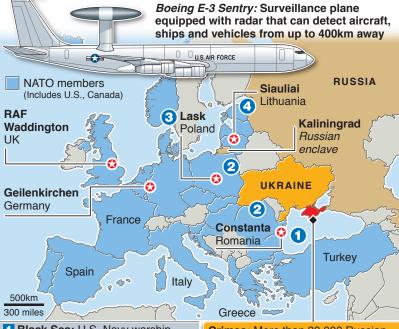
NATO defences boosted over Ukraine crisis

The United States and NATO are deploying additional forces and conducting military exercises near the borders of Ukraine amid continuing tensions over Russia's invasion of Crimea



1 Black Sea: U.S. Navy warship USS Truxtun to conduct drills with three Romanian naval vessels and Bulgarian frigate Drazki in international waters southeast of Romanian port of Constanta

2 Surveillance: NATO E-3 Sentry aircraft flying from RAF Waddington in UK and Geilenkirchen in Germany to conduct reconnaissance flights over Poland and Romania

Poland: U.S. sending at least 12 F-16 fighter jets with 300 service personnel to Lask air base to take part in joint exercises

Crimea: More than 30,000 Russian troops reportedly in control of disputed region. Several Ukrainian military bases surrounded



4 Lithuania: Ten U.S. F-15 fighters and over 200 troops stationed at Siauliai air base to step up NATO air patrols over Baltic states