

# **F229 HMS LANCASTER**



While in Simon's Town Naval Base, **HMS LANCASTER** is undergoing maintenance and a rest period for the Officers and others, a much needed one as well!



## **The Operations Centre onboard**

Newsclippings reader and contributor **Bob Johnston** was privileged to take a guided tour of this vessel, and he would like to thank the Ship's Company for their hospitality, and also the S.A. Navy, Media Section, for making this possible. **Many thanks to you all!**

## **The Navigation bridge**

There are several "Firsts" for this ship; They are the first to complete a 9 month deployment; the first ship's company to wear the new style uniform and the first to operate the new "**Wildcat**" helicopter.

On the 21st March 2015, **HMS LANCASTER** sailed on the first 9 month deployment, Atlantic Patrol Tasking. By the time she returns to England, December 2015, **HMS LANCASTER** will have sailed more than 30,000 nautical miles, over 20 port visits from Portugal to Panama, Mexico to South Africa and of course The Falkland Isles. While in the South Atlantic,

**HMS LANCASTER** called in to Tristan Da Cunha. It was here and with the assistance of the RFA vessel "**GOLD ROVER**", essential equipment was moved using the helicopter. This movement of equipment, was undertaken in just a few days. Without this kind of assistance, it would have taken 2 years to move the equipment using manual labour.

The Royal Navy's new "**Wildcat**" helicopter, which replaced the **Lynx**, is a significantly more capable aircraft. Its redesigned tail rotor system improves the strength and stealth of the aircraft. The state-of-the-art cockpit, high tech communications, full 360 degree colour surveillance radar and crash worthy-armoured seats which benefit the aircrew.



**The Command Centre**

Before coming alongside for maintenance, **HMS Lancaster** carried out joint exercises with the SAN vessels, **SAS Spioenkop**, **SAS Galashewe** and **SAS Isaac Dyoba**. And finally, the Royal Navy's new uniforms are being used for the first time onboard this ship. This is the first change of uniform for 70 years!

**Text / photo's Bob Johnston ©**