JAPAN JOINT STAFF PRESS RELEASE

October 23, 2026

Quarterly report on JASDF fighters scramble
(The first half of FY2026)

1. Overview

- The total number of scrambles conducted by JASDF fighters up to the first half of FY2026 is 442.
- The breakdown of scrambles by country/region including estimates was approximately 65% for Chinese aircraft, 34% for Russian aircraft and 1% for others.

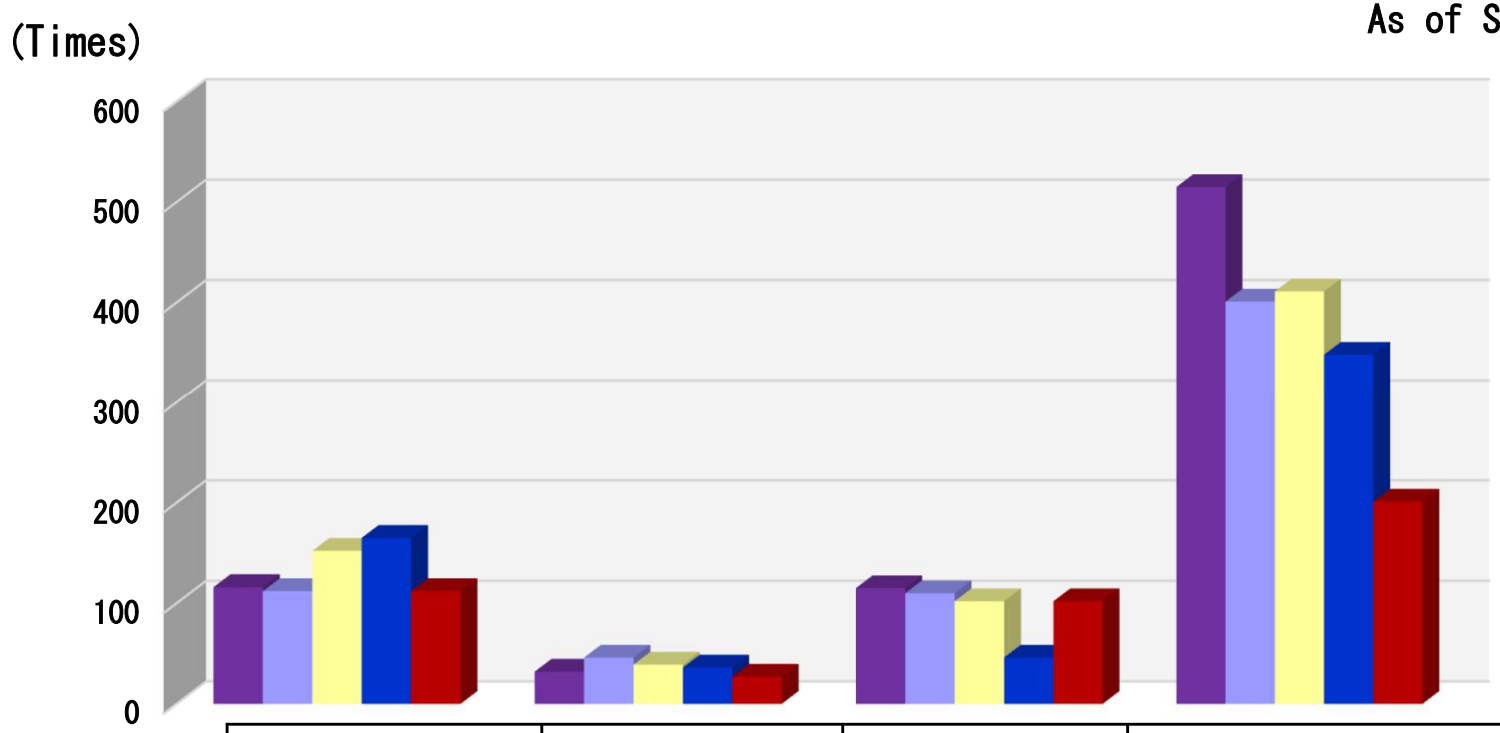
2. Trends seen in the first half of FY2026.

- Intensive activities by Chinese and Russian aircraft were confirmed as follows:
  - ➢ Russian IL-20 intelligence-gathering aircraft flew over the Sea of Japan and the Pacific Ocean.
  - ➢ Chinese Y-9 intelligence-gathering aircraft flew over the East China Sea. (It was confirmed for five consecutive days in September.)
  - ➢ Chinese H-6 bombers and Russian Tu-95 bombers conducted a long-distance joint flight.

ABBREVIATIONS
JASDF : Japan Air Self-Defense Force
FY : fiscal year [From Apr.1 to Mar.31]

Details of Scrambles Conducted by Air Defense Force

As of September 30, 2026



	Northern		Central		Western		Southwestern		TOTAL	
	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half
2022	116	70	32	9	115	58	515	309	778	446
2023	112	72	46	26	110	69	401	257	669	424
2024	152	90	39	12	102	45	411	211	704	358
2025	165	53	36	9	46	14	348	189	595	265
2026	—	112	—	27	—	102	—	201	—	442

Details of Scrambles (Country and Region)

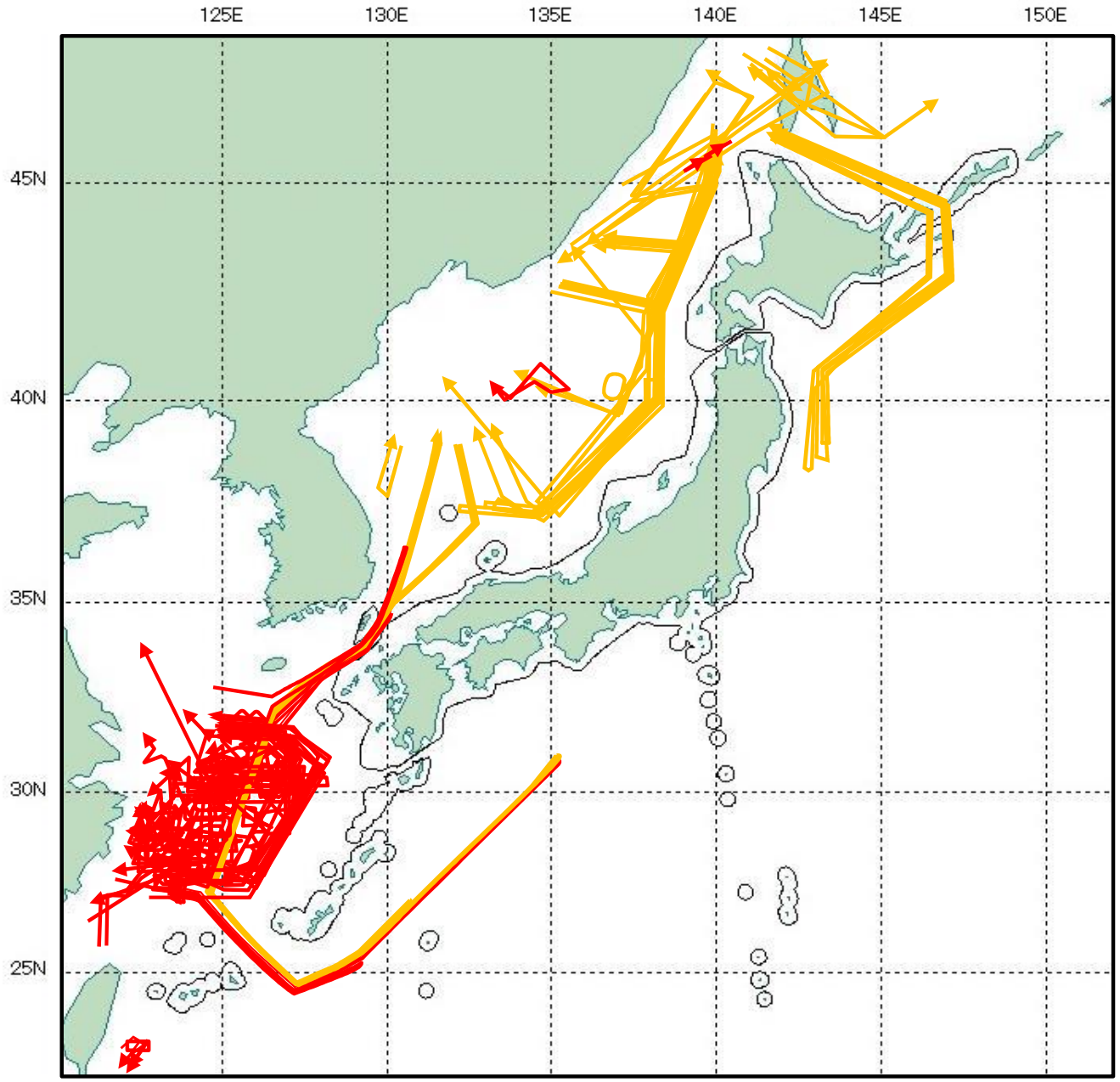
As of September 30, 2026

Country/Region / FY	Russia		China		North Korea		Others		TOTAL	
	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half	FY	1st Half
2022	150	95	575	340	0	0	53	11	778	446
2023	174	110	479	304	2	2	13	8	669	424
2024	237	114	464	242	0	0	3	2	704	358
2025	214	59	366	198	0	0	13	8	595	265
2026	—	152	—	285	—	0	—	5	—	442

※ The chart includes information about presumed affiliation of spotted aircraft.

Sample Flight Patterns of Russian Aircraft and Chinese Aircraft (The first half of FY2026)

As of September 30, 2026



: Chinese Aircraft : Russian Aircraft

Number of Scrambles

As of March 31, 2026

