



Jan 22 2021

Statistics on Scrambles through the Third Quarter of FY2020

1. Overall

Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) fighter aircraft were scrambled 544 times during the third quarter of FY2020.

The breakdown of scrambles by country and region was about 61% against Chinese aircraft, about 38% against Russian aircraft, and about 1% against other aircraft although the countries and regions include estimation.

2. Breakdown of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Force

In the third quarter of FY2020, fighter aircraft of the Northern Air Defense Force were scrambled 166 times, those of the Central Air Defense Force 26 times, those of the Western Air Defense Force 68 times, and those of the Southwestern Air Defense Force 284 times.

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

3. Characteristics of Responses through the First Quarter of FY2020

JASDF fighter aircraft were scrambled 331 times against Chinese aircraft and 206 times against Russian aircraft.

During the third quarter of FY2020, 11 cases were made public as unusual flights, including joint flight by Chinese bomber H-6 and Russian bomber Tu-95 over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the Pacific.

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

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

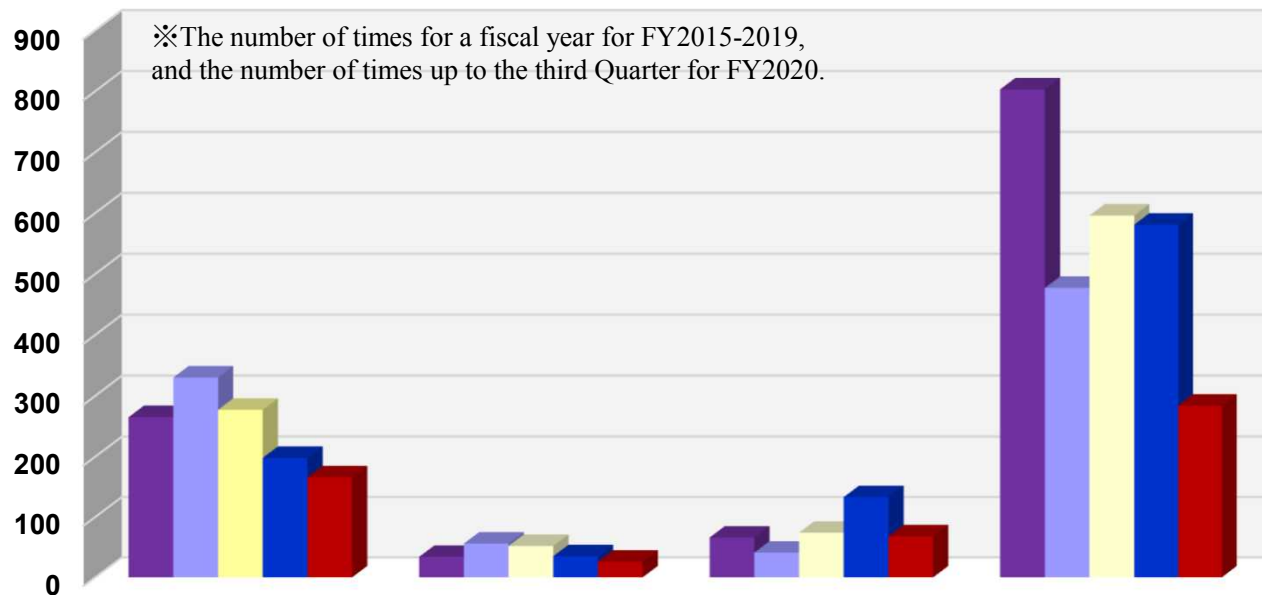
Reference

1. Number of Scrambles by Regional Air Defense Force (Past Five Years)
2. Number of Scrambles by Country and Region (Past Five Years)
3. Flight Pattern Examples of Russian and Chinese Aircraft Subject to Scrambles
4. List of Airspace Violation Case Made Public in FY2020 (Through the Third Quarter)
5. List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public in FY2020 (Through the Third Quarter)
6. Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year

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

(As of December 31, 2020)

(Number of times)



	Northern Air Defense Force		Central Air Defense Force		Western Air Defense Force		Southwestern Air Defense Force		Total	
	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3
FY2016	265	208	34	20	66	47	803	608	1168	883
FY2017	330	281	56	44	41	28	477	383	904	736
FY2018	277	222	52	37	74	53	596	446	999	758
FY2019	198	156	35	26	133	99	581	461	947	742
FY2020	—	166	—	26	—	68	—	284	—	544

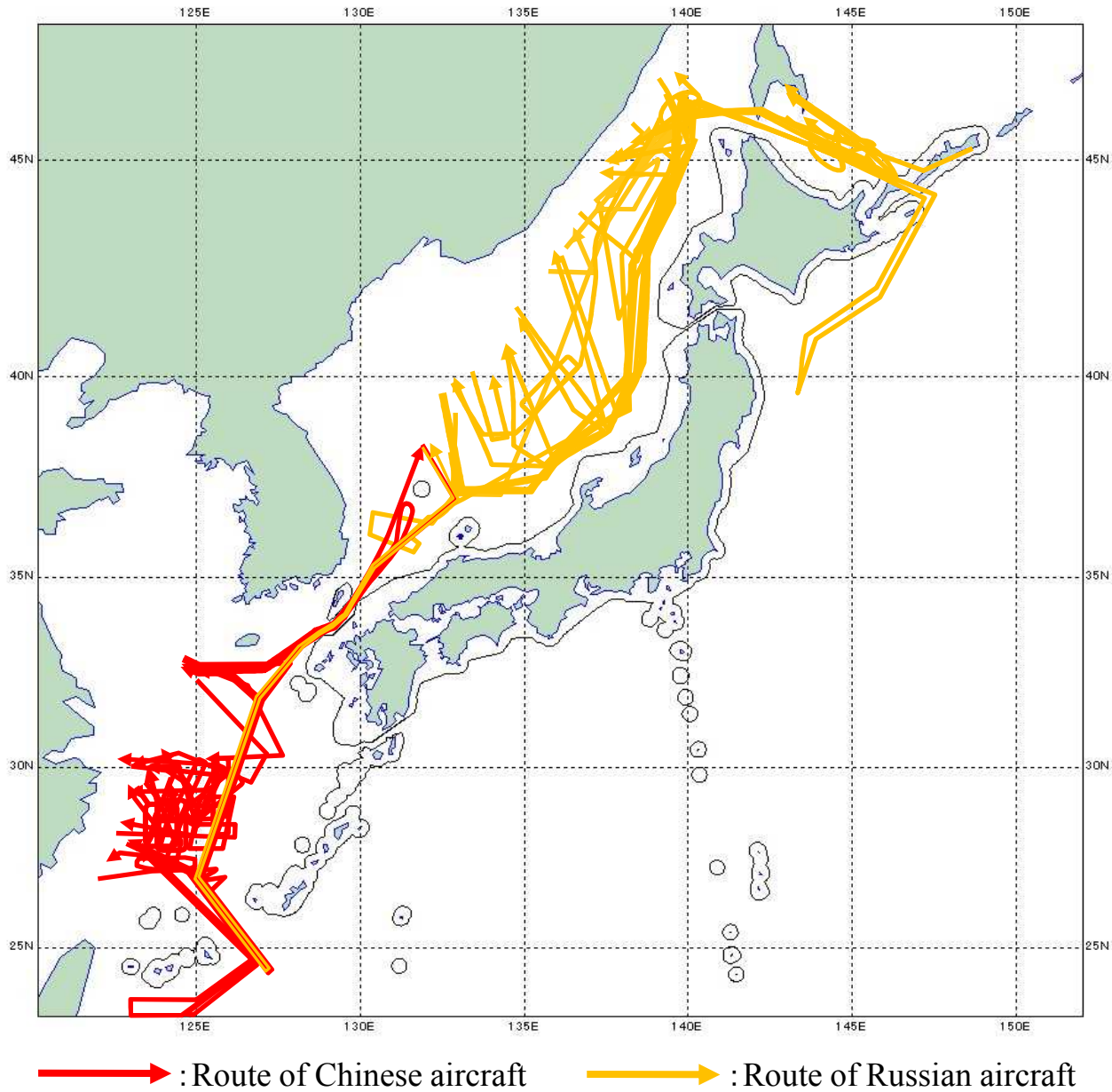
Number of Scrambles by Country and Region (Past Five Years)

(As of December 31, 2020)


Country/ Region FY	Russia		China		Taiwan		North Korea		Other Countries		Total	
	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3	FY	Up to Q3
2016	301	231	851	644	8	6	0	0	8	2	1168	883
2017	390	328	500	395	3	3	0	0	11	10	904	736
2018	343	270	638	476	0	0	0	0	18	12	999	758
2019	268	216	675	523	0	0	0	0	4	3	947	742
2020	—	206	—	331	—	0	—	0	—	7	—	544

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

Flight Pattern Examples of Russian and Chinese Aircraft Subject to Scrambles



List of Airspace Violation Case Made Public (Third Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
1	Friday, October 2, 2020	Russia Mi-8 One aircraft	Flight in the territorial airspace near the headland of Shiretoko	

List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (First Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
1	Thursday, April 9, 2020	Russia IL-38 Two aircraft	Round-trip from the Sea of Okhotsk to the Sea of Japan	
2	Wednesday, June 10, 2020	Russia IL-20 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
3	Monday, June 22, 2020	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip flight from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan through Tsushima Strait	
4	Sunday, June 28, 2020	China H-6 Two 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
5	Friday, August 14, 2020	Russia IL-20 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
6	Wednesday, August 19, 2020	Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
		Possibility Russia Six aircraft		
7	Friday, August 28, 2020	Russia IL-38 Two aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
8	Friday, September 25, 2020	China Y-9 One aircraft	Round-trip from the East China Sea to the Pacific	

List of Unusual Flight Cases Made Public (Third Quarter)

	Date	Nationality of Aircraft, etc.	Behavior Description	Photo
9	Friday, November 6, 2020	Russia A-50 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
		Possibility Russia Eight aircraft		
10	Saturday, November 21, 2020	Russia IL-20 One aircraft	Long-range flight over the Sea of Japan	
11	Thursday, December 22, 2020	China H-6 Four aircraft	Joint flight over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the Pacific through Tsushima Strait	
		Russia Tu-95 Two aircraft		

Number of Scrambles by Fiscal Year

(Number of times)

(As of March 31, 2020)

