



April 23, 2014

## Statistics on scrambles through fiscal year 2013

### 1. General

The Air Self Defense Force scrambled 810 times during FY2013, which marked a major increase of 243 times compared to the FY2012. Exceeding 800 times of scramble is the first time in 24 years to the day since FY1989 and this is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest number of scramble in 56 years of Japanese scramble history. The breakdown of countries and regions was 51% against Chinese aircraft, 44% against Russian aircraft, and 5% against North Korean and other aircraft, although countries and region also includes supposition.

### 2. Statistics by regional air defense force

During FY2013, scramble takeoffs were carried out 222 times by the Northern Air Defense Force, 86 times by the Central Air Defense Force, 100 times by the Western Air Defense Force, and 402 times by the Southwestern Composite Air Division.

The number of scramble takeoffs increased for all of the regional air defense forces in FY 2013 compared to FY 2012, with the greatest increase being noted for the Northern Air Defense Force and the Southwestern Composite Air Division.

### 3. Trends in FY 2013

A total of 415 scramble takeoffs were made against Chinese aircraft, up by 109 times from the FY 2012 figure. Twenty one cases of abnormal flights detected during FY 2013 were released to the public. Although the Chinese did not intrude into Japan's airspace, they expanded the range of flight activities using such types of aircraft as the Y-8, H-6, and TU-154.

A total of 359 scramble takeoffs were made against Russian aircraft, up by 111 times from the FY 2012 figure. Thirty one cases of abnormal flights detected during FY 2013 were made public, including the intrusion by a TU-95 aircraft into the airspace northwest of Okinoshima Island, Fukuoka Prefecture, on August 22.

A detection of what appeared to be an unmanned aerial vehicle of an unknown nationality was reported to the public for the first time on September 9.

Among all the scramble takeoffs that took place over the year, including some unconfirmed cases, many of them were made against Russian patrol aircraft and Chinese fighter aircraft.

These data were collected between April 1, 2013, and March 31, 2014.