

## **ROYAL AIR FORCE AND NAVY HELICOPTERS RETURN**

Helicopters of Britain's Royal Air Force and Royal Navy returned to the Port of Galveston and were loaded on the Wallenius Wilhelmsen vessel *Falstaff* in early October.

Initially, in July, both aircraft arrived on a Wallenius Wilhelmsen ship and then flew to California and Colorado for testing. In California, the helicopters were tested for responses to heated conditions and in Colorado, they were evaluated in high altitude conditions for engine and basic maneuvering performance. After testing was completed, the aircraft returned to Galveston for the return trip to Great Britain.

The engineers in port for the operation were employed by Qinetiq, an aircraft testing and evaluation company working for the British Minister of Defense. Both on the July arrival in Galveston and then on the October return trip, the team from Qinetiq prepared the helicopters for the sailing by removing the blades and securing the aircraft.

Each aircraft was about four years old. They are part of the military squadron that includes 43 Navy and 22 Air Force helicopters.

Initially they were station near Salisbury, then flown to the South Hampton docks and loaded on the roll-on, roll-off vessel belonging to Wallenius Wilhelmsen.