



April 12, 2019

Statistics on scrambles through fiscal year 2018

1. Overall

Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) fighter aircraft were scrambled 999 times in FY2018 in total, which marked an increase of 95 times compared to the previous fiscal year and the second largest number since 1958 when the SDF started scrambling against aircraft intruding into Japan's territorial airspace.

A breakdown of ASDF scrambles by country and region showed about 64% against Chinese aircraft, about 34% against Russian aircraft, and about 2% against other aircraft although the numbers include estimations.

2. Breakdown of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Forces

In FY2018, fighter aircraft of the Northern Air Defense Force were scrambled 277 times, those of the Central Air Defense Force 52 times, those of the Western Air Defense Force 74 times, and those of the Southwestern Air Defense Force 596 times.

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

3. Characteristics of Responses in FY2018

ASDF fighter aircraft were scrambled 638 times against Chinese aircraft, an increase of 138 times compared to the previous fiscal year. In FY2018, a total of 19 cases, including the case of a flight of Chinese Y-9 intelligence gathering aircraft that flew over the Pacific Ocean northeastward to off of Amami Island, and the first confirmation of Chinese Y-9 patrol aircraft, were made public as unusual flights.

ASDF fighter aircraft were scrambled 343 times against Russian aircraft, a decrease of 47 times compared to the previous fiscal year. In FY2018, a total of 16 cases, including the case of a long-range flight of Russian Tu-142 patrol aircraft that flew around Japan, and the first confirmation of Russian Su-35 fighter aircraft, were made public as unusual flights.

A large number of scrambles were conducted against Chinese fighter aircraft and Russian intelligence gathering aircraft, although this includes estimations.

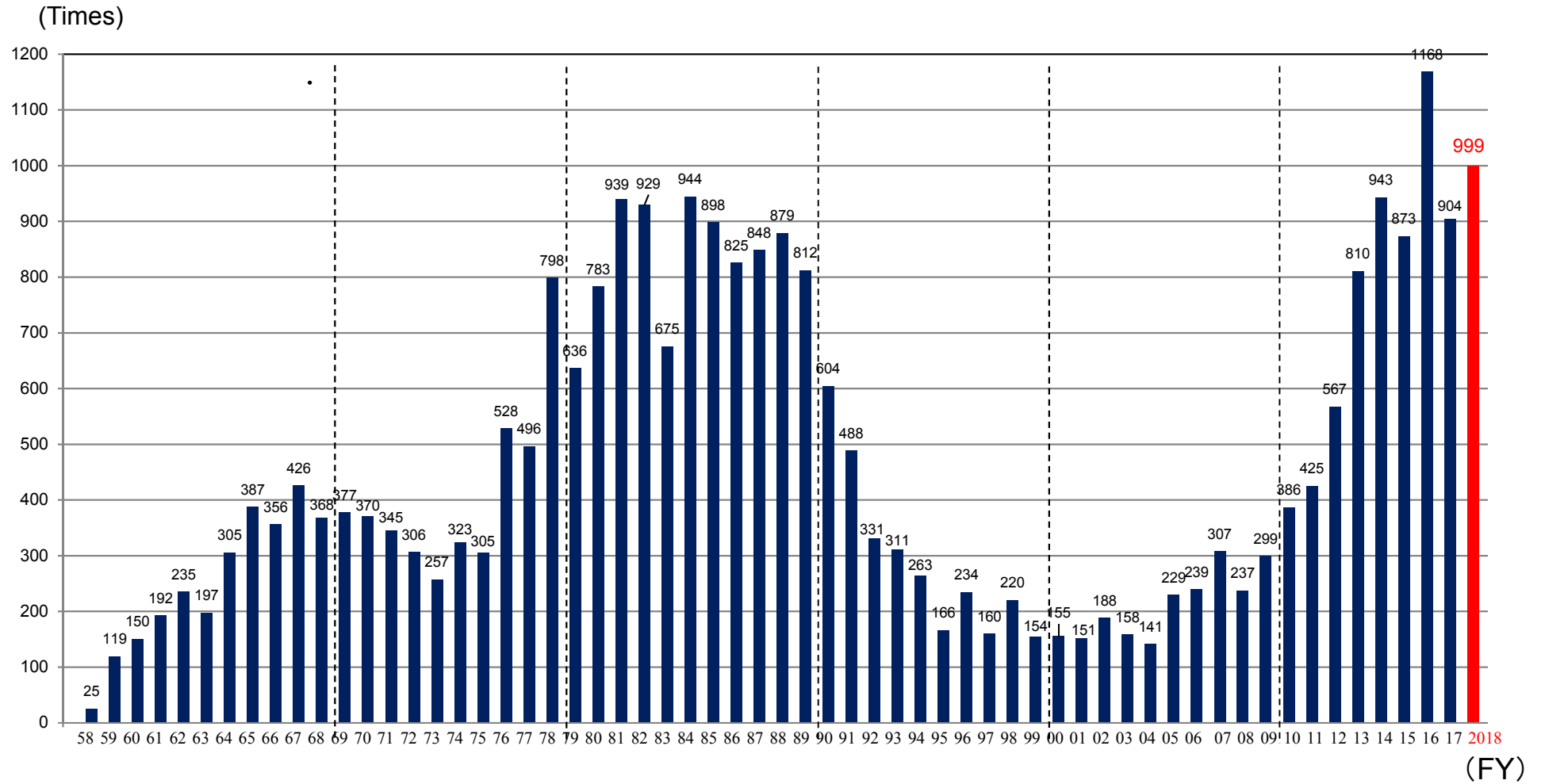
The data above was collected between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019.

References

1. Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year
2. Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Forces (Past Five Years)
3. Number of Scrambles by Country and Region (Past Five Years)
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5. Flight Pattern Examples of Russian and Chinese Aircraft Subject to Scrambles
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Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year

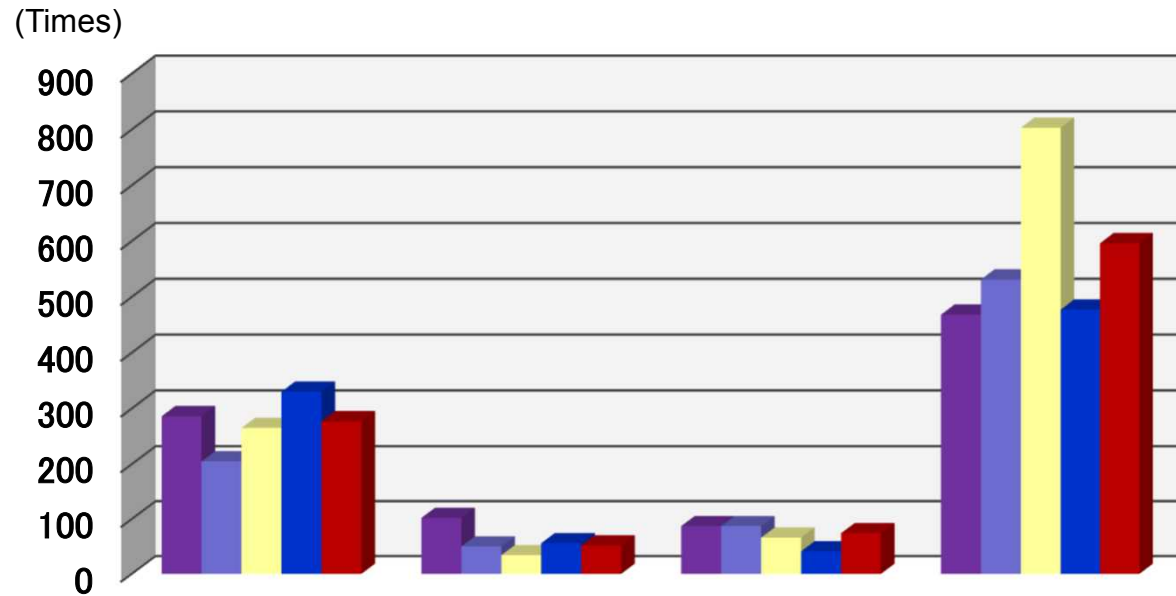
(As of March 31, 2019)



The data above was collected between April 1, 1958, and March 31, 2019

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

(As of March 31, 2019)



	Northern Air Defense Force	Central Air Defense Force	Western Air Defense Force	Southwestern Air Defense Force	Total
FY2014	286	102	87	468	943
FY2015	205	50	87	531	873
FY2016	265	34	66	803	1168
FY2017	330	56	41	477	904
FY2018	277	52	74	596	999

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

(As of March 31, 2019)

Country/ Region FY	Russia	China	Taiwan	North Korea	Other countries	Total
2014	473	464	1	0	5	943
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

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

Number of Scrambles by Quarter (FY2018)

(As of March 31, 2019)

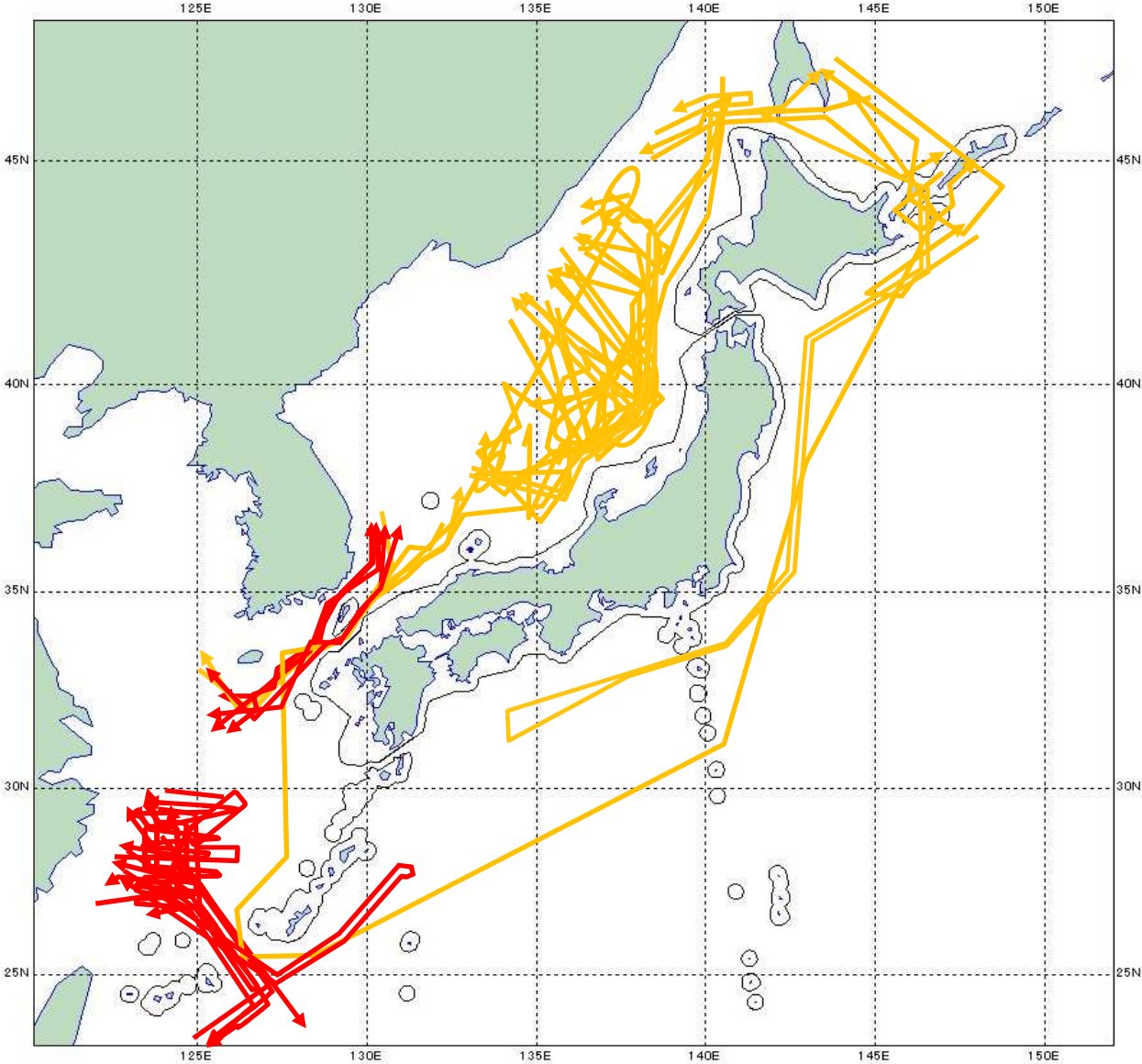
1. Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Force

	Northern Air Defense Force	Central Air Defense Force	Western Air Defense Force	Southwestern Air Defense Force	Total
1 st Quarter	65	24	12	170	271
2 nd Quarter	105	6	23	156	290
3 rd Quarter	52	7	18	120	197
4 th Quarter	55	15	21	150	241
Total	277	52	74	596	999

2. Number of Scrambles by Country/Region

	Russia	China	Taiwan	North Korea	Other countries	Total
1 st Quarter	95	173	0	0	3	271
2 nd Quarter	116	172	0	0	2	290
3 rd Quarter	59	131	0	0	7	197
4 th Quarter	73	162	0	0	6	241
Total	343	638	0	0	18	999

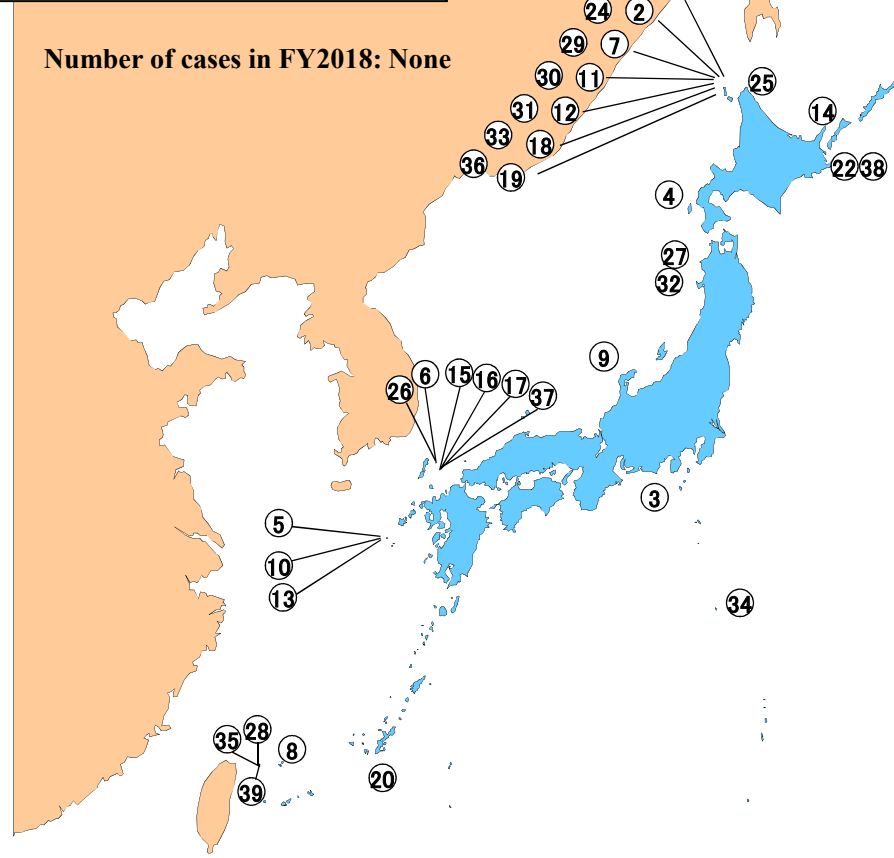
Example Flight Patterns of Russian and Chinese Aircraft to Which Scrambles Responded



→ : 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 Rebun Island, Hokkaido	The Soviet Union (USSR)	unknown × 1
2	1974.2.7	Over Rebun 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 Rebun 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 Rebun Island, Hokkaido	USSR	IL-14 × 1
12	1981.7.24	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebun 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 Rebun Island, Hokkaido	USSR	unknown × 1
19	1987.8.27	Over the territorial waters westward of Rebun 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 Rebun 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 Rebun Island, Hokkaido	USSR	TU-95 × 2
24	1992.4.10	Over Rebun 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 Rebun Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	MIG-31 × 1
30	2001.2.14	Over the territorial waters of Rebun Island Hokkaido	Russian	TU-22 × 2,

Cases of Detection of Airspace Intrusions Made Public



No.	Date	Point of Territory Invasion	Country/Region	Type of Aircraft × Number of Aircraft
31	2001.4.11	Over the territorial waters northward of Rebun Island, Hokkaido	Russian Federation	unknown × 1
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 Rebun 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 Federation	unknown × 1
39	2017.5.18	around the Senkaku Islands of Japan	China	One drone-like object




List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (First Quarter ①)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
1	Saturday, April 7, 2018	Russia Su-24 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
2	Tuesday, April 10, 2018	Presumed China Presumed BZK-005	flight over the East China Sea	
3	Friday, April 13, 2018	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
4	Tuesday, April 17, 2018	Russia Tu-142 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
5	Wednesday, April 18, 2018	China H-6 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean	
6	Thursday, April 19, 2018	China H-6 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean	
		China Y-8 One aircraft		
		China Tu-154 One aircraft		



List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (First Quarter ②)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
6	Thursday, April 19, 2018	Presumed China Two Fighter aircrafts	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
7	Friday, April 20, 2018	China H-6 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean	
8	Thursday, April 26, 2018	China H-6 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean	
		China Y-8 One aircraft		
		China Tu-154 One aircraft		
		Presumed China Two Fighter aircrafts	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
9	Saturday, April 28, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	



List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (First Quarter ③)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
10	Friday, May 11, 2018	China H-6 Four aircrafts	Two aircrafts: Long-range flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean Two aircrafts: Long-range flight from the Pacific Ocean to the East China Sea	
		China Tu-154 One aircraft	Long-range flight from the Pacific Ocean to the East China Sea	
		China Y-8 One aircraft		
		Presumed China Two Fighter aircrafts	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
11	Friday, May 11, 2018	Russia Tu-142 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
12	Tuesday, May 15, 2018	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
13	Wednesday, May 23, 2018	Russia Tu-142 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	


List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (First Quarter ④)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
14	Friday, May 25, 2018	China H-6 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the Pacific Ocean to the East China Sea	
15	Monday, June 4, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight between the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	

List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (Second Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
16	Friday, July 13, 2018	Russia Tu-95 Two aircrafts	Round-trip flight from the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea	
17	Friday, July 27, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
18	Wednesday, August 29, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
19	Saturday, September 1, 2018	Russia Tu-142 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight from the Sea of Japan to the Pacific Ocean through the East China Sea	
		Russia Su-24 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
20	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	Russia Su-35 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
		Russia Su-24 One aircraft		
		Presumed Russia One aircraft		



List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (Third Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
21	Thursday, October 18, 2018	Russia IL-38 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
22	Monday, October 29, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
23	Thursday, November 8, 2018	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
24	Monday, November 26, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
25	Wednesday, December 12, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
26	Friday, December 14, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
27	Wednesday, December 19, 2018	Russia Su-24 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
28	Thursday, December 27, 2018	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	

List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (Fourth Quarter①)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
29	Wednesday, January 16, 2019	Russia Su-24 Two aircrafts	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
30	Thursday, January 17, 2019	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
31	Friday, February 15, 2019	Russia Tu-95 Four aircrafts	Two aircrafts: Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan Two aircrafts Long-range flight from the Pacific Ocean to the Sea of Japan via the Sea of Okhotsk	
		Russia Su-35 Four aircrafts	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
32	Saturday, February 23, 2019	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
33	Tuesday, March 19, 2019	China Y-9 (Patrol aircraft) Two aircrafts	Flight over the East China	
34	Wednesday, March 27, 2019	Russia IL-38 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	

List of Cases Made Public in FY2018 (Fourth Quarter②)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
35	Saturday, March 30, 2019	China H-6 Four aircrafts	Round-trip flight between the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean	
		China Tu-154 One aircraft		
		Presumed China Two Fighter aircrafts		