



## Maine National Guard

### 240th Coast Artillery Regiment

The 240th Coast Artillery Regiment was a Coast Artillery Corps regiment in the Maine National Guard. It garrisoned the Harbor Defenses of Portland, Maine 1924–1944.

### Military Corner

It was organized 16 April 1924 as the Maine National Guard component of the Harbor Defenses of Portland, Maine. The 8th Coast Artillery was the Regular Army component of those defenses. The 240th's primary armory was in Portland. Colonel George E. Fogg, a World War I veteran, commanded the regiment from its organization in 1924 through at least 1941. In October 1944, the regiment was broken up into two battalions as part of an Army-wide reorganization.

The 240th Coast Artillery's lineage traces back to the 1st Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment, originally formed in state service in 1854 and thus older than any other Maine regimental organization. An historian of the 240th AAA Group, a former Maine Army National Guard unit, has concluded that numerous subsequent Volunteer Maine Militia and Maine National Guard units (including the 240th Coast Artillery) inherited the lineage of the 1st Maine via the Portland Light Infantry company. As of 2018, this lineage is carried by the 240th Regional Training Institute, Maine Army National Guard, in Bangor.

The 240th Coast Artillery is also one of the "ancestor" units, along with the famed 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment, of the modern day 133rd Engineer Battalion of the Maine Army National Guard.

MOTTO: Semper Primus et Fidelis, meaning "Always First and Faithful." Insignia on Shield: Portcullis is upper right. In ancient fortress warfare the portcullis barred the gateway to the hostile invader. Its color (red) symbolizes the artillery. The phoenix in the lower left is the crest of the City of Portland, the seaport and chief gateway of Maine. It represents the city (formerly named Falmouth) rising from its ashes after being destroyed by fire three times; by the Indians in 1676, by the French in 1690, and by the English fleet in 1775. It is also the crest of the Harbor Defenses of Portland to which the regiment was assigned for service. It further denotes the successive rebirths of the regiment following the civil, Spanish, and World wars. The ten stars running from upper left to lower right represent the ten major battles engaged in by the Regiment. The blue band serving as background for the stars signifies the intermittent existence of the regiment as infantry, especially during the Civil War. CREST: Pine tree. Maine is the Pine Tree State. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/240th\\_Coast\\_Artillery\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/240th_Coast_Artillery_(United_States))]

