

NATO's new man



■ **Jan 26, 1953:** *Anders Fogh Rasmussen* born to farming family

■ **1978:** Elected to parliament

■ **1992:** Quits as tax minister after claims he misled parliament

■ **2001:** First elected Prime Minister. Heads three consecutive centre-right governments until April 2009

■ **2002:** Leads negotiations resulting in 10 European countries joining EU in bloc's biggest enlargement to date

■ **2003:** Strong supporter of U.S.-led "war on terror", sends troops for invasion of Iraq and to Afghanistan

■ **Apr 2009:** Appointed NATO's new Secretary General after overcoming Turkish objections over his stance on 2006 row triggered by publication in Danish newspapers of cartoons mocking *Prophet Muhammad*

■ **Aug 1:** Rasmussen takes over from *Jaap de Hoop Scheffer* as NATO Secretary General