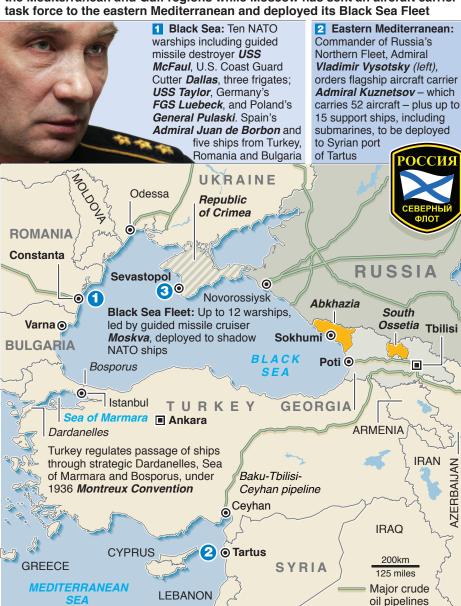
Biggest naval build-up since Gulf War

Russia and NATO are engaged in the biggest build-up of naval and air forces since the 2003 Invasion of Irag. Five U.S. strike groups have been sent to the Mediterranean and Gulf regions while Moscow has sent an aircraft carrier





President Yushchenko heiahtens

tensions with Moscow by threatening to raise rent on HQ of Russia's Black Sea Fleet Mediterranean: USS Iwo

Jima Expeditionary Strike Group. Amphibious assault ship leading six-vessel group with 2,200 marines. Group includes landing ships USS San Antonio. USS Carter Hall, quided missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf. guided missile destroyers

submarine **USS Hartford** 5 Arabian Sea: Aircraft carrier strike group led by USS Abraham Lincoln.

USS Ramage and **USS**

Roosevelt, plus fast attack

carries some 65 fighter aircraft. USS Ronald Reagan strike group includes nuclear submarine USS Springfield and five surface ships. USS Theodore Roosevelt

strike group with 80 combat planes due early September

6 Red Sea-Gulf of Aden: Expeditionary strike group headed by amphibious

assault ship USS Peleliu Pictures: Getty Images

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