

NATO summit to boost defences

NATO looks set to agree to the most significant overhaul of its defences since the Cold War, including a seven-fold expansion of its 40,000-strong response force to a new Allied Reaction Force



Issues on NATO's agenda at summit in Spain

Battlegroups: NATO Secretary General **Jens Stoltenberg** (right) to strengthen battlegroups up to brigade level – from about 1,000 troops to between 3,000 and 5,000

■ **Allied Reaction Force:** Plan to boost **NATO Response Force** – deployed for first time following Russia's invasion of Ukraine – to more than 300,000 military personnel

■ **Kaliningrad:** Russia's military presence in its westernmost region includes nuclear-capable Iskander missiles, HQ of Baltic fleet and tens of thousands of troops

■ **Suwalki Gap:** Russia has threatened retaliation for EU sanctions blocking transit of goods to Kaliningrad from Belarus. Kremlin could seize 65km-wide choke point

