Central Air Defense Force 35 times, those of the Western Air Defense Force 133 times, and those of the Southwestern Air Defense Force 581 times.

Compared to the previous fiscal year, the number of scrambles by the Western Air Defense Force increased, while the number of scrambles by the Northern Air Defense Force, the Central Air Defense Force and the Southwestern Air Defense Force decreased.

3. Characteristics of Responses in FY2019

The JASDF fighter aircraft were scrambled 675 times against Chinese aircraft, an increase of 35 times compared to the previous fiscal year. In FY2019, the unusual flights made public include the cases of Chinese military aircraft such as H-6 bomber that flew between the main island of Okinawa and Miyako Island and the first visual confirmation of Y-9(※) early warning aircraft.

The JASDF fighter aircrafts were scrambled 268 times against Russian aircraft, a decrease of 75 times compared to the previous fiscal year. In FY2019, the unusual flights made public include the violation of Japan's airspace by Tu-95 bomber and A-50 airborne early warning and control, and the first visual confirmation of Su-34 fighter bomber.

In FY2019, a total of 19 flight cases were made public, including the joint flight by Chinese H-6 bomber and Russian Tu-95 bomber over the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan. The JASDF conducted many of the scrambles in FY2019 against fighter aircraft in particular among Chinese military aircraft and intelligence gathering aircraft among Russian military aircraft, although the data includes estimates.

The data above was collected between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020.

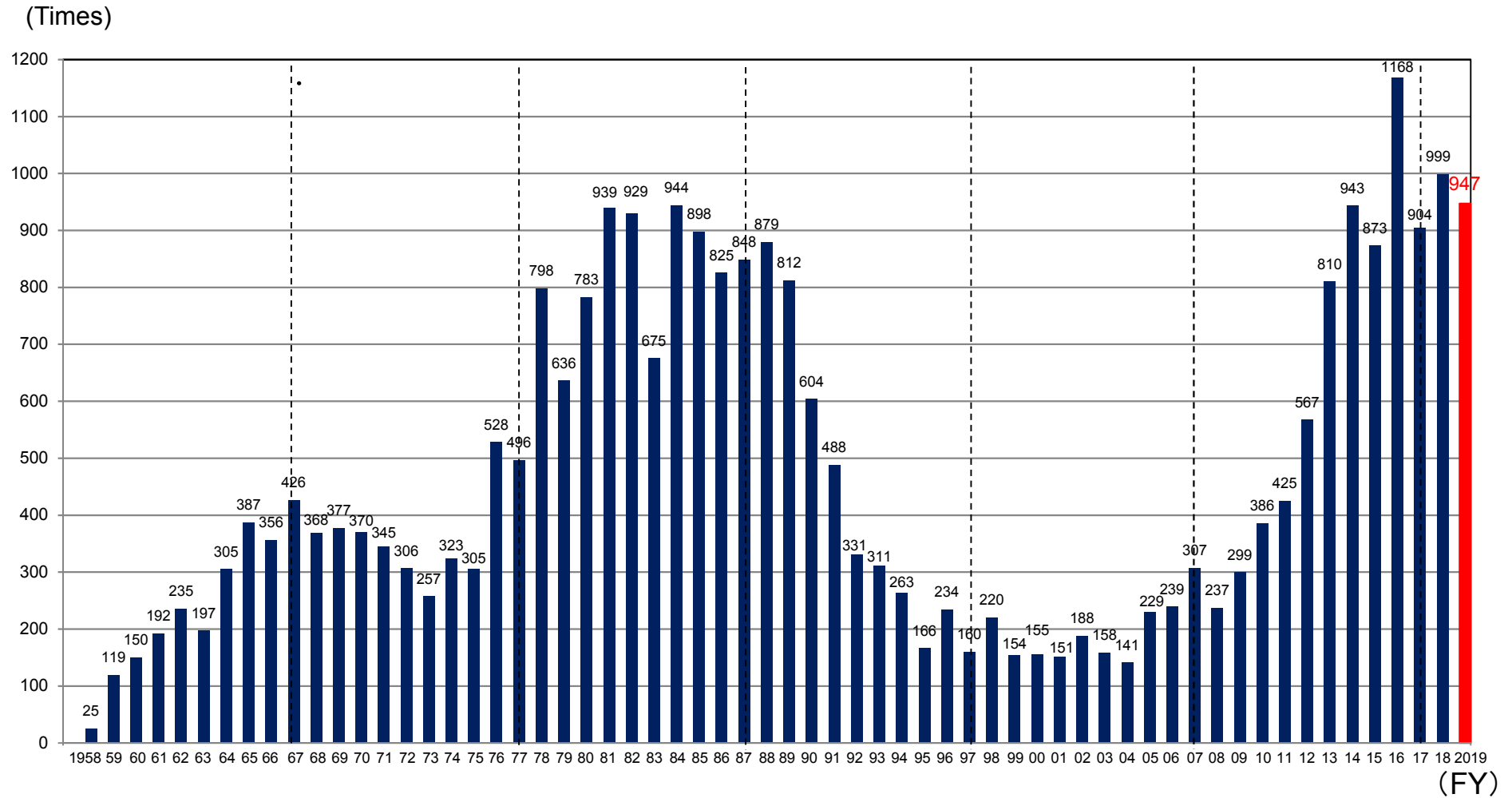
(※) Correction from Y-8 at the first announcement.

References

1. Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year
2. Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Forces (Past Five Years)
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Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year

(As of March 31, 2020)

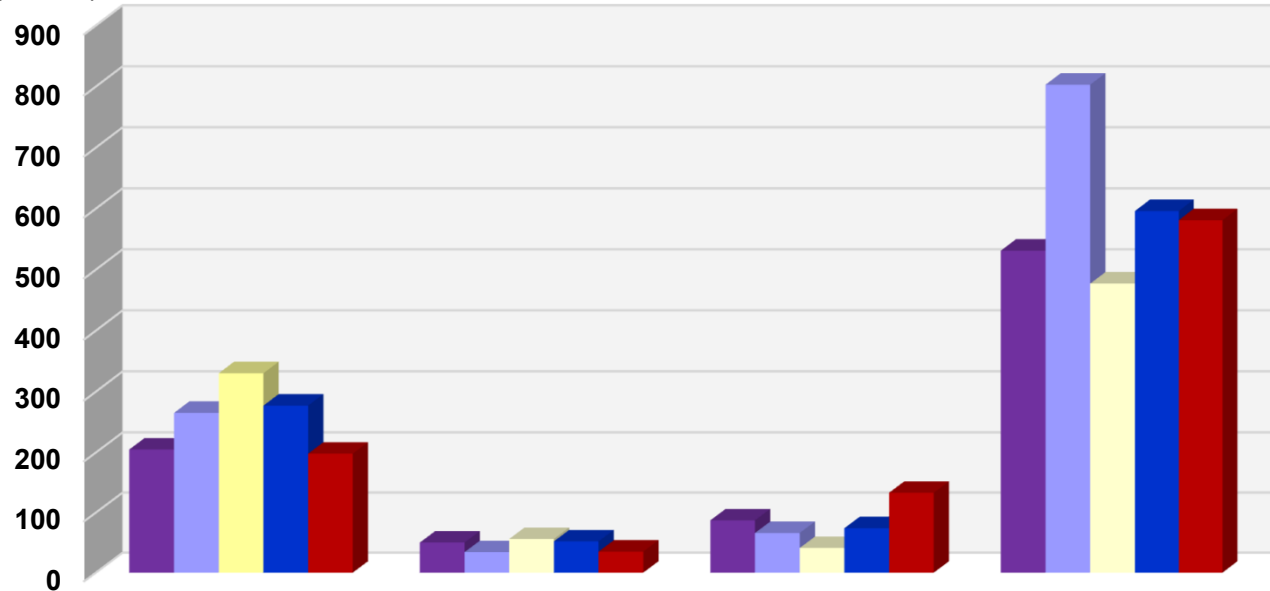


The data above was collected between April 1, 1958, and March 31, 2020

Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Force (Past Five Years)

(Times)

(As of March 31, 2020)



	Northern Air Defense Force	Central Air Defense Force	Western Air Defense Force	Southwestern Air Defense Force	Total
■ FY2015	205	50	87	531	873
■ FY2016	265	34	66	803	1168
■ FY2017	330	56	41	477	904
■ FY2018	277	52	74	596	999
■ FY2019	198	35	133	581	947

Number of Scrambles by Country/Region (Past Five Years)

(As of March 31, 2020)

Country/ Region FY	Russia	China	Taiwan	North Korea	Other countries	Total
2015	288	571	2	0	12	873
2016	301	851	8	0	8	1168
2017	390	500	3	0	11	904
2018	343	638	0	0	18	999
2019	268	675	0	0	4	947

※ The number of times of scrambles by country/region includes some unconfirmed cases.

Number of Scrambles by Quarter (FY2019)

(As of March 31, 2020)

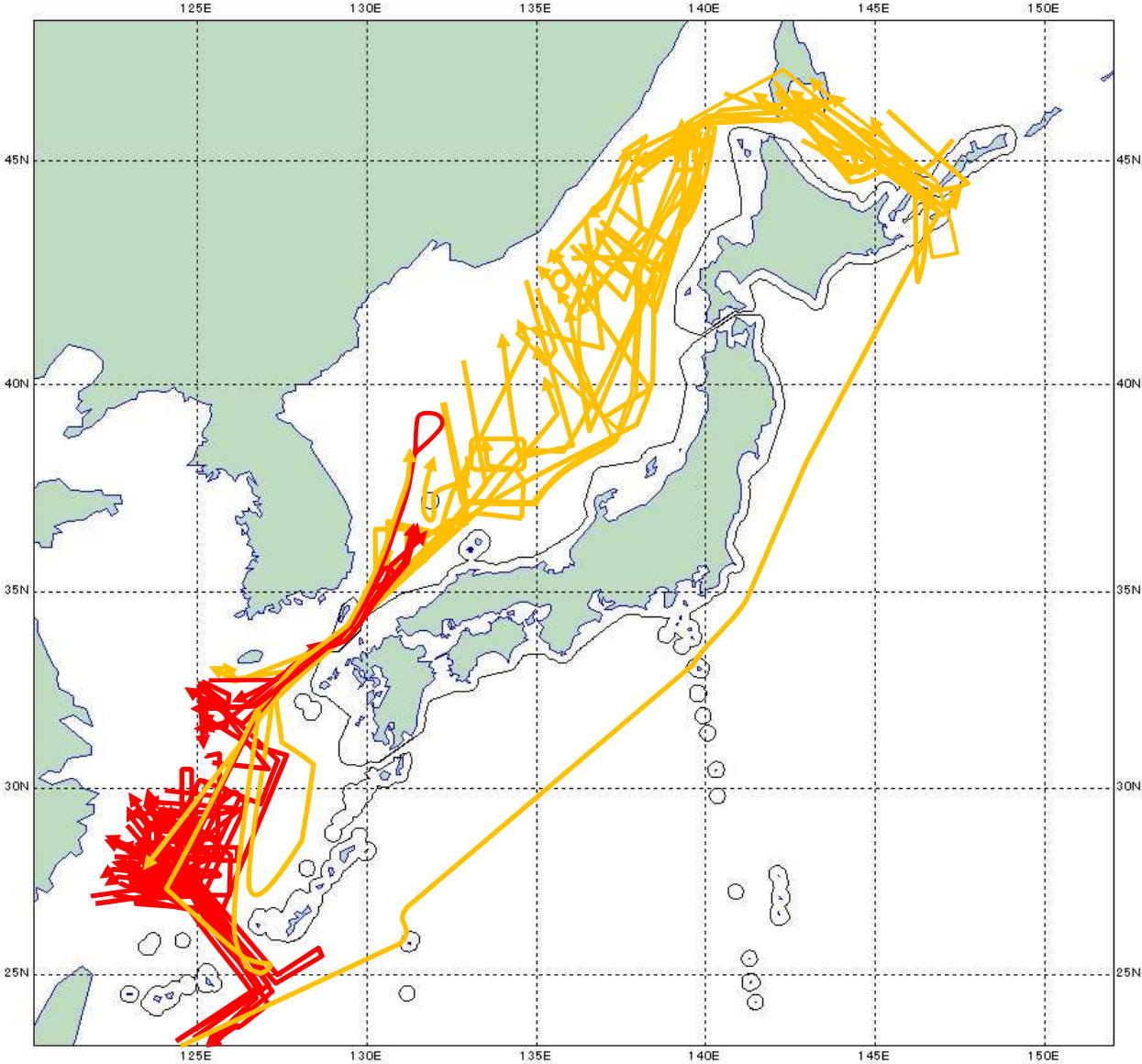
1. Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Force

	Northern Air Defense Force	Central Air Defense Force	Western Air Defense Force	Southwestern Air Defense Force	Total
1 st Quarter	41	10	33	162	246
2 nd Quarter	52	9	29	134	224
3 rd Quarter	63	7	37	165	272
4 th Quarter	42	9	34	120	205
Total	198	35	133	581	947

2. Number of Scrambles by Country/Region

	Russia	China	Taiwan	North Korea	Other countries	Total
1 st Quarter	65	179	0	0	2	246
2 nd Quarter	70	153	0	0	1	224
3 rd Quarter	81	191	0	0	0	272
4 th Quarter	52	152	0	0	1	205
Total	268	675	0	0	4	947

Example Flight Patterns of Russian and Chinese Aircraft to Which Scrambles Responded

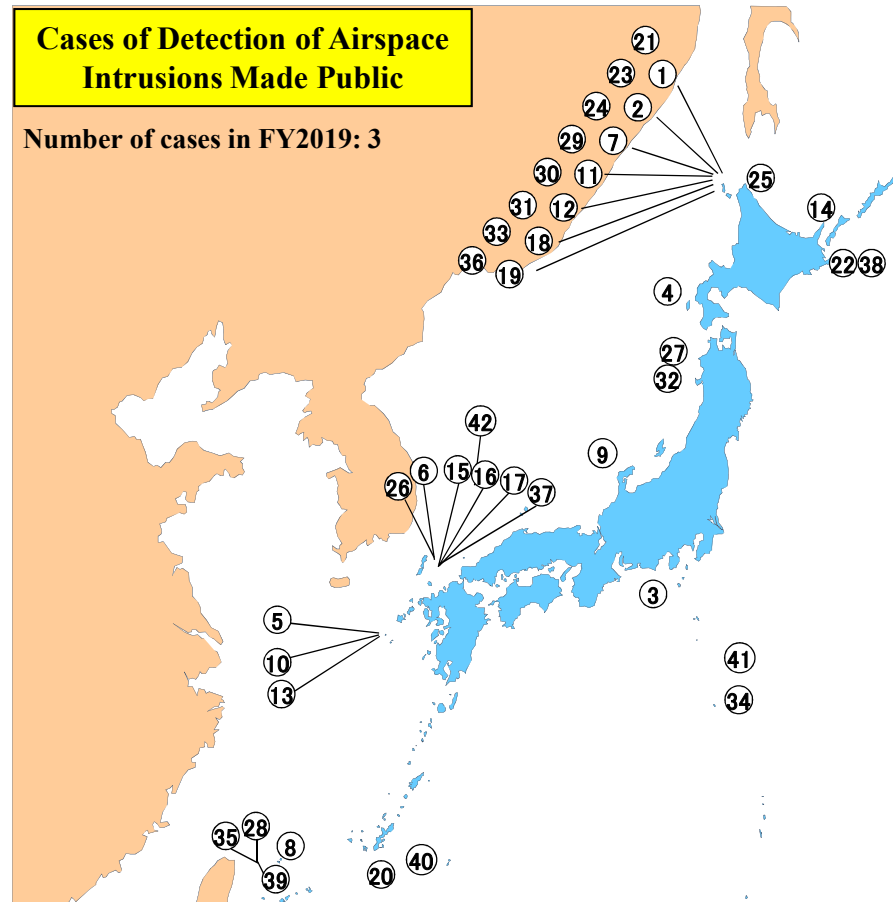


→ : Route of Chinese aircraft → : Route of Russian aircraft

No.	Date	Point of Territory Invasion	Country/ Region	Type of Aircraft × Number of Aircraft
1	1967.8.19	Over Rebus Island, Hokkaido	The Soviet Union (USSR)	unknown × 1
2	1974.2.7	Over Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
3	1975.9.24	Over the territorial waters between Shikine Island and Kodu Island of the Izu Islands	USSR	TU-95 × 2
4	1976.9.6	Over from off Cape Motta, Hokkaido to Hakodate Airport (MIG-25 incident)	USSR	MIG-25 × 1
5	1977.9.7	Over the territorial waters northwestward of Shirase Island, in the western of the Goto Islands	USSR	TU-95 × 2
6	1978.3.17	Over the territorial waters eastward of Tsushima Islands	USSR	TU-95 × 1
7	1978.12.5	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
8	1979.11.15	Over the territorial waters southward of Taisho Island of the Senkaku Islands	USSR	TU-95 × 2
9	1980.6.29	Over the territorial waters northeastward of Hegura Island, in the north of the Noto Peninsula	USSR	IL-38 × 2
10	1980.8.18	Over the territorial waters southeastward of the Goto Islands	USSR	IL-62 × 1
11	1981.6.6	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	IL-14 × 1
12	1981.7.24	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
13	1982.4.3	Over the territorial waters westward of Torishima Island of the Danjo Islands, Nagasaki Prefecture	USSR	IL-62 × 1
14	1983.10.15	Over the territorial waters in the northeastward of the Shiretoko Cape, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 2
15	1983.11.15	Over the territorial waters northwestward of Okinoshima Island, Fukuoka Prefecture	USSR	TU-16/95 × 1 each
16	1984.11.12	Over the territorial waters northwestward of Okinoshima Island, Fukuoka Prefecture	USSR	TU-16 × 1
17	1984.11.23	Over the territorial waters northwestward of Okinoshima Island, Fukuoka Prefecture	USSR	TU-95/142 × 1 each
18	1986.2.6	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
19	1987.8.27	Over the territorial waters westward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
20	1987.12.9	Over the Okinawa Main Island and the territorial waters between Tokunoshima Island and Okinoerabu Island	USSR	TU-16 × 1
21	1989.4.21	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
22	1991.7.6	Over the territorial waters southward of the Nemuro Peninsula, Hokkaido	USSR	AN-30 × 1
23	1991.8.15	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	USSR	TU-95 × 2
24	1992.4.10	Over Rebus Island and the territorial waters northwestward of Wakkanai, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	AN-12 × 1
25	1992.5.7	Over the territorial waters off Esashi, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	unknown × 1
26	1992.7.28	Over the territorial waters eastward of Tsushima Islands, Nagasaki Prefecture	Russian Federation	TU-154 × 1
27	1993.8.31	Over the territorial waters westward of Kyurokujima Island, Aomori Prefecture	Russian Federation	IL-20 × 1
28	1994.3.25	Over the territorial waters of Uotsuri Island and Kuba Island of the Senkaku Islands	Taiwan	B-350 × 1
29	1995.3.23	Over the territorial waters of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	MIG-31 × 1
30	2001.2.14	Over the territorial waters of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	TU-22 × 2, unknown × 2



Cases of Detection of Airspace Intrusions Made Public

Number of cases in FY2019: 3




No.	Date	Point of Territory Invasion	Country/Region	Type of Aircraft × Number of Aircraft
32	2001.4.11	Over the territorial waters westward of Kyurokujima Island, Aomori Prefecture	Russian Federation	SU-24 × 1
33	2006.1.25	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebus Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	AN-72 × 1
34	2008.2.9	Over the territorial waters of Sofugan, in the southern part of the Izu Islands	Russian Federation	TU-95 × 1
35	2012.12.13	Over the territorial waters southward of Uotsuri Island of the Senkaku Islands	China	Y-12 × 1
36	2013.2.7	Over the territorial waters southwestward of Rishiri Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	SU-27 × 2
37	2013.8.22	Over the territorial waters northwestward of Okinoshima Island, Fukuoka Prefecture	Russian Federation	TU-95 × 2
38	2015.9.15	Over the territorial waters off Nemuro Peninsula, Hokkaido	Estimated to be Russian Federaion	unknown × 1
39	2017.5.18	around the Senkaku Islands of Japan	China	One drone-like object
40	2019.6.20	Over the territorial waters north west of Minamidaito Island	Russian Federation	TU-95 × 2
41		Over the territorial waters north west of Hachijo Island	Russian Federation	TU-95 × 1
42	2019.7.23	Over the territorial waters off Takeshima Island	Russian Federation	A-50 × 1

List of Cases of Airspace Violation Made Public (First Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
1	Thursday, June 20, 2019	Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft	Flight in the territorial airspace near Minamidaito Island	
		Russia Tu-95 One aircraft	Flight in the territorial airspace near Hachijo Island	

List of Cases of Airspace Violation Made Public (Second Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
2	Tuesday, July 23, 2019	Russia A-50 One aircraft	Flight in the territorial airspace near Takeshima Island	

List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (First Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
1	Monday, April 1, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Pacific	
		China H-6 Two aircraft		
2	Friday, April 5, 2019	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
3	Monday, April 15, 2019	China H-6 Four aircraft	Long-range flight from the Pacific to the East China Sea	
		China Y-8 One aircraft		
4	Friday, May 3, 2019	Russia Tu-142 Two aircraft	Round-trip from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea through Tsushima Strait	
5	Wednesday, May 29, 2019	China Y-8 One aircraft	Flight from the East China Sea to the vicinity of Tsushima Strait	
		China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Pacific	
6	Sunday, June 16, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Pacific	




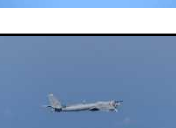



List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (Second Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
7	Tuesday, July 23, 2019	China H-6 Two aircraft	Joint flight from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea through Tsushima Strait	
		Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft		
8	Thursday, August 8, 2019	Russia Tu-142 Two aircraft	Round-trip from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea through Tsushima Strait	

List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (Third Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
9	Tuesday, October 22, 2019	Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft	Round-trip from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea through Tsushima Strait	
10	Tuesday, October 29, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
11	Wednesday, November 27, 2019	Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft	Round-trip from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea through Tsushima Strait	
12	Friday, November 29, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
13	Friday, December 27, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	

List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (Fourth Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
14	Monday, January 20, 2020	China Tu-154 One aircraft	Flight over the East China Sea	
15	Sunday, February 9, 2020	China H-6 Four aircraft	Long-range flight from the Pacific to the East China Sea	
16	Thursday, February 27, 2020	Russia Su-34 Two aircrafts	Flight over the Sea of Okhotsk (The first identification)	
17	Monday, March 23, 2020	China Y-9 One aircraft	Flight over the East China Sea (A new type of Y-9(※) AWACS and the first identification)	
18	Tuesday, March 24, 2020	Russia Tu-95 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the Sea of Japan to the Pacific	
		Russia Su-35 Two aircrafts	Flight over the Sea of Japan	
		Estimate Russia	Flight over the Sea of Japan	
19	Wednesday, March 25, 2020	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	

(※) Correction from Y-8 at the first announcement