

# Key issues at NATO summit

Leaders of the 28 NATO states gather in Lisbon on Friday for a two-day meeting to lay out a roadmap for the future of the Western military alliance

■ **AFGHANISTAN:** Transition strategy with target date of end of 2014 for Afghanistan to take over responsibility for leading security. Withdrawal of foreign troop numbers from current peak of about 150,000 will start next July. **Ten-year war has claimed lives of more than 2,215 coalition troops**

■ **MISSILE DEFENCE:** Invest €200 million (\$273.5m) over 10 years to create NATO-wide missile shield. Link existing defences with U.S. plan to station ships in Mediterranean in 2011 plus land-based missiles in Romania in 2015 and Poland in 2018



■ **BUDGETS:** NATO Secretary-General **Anders Fogh Rasmussen** has argued against excessive cuts in defence spending by European members facing national budget deficits. **Plan to close four of NATO's 11 fixed headquarters. Bases in Portugal, Turkey and Italy are considered most under threat**

■ **FUTURE STRATEGY:** Leaders will approve 21st-century strategy – retain core task of collective defence while dealing with risks such as cyber security, improvised explosive devices, and missile threats. **Reinforce strategic links with Russia, India, China, Japan and Australia**



■ **NUCLEAR WEAPONS:** Endorse U.S. President Obama's **Global Zero** disarmament vision. **Stress that while nuclear weapons exist NATO will remain a nuclear-armed alliance**