



Location Overview

Colchester Garrison

www.mod.uk/hive

Colchester HIVE

LOCAL AREA

Colchester Garrison and 16 Air Assault Bde HQ are located on the South side of Colchester and just a five minutes drive away from the town centre. There are two good bus routes that operate through the SFA estate and directly into town, one of which also runs to Colchester's main train station. Colchester's main train station has an excellent service to London Liverpool Street and also to the surrounding areas. Colchester town centre is full of all the latest shops and has something to suit everyone. The town offers plenty of restaurants and bars, an Odeon Cinema, a theatre (the Mercury) and for those who like to party late into the night there are plenty of bars and night clubs on offer. Colchester has a wide range of recreational facilities ideal for families planning a day out. For more information please request information sheet 2b and 2c from your HIVE information officer.

The Colchester Tourist Information Website is www.visitcolchester.com

A map of Merville Barracks and the various housing estates are available using the following link <http://www.google.co.uk/maps> - Postcode for Merville Barracks is **CO2 7UT**
St Michael's estate - CO2 9LL. Drury Meadows - CO2 7HU.

UNIT OVERVIEW

16 Air Assault Brigade was formed on 1st September 1999 following the Strategic Defence Review. It was born of an amalgamation of elements of 5 Airborne Brigade and 24 Airmobile Brigade, bringing together the agility and reach of airborne forces with the potency of the 'attack helicopter'.

16 Air Assault Brigade's 'Striking Eagle' badge was adapted from the Special Training Centre in Lochailot Scotland where Special Forces and Air Troops were trained between 1943 & 1945. The colour of the badge is to symbolise the joining of the Paratroopers (Maroon) and the Army Air corps (Light Blue).

With 8000 personnel, 16 Air Assault Brigade is the largest Brigade in the British Army with units based in various locations. There are many units based in Colchester the largest are listed here. 2 Para, 3 Para, 7 Para RHA, 13 Air Assault Regt RLC, 216 Signal Squadron, 16 Medical Regt, 156 Provost Company RMP, 8 Field Para (Part of 7 BN Reme), MCTC and Path Finder Group.

UNIT FACILITIES

Colchester Station provides a variety of amenities, including a state of the art sports and recreational facility, which is, equipped with a multi gym, swimming pool, squash courts, tennis & badminton courts. Dependants are eligible to use the facilities providing they apply for membership, the current cost is £10 per annum and forms are available from the HIVE. There is a fully equipped education centre (18 AEC) with library and internet suits. Located within Merville Barracks there is a Londis shop and various HUB bars attached to each unit junior ranks mess. There is a hairdresser and 'Kashkets' military clothing shop and a WRVS centre.

Facilities available within the Community Centre located on the St Michaels Estate include the Army Welfare Service, St Nicholas Pre-School and Nursery and the Musket Club. The Colchester Station Youth club is also located within the Community Centre and offers various sessions for children aged 5yrs to 6yrs, 7yrs to 8yrs, 9yrs to 10yrs and 11yrs+. Also located on the main SFA estate is a Londis Shop, Garrison radio, Parent and Toddler Centre along with a newly built play park.

PAYD – Not Yet Available In Colchester

WRVS Centre - Incorporates a separate TV lounge, pool/snooker table, table football, darts board, and games area with all the latest consoles. Coffee/tea making facilities are free and there is an internet suit available free of charge.

Service Personnel HIVE – Located within the WRVS Centre, open Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

ACCOMMODATION

Service Families Accommodation (SFA)

St Michaels Estate – Main families' estate nearest to all of the local schools. Located on the main estate is also a back gate into camp, operated by a swipe card system and needs to be requested via the Garrison Sgt Major. Housing types can vary from street to street. Contact the HIVE for more information. Post Code: **CO2 9LL**

Drury Meadows – A smaller estate located approximately 10 minutes walk away from the main estate. With around 106 SFA at this location, it is located a short walk away from town. Post code: **CO2 7HU**

To contact DE Housing Information Centre: 0800 1696322
Website: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DE/>

Single Living Accommodation (SLA)

All accommodation within Merville Barracks is brand new with single man rooms and shared kitchen and living areas within each block. Junior rank service personnel should contact the Regt QM on the following for information on Single Living Accommodation:

2 Para Regt QM	Civ: 01206 816241	Mil: (9) 4660 6241
3 Para Regt QM	Civ: 01206 816383	Mil: (9) 4660 6383
7 Para RHA QM	Civ: 01206 815556	Mil: (9) 4660 5556
13 Air Assault Regt QM	Civ: 01206 815667	Mil: (9) 4660 5667
216 Signal Squadron QM	Civ: 01206 815600	Mil: (9) 4660 5600
16 Medical Regt QM	Civ: 01206 815793	Mil: (9) 4660 5793
156 Pro Coy	Civ: 01206 tbc	Mil: (9) 4660 tbc
8 Fld Para	Civ: 01206 tbc	Mil: (9) 4660 tbc
MCTC QM	Civ: 01206 816772	Mil: (9) 4660 6772

Personnel wishing to book into the Officers Mess or WOs' & Sgts Mess should contact the respective Mess on the following numbers:

Officer's Mess	Civ: 01206 815213	Mil: (9) 4660 5213
WOs' & Sgt's Mess	Civ: 01206 815183	Mil: (9) 4660 5183
Officer's Mess (MCTC Only)	Civ 01206 816788	Mil: (9) 4660 6788
WOs' & Sgt's Mess (MCTC only)	Civ: 01206 816788	Mil: (9) 4660 6788

Local accommodation

AWS Contact House – Army Welfare Service administers all bookings and enquiries for the two Contact Houses located on the St Michaels Estate Colchester. To check availability call 01206 816581.

B&B's

Scheregate Guest House

Osborne Street, Colchester, CO2 7DB
Tel: 01206 573034
Google Map Reference TL996249

Friday Wood Farm

Bournestead Road, Colchester, Co2 0DF
Tel: 01206 573595 www.fridaywoodfarm.co.uk
Google Map Reference TL985213

Hotel's

North Hill Hotel

51 North Hill, Colchester, Co1 1PY
Tel: 01206 574001
www.northhillhotel.com
Google Map Reference: TL993253

Best Western Rose & Crown Hotel

East Street, Colchester CO12TZ
Tel: 01206 866677
www.rose-and-crown.com
Google Map Reference: TM009253

TRAVEL

By car: Unit Postcode for Sat Nav is CO27UT

- On the A12 leave at Junction 26 then at the roundabout take the 3rd exit onto the A1124 signposted Stanway.
- At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the A1124 signposted Lexden
- Continue forward over mini roundabouts until you reach A133 Bear left.
- At roundabout take 2nd exit onto the A1124.
- At roundabout take 2nd exit onto the A134 signposted Town Centre.
- At roundabout take 4th exit onto Mersea Road – B1025 sign posted Mersea.
- Turn right onto Berechurch Road
- Turn right onto Circular Road South arriving at Merville Barracks.

By train: The nearest direct railway station to Colchester is Colchester North Station with direct links to and from London.

National Rail Enquiries – for times and information call 08457 484950 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Taxi – these are available outside the train station or call one of these to book a journey.

Five One Taxis,	01206 515151
Five Sevens Taxis	01206 577777
PDQ Cars	01206 540540
Priory Travel	01206 579999

HEALTHCARE

Service Personnel:

Station Medical Centre - Civ: 01206 815656. Mil: (9) 4660 5656

Station Dental Centre - Civ: 01206 815252. Mil: (9) 4660 5252

Dependents:

Medical – Layer Road Doctors Surgery **CO2 9LA** is the closest to the Families Estate. The surgery is open Monday to Friday. Tel: 01206 546494. For more details you can access <http://www.mysurgerywebsite.co.uk/opening-times.aspx?p=F81109>

Colchester has a Walk In facility for patients who are unable to gain an appointment at their practise this is located on Turner Road, Colchester, **CO4 5JR**. Tel: 01206 314015. Open Monday to Sunday 07.00 hrs to 22.00 hrs.

Dental – To find out which Dental Surgeries are currently offering places contact the NHS Dental helpline on Tel: 0845 0833 337 or access www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

The nearest hospital is Colchester General Hospital, Turner Road, Colchester, CO4 5JL
Tel: 01206 747474, www.colchesterhospital.nhs.uk

NHS Direct offers a 24-hour nurse advice and health information service, and provides details of local healthcare services, such as doctors, dentists or late night opening pharmacies. **NHS Direct - Tel: 0845 46 47** www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE

St Nicholas Nursery and Pre School offers either a morning or an afternoon session for children aged 1yr+ 01206 816597 (No websites in place)

Montgomery Infant school (3-7 yrs) – Tel: 01206 570231
Baronswood Way CO2 9QG. Located in the centre of the St Michaels estate
<http://www.montgomery-inf.essex.sch.uk/>

Montgomery Junior school (7 –11yrs) – Tel: 01206 572288
Baronswood Way CO2 9QG. Located in the centre of the St Michaels estate
<http://essex.schooljotter.com/montgomeryjun>

St Michaels Primary School (3-11yrs) Tel: 01206 546412.
Camulodunum Way CO2 9RA. Located in the top corner of the St Michaels estate.
<http://www.stmichaelsprimary.co.uk/>

Kingsford Infant School (3-7 yrs) – Tel: 01206 574524
Gloucester Avenue CO2 9AZ. Located between the Military and Civilian housing estates
<http://www.kingsford-inf.essex.sch.uk/>

Kingsford Junior school (7-11 yrs) – Tel: 01206 573807
Gloucester Avenue CO2 9AZ. Located between the Military and Civilian housing estates
(website under construction)

All of the above schools are within walking distance of any of the houses located on the St Michael's estate. Kingsford schools are closer for families living on the Drury Meadows estate and are approximately a 10 minute walk.

Alderman Blaxill Secondary school (11-16 yrs) – Tel: 01206 575488
 Paxman Avenue CO2 9DQ. Located on the Civilian estate ‘Shrub End’ approximately 20
 minute walk from both the St Michaels estate and Drury Meadows estate.
<http://blaxill.net/>

Other secondary schools just outside the catchment area are:

Philip Morant school – Tel: 01206 545222 <http://www.philipmorant.essex.sch.uk/>

Thomas Lord Audley – Tel: 01206 547911 <http://www.tla.essex.sch.uk/>

St Benedicts R.C Collage – Tel: 01206 549222 <http://www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk/>

All schools are approximately 20 minute walk from the family’s estate. For more detailed
 information please contact the HIVE

- Applications for school places are made through the Local Education Authority (LEA).
 The LEA for Colchester is Essex Area LEA, Essex County Council, PO Box 4261 County
 Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1GS Tel: 0845 603 2200
- www.essex.gov.uk/education-schools/schools/Admissions/pages/Admissions.aspx
- Ofsted reports can be accessed at www.ofsted.gov.uk

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

These are the main Unit contact details. For any other Unit contact numbers please call the HIVE on 01206 816588		
	Mil	Civ
Army Welfare Service	(9)4660 6581	01206 816581
Merville Barracks Reception	(9)4660 6080	01206 816080
HIVE - Families	(9)4660 6588	01206 816588
HIVE – Service Personnel	(9)4660 6069	01206 816069
Garrison Padre	(9)4660 5071	01206 815071
RMP Duty Room	(9)4660 6830	01206 816830
WRVS	(9)4660 6063	01206 816063
2 Para Regt - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6536	01206 816536
3 Para Regt - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6525	01206 816525
7 Para RHA - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6528	01206 816528
13 AA RLC - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6521	01206 816521
216 Sig Sqn - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 5505	01206 815505
16 Med Regt - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6515	01206 816515
156 Pro Coy- Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6536	01206 816536
8 Fld Para - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6876	01206 816876
MCTC - Unit Welfare Officer	(9)4660 6692	01206 816692

**This is a brief overview of the area and facilities available at Colchester Garrison.
 The HIVE holds further information and will research information on your behalf.**