



Information Sheet 1c

Location Overview

Last Updated: July 08

BATUS

This information sheet is designed to give you a general picture of **BATUS and the immediate area**. If you would like further, more detailed information on specific subjects please contact the HIVE.

The British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS) is the British Army's premier training unit located at the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield, which is in the South Eastern part of the province of Alberta, Canada. It is a province that stretches from British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies in the West to the province of Saskatchewan in the East, and from the Northwest Territories in the North to the United States of America in the South. It is a province of mountains, prairie and badlands. It is one of the more affluent provinces in Canada, mainly because of the discovery of much oil and gas.

BATUS is located in the very heart of the prairie and has comparatively mild winters although temperatures are often about -20°C, and hot sunny summers. The nearest city to BATUS is Medicine Hat, which is approx 50 km away. This is really the nearest metropolitan area of any size, and is where the people of BATUS will generally go for all their shopping needs. The larger city of Calgary is around a 2-½ hr drive. Calgary is currently the fastest growing city in Canada, and is the largest city in the province of Alberta. Calgary has the closest international airport, which also has direct flights to the UK. Medicine Hat has a small domestic airport with flights to and from Calgary timetabled regularly.

BATUS is housed within the camp of CFB Suffield. This camp is split into two halves, one half each side of the Jenner Highway. One half houses the headquarters for both BATUS and CFB Suffield, single soldiers accommodation, Junior ranks' dining room and bar, Officers' and Sergeants' messes, the MRS, British Forces Post Office, bank, QM's, Housing Department and 29 Flight Army Air Corps. The other half houses the Force maintenance Area (FMA), which includes BATUS REME Wksp, 105 Squadron RLC, Transport and Movement, QM Tech and BATUS Engineer Park. It also houses the RMP, Canadian Military Police and Camp Crowfoot, which is the accommodation for battlegroups and 'OPFOR' troops. Also located in this part of the camp are the 'liquor store', sports store, seasonal travel agents and the new Internet café. This half of the camp has the gateway to the training area.

The Crown Village of Ralston is located 3 km from the Trans Canada Highway and 3 km from CFB Suffield on the Jenner Highway. This is the main quartering area for BATUS, and has approximately 170 houses shared between British and Canadian Military personnel and their families. This quartering area is completely integrated, with people from both nationalities and all ranks living side by side.

Medicine Hat is located on the Trans Canada Highway approximately 35 minutes drive from Ralston and CFB Suffield. Some personnel are housed in Medicine Hat in hirings. Medicine Hat is a city of approximately 50,000 people and has all the facilities and amenities expected of a city of this size, with many sports facilities, golf courses, parks, a theatre, cinemas, a shopping mall and much more.

Calgary and The Canadian Rockies. Calgary is a large, modern city with a compact downtown area. It has a wealth of facilities and amenities including many shopping malls, restaurants, ski slopes (small), cinemas, theatres, restaurants, pubs and clubs. Calgary hosts the world famous Calgary Stampede every year in July. The ski areas of Banff and Lake Louise are approximately another 2 hours drive from Calgary in the Canadian Rockies, but these are not the only areas for skiing with many small resorts being accessible by car from CFB Suffield. The Rockies offer many leisure pursuits other than skiing, both in the winter and in the summer.

Shopping

Ralston village has a shop called the CANEX. This is similar to the NAAFI. It sells a range of products including food, stationery, clothing, electrical goods, petrol, newspapers and confectionary. It also houses a branch of the Canadian Post Office.

Medicine Hat has a wide range of shops. Most are found in and around the mall, but the downtown area is also worth exploring. Medicine Hat has a farmers' market during the summer months located at the Rodeo ground. Supermarkets include Canadian Superstore, Safeway, Sobeys, and the Co-op.



Map Source: Natural Resources Canada

For more information on BATUS and the surrounding area please contact the HIVE on:

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